

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

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

November 5, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER, FLAG SALUTE: 5:30 pm

Present:

Chairman Houser
Vice Chairman Christiansen
Commissioner Kirkbride

II. AGENDA APPROVAL

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended.

Motion: Commissioner Kirkbride
Second: Vice Chairman Christiansen
Vote: Unanimous

Motion carried.

A. Additions / Deletions

1. Delete II.B. Notice of Executive Session
2. Add VII.B. Further response to the City of Lacey letter
3. Add VII.C. Old Station 33

III. HEARING OF THE PUBLIC/MEMBERS PRESENT

Larry Erickson, Lacey citizen, encouraged Commissioners to consider what is best for citizens of the City of Lacey and the District and to continue working with the City for a joint solution.

Chairman Houser thanked Mr. Erickson for his comments and agreed that litigation is not the answer. Further, he explained that with every legal proceeding the District has been the respondent and the response has been an invitation to the City to come to the table to discuss an agreeable arrangement. Most recently, the City said there is nothing to discuss. Houser assured Mr. Erickson that the District will continue to work to an agreeable end.

IV. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the consent agenda as presented.

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

- A. Minutes of the October 15, 2009 regular meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners.
- B. General Fund checks numbered # 9952 through # 9992 in the amount of \$28,886.26.
- C. Payroll # 10B in the amount of \$502,341.38.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. EMS - MEDIC ONE

Commissioner Kirkbride reported that a Medical Program Director(MPD) trainee has been appointed in preparation for retirement of the current MPD. Approval of this appointed is now before the County Commissioners. Further, the 2010 budget has been approved and is also awaiting approval by the County Commissioners.

B. CAPCOM

Chairman Houser reported on the November 4 meeting in which there was further discussion on contracting out Administrative Services to an independent agency. At this time, a presentation will be made to the various departments that would be affected by the change to receive feedback on the plan. Further, there was discussion about the probability of upcoming legislation increasing 911 fees assessed from 50 to 75 cents per line. There was also an update provided on the new generation 911.

Chairman Houser will act as interim Chair of the Commission until elections are held in March 2010.

C. CITY / DISTRICT LIAISON

Chairman Houser reported that the City has indicated they are no longer interested in working together and have moved to dividing assets. The contract states that division of assets must be completed through litigation. On November 6, the District will deliver a letter to the City notifying them that unless they are willing to come back to the

table to work on an agreement, there is no need to continue to meet and discuss what we can leave to the attorneys to handle directly.

D. THURSTON COUNTY FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

Vice Chairman Christiansen distributed a packet of information from the recent Association's annual meeting. Primary focus was discussion of Regional Fire Authority and revising annexation.

E. THURSTON REGIONAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Commissioner Kirkbride reported on the results of the recent school safety program meetings and distributed a summary of the ideas from that meeting. The next step is to begin public forums to begin implementation of the program. At the Council's recent meeting, they discussed the Urban Corridors Study which reviews ways to facilitate the concentration of housing which ultimately benefit response from emergency services. Kirkbride announced that the new Intercity Transit study will be unveiled at the next meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Houser opened this portion of the meeting for a Public Hearing on the proposed District's 2010 Budget. Copies of the budget were distributed and Houser noted that is currently is out of balance by <\$12,000>. Because the law mandates a balanced budget, Chief Broman and his staff will continue to trim the budget to present a balanced budget to the Board at the next meeting.

There was no comment from the public. Chairman Houser closed the Public Hearing.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Paramedic Firefighter Succession Plan

Chief Broman presented a memo and draft of a Paramedic Firefighter Succession Plan. The goal is to formalize a mentorship program that will select, train and prepare EMT's for ready reserve when positions become available within the District. The financial commitment from the District would be the salary for one student during the one year of training. Broman stated that the benefit is gaining a high quality, long term employee for the District. Commissioners support the formation of the program but agree that the costs to implement it would need to be considered.

B. Response to the City of Lacey

Vice Chairman Christiansen recommended the District send a letter to the citizens of Lacey in response to a recent letter by the City of Lacey to not only citizens of Lacey but members of Lacey Fire District.

