SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Station 68
February 4, 2011

Commissioner Gates called the meeting to order at 0800 hours with Commissioners Thompson, Fossos, Rickert and Freitas present. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by A/C Plumlee.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS
Commissioner Rickert had no comments.

Commissioner Thompson had no comments.

Commissioner Freitas had no comments.

Commissioner Fossos noted that he attended the King County Fire Commissioners Executive Board meeting, he gave his first report from attending the EMAC Meetings.

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Jerry Galland noted that he had a question, in looking at the 2011 budget; he is wondering what ballot measures the district will be putting on this year? Commissioner Gates noted that there aren't any that he is aware of. Jerry Galland followed that that question with well you have $150,000 budgeted, Commissioner Gates replied that that is to pay for last year's ballot measure.

Commissioner Gates introduced Joe Quinn, he will be our Facilitator and he turned the meeting over to Joe.

UPDATE ON WITHDRAWAL PROCESS
Chief Church reported that we have been discussing the Hospital Withdrawal issue at a number of recent meetings and in fact it has been discussed since the 80's when he was a Battalion Chief. He added that we will continue to protect this area with the same high level of service that we currently do, we will work with each of the property owners on individual contracts of service. Chief Church added that the only reason for the withdrawal is the potential of pro rationing; if we do not withdrawal from this area we could lose an additional estimated $5 million. D/C Knorr reported that this area encompasses 1 square mile, 64 parcels in this area, they are owned by 42 separate property owners, which includes 5 owned by King County, 5 owned by the City of Kent, most of this area is agriculture or a few farm land conservation act and it currently brings in $23,119.32 in property taxes. Chief Church mentioned that he & D/C Knorr met with Rich Roodman and others from Valley Medical (Hospital District) to let them know the Board is considering the withdrawal process; they (Valley Medical) understood and supported the process. Chief Church mentioned we have a first draft of a contract that Joe Quinn has written, this is a contract that we would have with each of the property owners, and they would pay the same amount that they are paying now. Once the Board approves the resolution, we plan to meet with the citizens to ensure that they understand why we are doing this to protect the fire district, explaining everything and answer any of their questions; we want to make sure that they know we will continue to provide service to the property owners. Then this process

requires a resolution by the Board, then the King County Council has to pass an Ordinance, then it goes to the Boundary Review Board. Commissioner Fossos made a Motion to adopt Resolution #471. Chief Church read Resolution #471 into record. Commissioner Freitas asked what prevents other fire districts/fire authorities or city departments from annexing this area. Chief Church explained which fire departments could/could not annex this area. Commissioner Fossos noted that we have a responsibility to our citizens, adding that if we were to lose $5 million, it would be devastating to this department. Our citizens count on us for EMS, fire, rescue and other calls. This is an outstanding fire department, we can only stand to be stretched so far, and he supports this resolution. Commissioner Freitas asked if the contract has been reviewed by any of the Commissioner Committees, Chief Church replied, no, this was recently received by our Legal Counsel, but we are in the process of doing that. Commissioner Fossos clarified that his motion was to approve the resolution, not the contract at this time. Commissioner Freitas added that he hasn't read the contract and it is a contract with the citizens of our district and the Board has a responsibility before we de-annex them for our district and potentially lose them as customers if they wanted to de-annex, we need to look at the process. Legal Counsel Joe Quinn clarified that we are not looking for any action on the contract at this time, it is merely informational he also noted that this is a lengthy process and the issue with the contracts with the citizens may not come up for a few months, it is all part of the process. Commissioner Freitas withdrew his comments. Commissioner Gates noted that he supports this resolution; we need to protect the district and continue to provide emergency services to our citizens to the best of our ability. If we get pro rationed we could lose $5 million, which would mean that we would have to lay off 40-50 firefighters and close 2-3 stations. He would hope that none of us in this room would like to see this happen. Motion passed 4-1 with Commissioner Freitas voting in opposition.

MOTION TO APPOINT K.C.F.P.D. #39 & SPECIFICALLY CHIEF CHURCH AS THE SEPA OFFICER FOR WITHDRAWAL PROCESS

Commissioner Fossos made a Motion to appoint Chief Church the SEPA Officer for the withdrawal process. Commissioner Gates clarified the motion that was made appointing K.C.F.P.D. #39 specifically Chief Church as the SEPA Officer for the withdrawal process. Motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONER ISSUES:

A. Videotaping of meetings or other options

Commissioner Fossos noted that this is a little emotional for him but that camera pointing at him really bothers him, it reminds him of when he served in the war; it raises his anxiety level, he is uncomfortable with the video camera. He added that he wants to make sure that no weapons can be brought into our fire stations, they are not authorized. He is not opposed to it but he goes back to the Motion that he made in November, we need to figure out what we are going to do with the tapes, such as to keep for legal records so they don't get in the wrong hands.

Chief Church added that per the last Policy & Procedure meeting, which he was unable to attend there was discussion on the department videotaping our meetings or having the meetings hosted at a different location. Chief Church noted that this is a Board decision and we did some research to be prepared:

- City of Des Moines - if the meetings were held at the City of Des Moines, the Des Moines citizens would be able to view our meetings via their local tv station, but no one outside the city limits would be able to view the tv channel - The City of Des Moines has no interest
- King County - they have no interest
- City of Federal Way - we may be able to work something out via a contract as the school district has but again only the citizens of Federal Way would be able to view the meetings

on channel 21. The base cost per year for regular meetings only is approximately $4,000 plus we may have to contribute additional funds for the technology equipment upgrades.

- If we wanted to do our own videotaping, we could do that, it will not be top quality, but we could post it on our website so all of our citizens could view that. We would be using all of our own equipment or if you wanted a better picture, we could purchase a new camera.

Commissioner Gates noted that maybe we could start videotaping it our selves

Commissioner Rickert noted that he would prefer that the citizens attended our meetings and be involved; he then asked if we know how many hits we get on our website and is there any way to be able to keep track of how many people viewed the videotape if it was posted to our website.

Commissioner Freitas added that we are in the 21st Century and most Cities and Schools most government have gone to videotaping meetings for credibility and transparency. It helps us maintain credibility with our citizens. He believes it is imperative when we ask them to approve ballot measures, we should let them observe our activities and maintain credibility.

Commissioner Fossos made a motion to investigate videotaping all board meetings.

At 0843 hours the meeting recessed for five (5) minutes to see what is going on, due to a number of pagers going off.

At 0848 hours the recess was extended for an additional five (5) minutes.

At 0854 hours the meeting reconvened.

Joe Quinn noted that we left off with Commissioner Fossos making a Motion to investigate the videotaping of all board meetings.

Commissioner Thompson added that at the last Policy & Procedure Committee they discuss ed the possibility of videotaping our meetings; they are waiting for more information.

Motion passed unanimously.

B. Commissioner Packets

Commissioner Gates noted that at the last Policy & Procedure meeting there was some discussion on sending out packets to the Commissioners a few days prior to the Board meeting which was done in January. Do we want to continue doing this? Commissioner Thompson added that this was discussed in the Policy & Procedures committee, it give the Board the opportunity to review and get back with Lauri or whoever if there are any requested changes prior to the meeting. Commissioner Freitas commented that again we are in the 21st Century and to get the packet in advance means people going to the meetings will be prepared. Sometimes it takes a couple of days to review the stuff, if it is good for us, it is good for the customer that we are prepared. Facilitator Joe Quinn mentioned that this should be sent to committee for development of a new guideline. Commissioner Fossos made a Motion to send this to the Policy & Procedure Committee for review and development of a policy, for distribution of the packets. Motion passed unanimously.

C. Update on 2010 Revenues and 2011 reductions to date

Chief Church stated that we have already met with the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee

about this and he passed out a revenue sheet to the Board members adding that they should have already received this via email. Commissioner Freitas replied that he has not received this electronically yet; he then asked when this was sent out? Chief Church replied that it was emailed to all Commissioners in December. Commissioner Freitas noted that yes, he did receive this. Chief Church added that the bottom line is, we did a pretty good job, last year in conserving funds, Chief Church reviewed some of the revenues and CFO Lawson discussed the year end. Chief Church applauded the Board of Commissioners and especially the Local for stepping up to the plate and approving the concessions last month we were able to save the department $726,326. But this comes at a price, he added that by the middle of the year we will have 13 positions that have been vacated due to retirements and these will not be filled, this takes us back to staffing levels that we saw in 2006. In 2012 it is predicted that we will see an additional 3% loss in revenue, Chief Church has already begun working on the 2012 budget. After meeting with our Legislators they are not anticipating an increase until 201 3 - 2014 and then it will probably be very slow after that. We will continue to work on the budget looking at every line item and reductions, allowing vacancies to occur, he thanked the Board for supporting the withdrawal process as this will help protect us even more with pro rationing. We will continue to work on our revenues and meet the needs of our community the best we can. There was some additional discussion on response times, staffing levels and the safety of our employees at the scene of a fire.

Commissioner Rickert expressed some concerns on how the staffing level could affect our response times; we need to keep track of this.

D. Legislative Update

Chief Church noted that he had been in Olympia attending a WFC Board meeting and the WFCA-WFC Legislative Day. He thanked Lauri Perry for coordinating everything and D/C Olson, Mary Stevens and Commissioner Freitas for attending Legislative Day. He discussed some of the legislative bills that the State Chiefs are supporting; they are trying to stay away from any bills that have a fiscal impact due to the cuts that the Legislature already has to make this session.

E. Commissioner Committees

Commissioner Gates reported that we had a pretty good discussion on committees last year and he can't think of any committees that we need to add, he would like to see the JLM committee continue to meet, it seems like last year several meetings were cancelled.

On the Policy & Procedure Committee, he would like for Commissioner Thompson to continue on the committee, Commissioner Rickert who is now an alternate to be on the committee and Commissioner Fossos to become the alternate. All other committees are okay.

Commissioner Freitas expressed his concerns for information from the committees not getting back to the full board and that the committee meetings should be publicized, when they are, the subject matter so the public knows what is going on. He added that he is opposed to committees and he thanked Commissioner Gates for taking him off the Policy & Procedure Committee.

Commissioner Fossos spoke in favor of the committees, he doesn't understand Commissioner Freitas's criticism because when he first came on the Board, Commissioner Freitas was a big proponent of the committees and he got Commissioner Fossos involved, because they were good and they worked well. Commissioner Fossos sees no reason why we wouldn't continue to have something that works.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerry Galland commented that we had talked about videotaping the meetings so the public could view, one of the things that diminishes public attendance at our meetings is the time frame, so videotaping it would be one way of doing it but also a much cheaper way would be to reschedule the meetings for the evening when the public is not at work and they can attend and be active participants rather than be a one way string of information out. If you are really trying to be open and have the public be a part of this you need two-way communication not one-way communication.

He also suggested that the Commissioner Guidelines be posted to the internet so the public can see what is going on.

Chief Church noted that he has some medical issues that he is dealing with the next month.

Meeting adjourned at 0945 hours.

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CHAIR/COMMISSIONER

VICE CHAIR/COMMISSIONER

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BOARD SECRETARY