

**THURSTON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT THREE  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**March 4, 2009**

**I. CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE: 5:30 p.m.**

**Present:**

Chairman Houser  
Vice Chairman Christiansen  
Commissioner Kirkbride

**II. AGENDA APPROVAL**

**MOTION:** To amend the agenda to include an executive session following Item III. To approve the agenda as amended.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride  
Second: Vice Chairman Christiansen  
Vote: Unanimous  
**Motion carried.**

**III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC/MEMBERS PRESENT**

No comment.

**Note:** The Board convened in executive session at 5:34 p.m. to discuss matters of litigation with the attorney for the District. No action was taken.

Regular meeting reconvened at 6:04 p.m.

**IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

**MOTION:** To approve the Consent Agenda as written.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride  
Second: Vice Chairman Christiansen  
Vote: Unanimous  
**Motion carried.**

- A. Minutes of the February 19, 2009 regular meeting of the Board.
- B. General Fund check numbers #9005 through #9043, in the amount of \$26,625.01.

C. Payroll #2B in the amount of \$504,284.21.

## V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. EMS - MEDIC ONE

No report.

### B. CAPCOM

No meeting to report; however, Chairman Houser mentioned the Washington Fire Commissioners Association Legislative Report, which can be found online at <http://www.wfca.wa.gov>. Of primary concern is tracking the CAPCOM 911 bill.

### C. THURSTON COUNTY FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Vice Chairman Christiansen recently attended the WFCA (Washington Fire Commissioner's Association) Conference in Pasco, WA. He reported on excellent sessions related to governance and management working together as a team with a fire district. He suggested that Lacey Fire District plan a Commissioner's retreat.

### D. THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Commissioner Kirkbride announced the next Council meeting is scheduled for March 6, 2009. On the agenda are plans to discuss stimulus funding and the criteria for prioritizing projects. The Council applied for \$83 million to fund projects in the region; they were awarded \$5 million.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

### A. Educational Incentive Program

Chairman Houser briefed Commissioner Kirkbride on Chief Broman's recommendation from the last meeting to fund the Education Incentive Program for fire fighters from fiscal year 2008 cash reserves.

Vice Chairman Christiansen excused himself from the discussion or vote since his son, Lt. Alex Christiansen, participates in the program.

**MOTION:** To approve funding for the Educational Incentive Program up to \$15,000 for fiscal year 2009.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride

Second: Chairman Houser

Vote: Unanimous

**Motion carried.**

## **B. Consultant Study Proposal**

Chief Broman reported that Lacey Fire District received four responses from the RFP for a District study. Bids ranged from \$35,000 - \$49,000. His recommendation was to consider Emergency Services Consulting, Inc.(ESCI) or Fitch & Associates because of the completeness of their proposal and they both provided for options rather than just recommendations. Abaris Group is heavily EMS and not as fire focused. McGrath Consulting Group, Inc. does not appear as substantial or detailed.

Vice Chairman Christiansen asked what spending the money to hire a consultant will tell us that we don't already know? He believes our options are clear and that the money would be better spent pursuing one of the options already before us.

Commissioner Kirkbride commented that irrespective of the City's stance, we need an independent study where the District stands alone no matter where we are three years from now. Sending out an RFP was to look for competent practitioners to do the study and for an amount less than \$50,000, if possible. All of the proposals received seem to be competent and below the projected bid amount. Kirkbride agreed with Chief Broman's review of the proposal and believes Fitch & Associates stands above the rest with ESCI close behind. Both of them met all the criteria and will accomplish the study within 60 days. He further suggested that references be checked on these two firms and a recommendation be brought to the next meeting for action.

Chairman Houser agreed on Fitch & ECSI but would like Chief Broman to ask each of them how many staff hours will be needed for them to accomplish their study. Houser further commented that the questions raised by Vice Chairman Christiansen are valid questions that cannot be answered without completing the study. He further reminded the Board that part of the City study was to be a consultation with the District and commented that the City voted to terminate the contract with the District prior to that consultation or their own study being complete.