There was extensive discussion about the fact that the City is not asking for our input about the direction they should take regarding fire service to its own citizens, rather they have announced they will be forming their own fire department and have begun the process of dividing assets to make that happen. Chairman Houser and Commissioner Kirkbride agree that the best way we can work in cooperation with the City at this point is to assist them in accomplishing this for the benefit of the citizens of the District and the City, whether we agree with their decision or not.

MOTION: The Chief Broman draft a letter answering the letter to the City of Lacey and that it be distributed to the citizens of Lacey.

The motion died for failure to obtain a second.

C. Old Station 33

Commissioner Kirkbride presented an informal request by the Lions, who have been leasing Station 33 for a number of years, to purchase the property allowing them to remodel and expand the facility to better meet their needs. The Board authorized Commissioner Kirkbride to move forward in discussing the possible sale of the property.

VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. Juvenile Firesetter Program Update

Firefighter Rob Randall reported progress on the Juvenile Firesetter Program. He presented the Board with the new brochure now ready for distribution. Though curriculum is now in place for a variety of age levels, Randall admits the important Mental Health component is still missing from the program. Currently, the resources necessary for the program's success is the ongoing training of firefighters through seminars and conferences. The intangible costs are the many hours interviewing youths and their families and developing a plan to address the identified issues.

Vice Chairman Christiansen paid special recognition to Randall and others who have spent many countless hours of their own time to develop this program and praised him for his leadership.

Commissioner Kirkbride gave a heartfelt thank you to Randall on behalf of all parents of arson. He commented that he wished there had been such a program available when they were dealing with this issue in their own family.

B. Fire Code Inspection Services – Draft RFP

Chief Broman distributed a draft request for proposal by the Thurston County Resource Stewardship Department for Fire Code Inspection Services. The Board agreed they would review the proposal and return any comments to Chief Broman via email.

IX. COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS

Chairman Houser expressed his deep appreciation for Commissioner Kirkbride and all he has done as a member of the Board and for the District's citizens over many years of service. Houser further commented that is in unfortunate that Kirkbride was not re-elected and thanked him for his selfless efforts on behalf of the District.

Commissioner Kirkbride distribution an organization chart of the Nisqually Indian Tribe and commented that he is in ongoing discussion with them about forming a joint agreement for fire service to the Tribe.

Commissioner Kirkbride further thanked Chief Broman for his thorough and timely response to the recent concerns received by a District citizen.

Vice Chairman Christiansen endorsed Chairman Houser's comments in thanking Commissioner Kirkbride for his many years of service to the District. Christiansen further thanked the members and their work throughout the last campaign in communicating directly to citizens about the issues surrounding the District and the City.

X. OTHER INFORMATION

None.

XI. PENDING LIST

	Item	Status
A.	Suggestion Box Proposal	Staff to develop draft.
B.	Vehicle Maintenance Program	Reopen discussion with Hughes.
C.	PIO Program	Develop job expectations.
D.	Joint Assistance project with the Tribes	Christiansen will secure appointments with the tribal leaders.

XII. HEARING OF PUBLIC/MEMBERS PRESENT

Lt. Kelly Perry commented on several items on behalf of local members:

- There is ongoing training on the new hybrid vehicles related to emergency rescue.
- The local union may have opportunities to address the City's comments in a letter to the City of Lacey citizens that the Board does not have the freedom to do. They have heard from citizens of the City that they want a say about their fire service and have not been made part of the process.
- A key component in passing a levy in 2010 is early contact with the various homeowner associations within the District. Perry encouraged the Board to begin scheduling meetings to share "The State of the District" with its citizens.

- With the prospect of additional layoffs in 2010, Perry suggested we begin working with other in-state locals to ensure lateral entry opportunities for those affected by layoffs.
- Local members continue to provide community service, especially during the holidays through the annual Fire & Ice basketball game to raise money for need families.
- A new program underway is a program where a taxi cab voucher is provided for those in need of transportation following an emergency rather than utilizing an ambulance service for non medical emergencies.
- Perry thanked Firefighter Rob Randall for his leadership and hard work in developing the Juvenile Firesetter Program.

Nola von Neudegg commented that implementation of the Paramedic Firefighter Succession Plan would ultimately save the District a significant amount of money in overtime costs.

Next meeting: Thursday, November 19, 2009 – 5:30 pm

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Chairperson

Commissioner

Commissioner

ATTEST: _____
Secretary