

**KLICKITAT COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3**  
**Commissioners Business Meeting**  
**January 9, 2014**

**Open Meeting:** Meeting called to order at 18:33 (6:33pm)

**In Attendance:** Commissioner Mark Zoller, Commissioner Jon Riggelman, Commissioner Bob Connor, Chief Chuck Virts, Assistant Chief Jerry Nelson, District Secretary Rozalind Plumb.

**Public:** Les Penney, Tamara Kaufman and Eric Bosler.

**Public Discussion:**

**Letters in the newspaper:** Eric Bosler stated that he liked the letters in the newspaper this week.

**Leadership:** Les Penny stated that in this time of potential turmoil the commissioners should consider maintaining Mark Zoller as chair of the commission in order to maintain continuity of leadership. Commissioner Riggelman agreed with Les Penney's statement, as did Commissioner Connor. Commissioner Zoller acceded to this support, agreeing to continue as commission chair.

**Volunteer Firefighters Association support of the levy:** Tamara Kaufman, KCFD3 Volunteer Association Secretary, concurred with Eric's letter to the editor that was recently printed in The Enterprise newspaper. Maintaining a positive spin is great. She also updated the Commissioners on the Volunteer Firefighters Association (VFA). The VFA had a meeting and have created a flyer (see attached) and the Association has approved \$1500 for use towards printing, newspaper ads, and signs in support of the levy the District is running on the February 11, 2014 ballot. The Association will be at the Mount Adams Chamber of Commerce Business Fair on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> January and flyers will be available to hand out there. The White Salmon Fire Department will be participating with Fire District 3 at the business fair for community outreach and recruitment.

**Community Councils support of the Levy:** Bob Connor said the Snowden Community Council and the Husum BZ Community Council have joined forces, and will be placing ads displaying their support for the levy.

**No other comments from the public.**

**Minutes of last meeting:** The minutes of the 3 meetings in December (12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>) were reviewed. *A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Commissioner Riggelman. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Connor. The minutes were unanimously approved.*

**Secretary's Report:**

1. **Financial Report:** Balance as of December 31, 2013 \$149,385.28. That includes the Municipal Pool balance of \$60,000.00 (which matures on June 18 2014) leaving a cash balance of \$90,946.17.
2. **Bills for Review:** 12/25/2013 \$6,243.43, 12/31/2013 \$1,652.03, 01/06/2014 \$7,517.01  
01/09/2014 \$846.08.

*A motion to approve the bills for payment was made by Commissioner Riggelman and seconded by Commissioner Zoller. The vote was unanimous.*

3. **December Incident Report:** 18 responses, 11 Medical, 3 Fire, 2 MVC, 1 Cancel, 1 other (power line down). 3 in the urban growth area, 1 structure fire in white salmon and one in Bingen.

**Executive Session:** A *motion* to move to Executive Session to discuss with our attorney the lawsuit filed against the District Dec. 2, 2013 was made by Commissioner Riggelman, Seconded by Commissioner Connor. All were in favor.

#### **Executive Session 18:51 until 19:10**

A *motion* to reopen the public meeting was made by Commissioner Riggelman at 19:10. Seconded by Commissioner Connor, all were in favor.

The public were called back in and asked for any other discussion.

**Ballot wording.** Commissioner Zoller read the resolution as written on the ballot (see attached). Comments were made wishing it would say "92 cents per 1000 is the same that was affirmed in 2007." There is no voter's pamphlet, so it is incumbent upon us to get the word out. We have to get the word out that there is no change. Ballots come out on the January 24<sup>th</sup>.

**No further public discussion.**

#### **Chief's Report:**

1. **Ballot.** Chief Virts noted that the wording for the ballot had been e-mailed to the office from the County Elections Department, and he had sent back approval to them. (See attached ballot proof as read by Commissioner Zoller above).
2. **Mutual aid agreements:**  
**Hood River, Wasco County, Klickitat County, Sherman Fire Defense, and Skamania County** mutual aid agreement, a year in the making, has been signed by all agencies and is now in effect. It was reviewed by Attorney Brian Snure – the legal fees associated with the review were equally divided among all the signing agencies. Our portion of the expense amounts to \$35.  
**WSP State Mobilization.** Updated State mobilization agreement was also signed and returned.
3. **Affordable Care Act:** After doing some research, it appears that if there are less than 50 employees (volunteers are included as employees under this act) the "Act" does not affect volunteer fire agencies. However, we should still send letters to senators and congress, as there are other agencies that will be affected – 80% of firefighters in the US are volunteers.
4. **Automatic aid agreement (White Salmon and Bingen):** Chief Virts noted that he spoke with Jan (City of Bingen) about the agreement. There is no money involved with it. Chief Virts will redo it and sign it again, (last signed in 2010). The funding that had previously been provided to Bingen was done under a separate agreement. There is a 30 day stipulation for termination of the automatic aid agreement.  
Commissioner Zoller was concerned about spending for things such as the \$15,000 stipend for White Salmon and spending for capital projects, when our budget is in limbo due to the lawsuit. Commissioner Riggelman noted that we should tighten our belt without reducing our level of service. Commissioner Zoller continued: Until the law suit has a resolution, we could look at the

possibility of cutting \$120,000 out of the 2014 budget, or hold back 60,000 this year and 60,000 in 2015. If the \$0.92/\$1,000 levy request placed on the ballot is approved we should be in good shape for the next year.

It was suggested we hold off on spending for budgeted items until June. We hope the lawsuit will be resolved by the end of March, but that would be fast. If the levy passes we will have a level of security, which we currently do not have.

Commissioner Connor agreed –tighten our belts as much as we can without reducing level of service and continue our current level of effort in training.

5. **Leadership seminar:** Chief Virts asked for permission to send as many Officers as can go, to the Portland Leadership Conference this March. The cost is \$275 per person and we had enough money left over in the budget (see cash balance above). It is a 2.5 day class and very valuable in teaching how to get people where they need to go. Commissioner Zoller said “Training to make better leaders will make better followers.” This goes with what our core values are.

*A Motion that the chief be granted \$1500 for training the officers was made by Commissioner Zoller. Seconded by Commissioner Riggelman, all were in favor.*

6. **Air Tank Filling System:** Captain Helton has a low pressure filling system at Station 32 we cannot use as we have high pressure bottles. The Skamania County Search and Rescue Department (part of the Sheriff's Department) could use it. Chief Virts asked permission to give it to them; in return they would provide us training in basic first responder water rescue or rope rescue.

*A Motion that the unused air tank filling system at station 32 ,that does not match our tanks, be exchanged to Skamania County Sherriff's Department for training services, was made by Commissioner Zoller. Seconded by Commissioner Riggelman. All were in favor.*

Commissioner Connor commented that water training fits in with the suggestions made by the Level of Service report. Commissioner Riggelman was concerned about the insurance for water rescue. Commissioner Zoller says it is divided in to *Assisting* (where you do not get your feet wet), and *Participating* (where you are going in to the water). We would stick with assisting-knowing what we can do to help and to stay safe. He also commented that he is hosting a water rescue class in May and if he has enough response he may be able to offer 2 slots to the Fire Department to help increase awareness. He asked that we check back with him nearer the time of the class.

**Training report:** By Assistant Chief Nelson.

1. **Joint Recruit Academy:** Started last Wednesday at Skamania FD#3 station in Underwood, with 11 members from Skamania, Underwood, Whites Salmon and KCFD3. It will be every Wednesday and other instructors will be coming in to teach.
2. **CPR:** The High Performance CPR class in Seattle is booked. Assistant Chief Nelson, Michelle Renault and Chief Hunsaker (White Salmon FD) will be attending.
3. **New recruits** we have a couple more new recruits and they will be attending the recruit academy. Commissioner Connor asked if numbers are increasing over the past year. Yes, from 24 to around 34. We are struggling now to outfit them. We have turnout gear that has reached its 10 year mark and helmets past 7 years old. AC Nelson is giving recruits the older helmets as they will not be going inside house fires. It was also noted that the rule on the helmets is

designed for full time firefighters where the helmets are used on a daily basis, whereas much of the time ours hang on hooks.

Commissioner Zoller commented that he is glad to see an increase in external training, and especially having others teach at the recruit academy as it will help create new teachers for the future.

**Old Business:**

1. **Affordable Care Act:** See Chiefs report above.
2. **Mutual Aid Agreements:** See Chiefs report above.

**New Business:**

1. **Oath of office,** Commissioner Bob Connor has taken his Oath of Office and had it notarized. Rozalind asked the Commissioners if they would like her to take an oath of office. After talking to Brandie Sullivan at the Elections Department, she was told the County does not require it, but the Commissioners could ask for it.  
*Commissioner Riggleman made a motion that Rozalind gets an Oath of Office notarized and signed to make her official as Secretary of Fire District 3. Seconded by Commissioner Connor. All were in Favor.*

Commissioner Riggleman commented on the great articles in the newspaper, and wants to keep pushing forward. He was glad to see the firefighters getting involved.

Chief Virts commented that despite the negative undertone there has been a lot of positive feedback. Commissioner Riggleman commented that he will be at the Chamber of Commerce Business Fair on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> and was concerned that it may be a conflict of interest as there will be flyers for the levy at the table. It was agreed that if he is asked about the law suit or the Levy he would have to defer to another member of the department.

No further discussion

*A motion to adjourn the meeting of January 9<sup>th</sup> 2014 was made by Commissioner Riggleman, Seconded by Commissioner Connor. All were in favor.*

Meeting adjourned at 19:57 hours (7:57pm)

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Commissioner Chair Mark Zoller

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Commissioner Bob Connor

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Commissioner Jon Riggleman

Attest:

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District Secretary Rozalind Plumb