Commissioner Kirkbride volunteered to spearhead the effort the check references and clarify staff support needed, in collaboration with Chief Broman, and come to the next meeting with a recommendation for proceeding.

Chairman Houser announced that the Board has prepared a press release in response to the Olympian article announcing the City's intent to not renew their contract with the District in 2011. However, since the District has not yet received a formal letter by the City indicating their intentions, it is difficult to respond to what we do not know yet, formally.

### **C. District Letter**

Chief Broman shared that the District letter to its citizens is out and the response has been very positive so far.

Chief Broman presented the board with a request by Lt. Alex Christiansen to send a similar letter to the citizens of the City of Lacey. Chairman Houser said he cannot support this because City of Lacey citizens are not the constituents we serve.

Vice Chairman Christiansen urged that the content of the letter should be provided to a broader base of citizens.

Chief Broman was directed by the Board to provide a copy of District letter to the Olympian and that it be posted on the District website at his earliest convenience.

Vice Chairman Christiansen assured the Board that even though he may challenge them with tough questions, once a decision is made, he is in full support of the Board's decisions.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

There was brief discussion about Board meeting days and times.

**MOTION:** To approve a new meeting time of 5:30 p.m. for all subsequent Board meetings. Meeting days will continue to be the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month.

Motion: Vice Chairman Christiansen

Second: Commissioner Kirkbride

Vote: Unanimous

**Motion carried.**

## **VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT**

### **A. Fuel Costs**

Chief Broman reported that Chief Pearson will continue to track and report on fuel costs but, so far, noted that both Associated Petroleum and the North Thurston School District both float with the area's change in fuel costs.

### **B. Litigation**

As requested, Chief Broman reported a total of 85 staff hours has been utilized as a result of on going litigation with the City.

### **C. Workshop**

Chief Broman announced the Fire Authority Workshop taking place in Centralia on March 23.

## IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Vice Chairman Christiansen shared his experience from a February 20 ride-a-long with Station 34, A Shift. While they only had one BLS call, he noted how busy they were with other responsibilities all throughout the day. He was impressed with the work ethic in the station as well as their excellent care and concern exercised on the call they did respond to. He also thanked the District for allowing him the opportunity to attend the Fire Commissioner's Conference in Pasco.

## X. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

## XI. PENDING LIST

	<b>Item</b>	<b>Status</b>
A.	Suggestion Box Proposal	Policy Documents to be developed.
B.	Handbook Draft Revision 3	Policy Documents to be developed.
C.	Extended care for LEOFF 1 employees	Insurance Providers are reviewing applications.
D.	Station Security: Vehicles in Parking Lot	Assigned to Chief Broman to research alternatives and cost.
E.	Juvenile Fire setter Program	Evaluate county-wide program
F.	Maintenance Shop	Evaluate contract work for shop. Commission Christiansen stated that Meridian Hughes has expressed interest, pending the outcome of their proposals to other surrounding Fire districts.

## XII. HEARING OF PUBLIC/MEMBERS PRESENT

Kelly Perry encouraged patience and caution in our relationship with the City of Lacey. He agrees that the District must prepare itself with knowledge and information. He is concerned the City made their decision based on emotion rather than on information and what is best for its constituents. He warned that the elected officials should take a step

back and carefully consider their decisions especially when four Council positions will be open for re-election next fall.

Perry announced that the Union will be sending 3-4 of their members to the Regional Fire Authority class and encouraged that if one of the Commissioners was unable to go, they consider sending one of the Chiefs in their place.

Perry suggested that the Board hold a workshop or retreat with Union leadership to discuss the City / District issue; maybe after the District study is complete. He believes this is important so we are united in our approach and response to the community.

Perry cautioned that the study consultant for the City is from their own International Association of Cities. He is leery of the “independent” outcome of the study since this Association is know for their push to consolidate police and fire services.

### **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commissioner

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary