SOUTH KING FIRE & RESCUE

SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Station 68
February 12, 2015

Commissioner Gates called the meeting to order at 0900 hours with Commissioners Freitas and Thompson present. Commissioner Rickert is present via conference call and Commissioner Fossos is on his way. Board Secretary Lauri Perry recording.

Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Freitas.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Commissioner Rickert had no comments.

Commissioner Freitas had no comments at this time.

Commissioner Thompson thanked everyone for being here today, we will be discussing the future of South King Fire & Rescue for the next 20 - 25 years and beyond.

Commissioner Gates had no comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerry Galland commented on the short notice of the public meetings, he hopes that the District reviews their policy. He believes that the survey that was conducted last fall was in violation of PDC Guidelines.

Bob McKenzie added that he supports the Bond and he hopes the voters have the opportunity to make a decision and vote on the Bond, Public Safety is very important; make sure everyone gets educated on the needs of the department. Several years ago, the Board put together a statement that is on the bottom of the agenda and he read it to remind everyone "*We will respect each other and their opinion, and we will hold each member accountable to confront inappropriate behavior or behavior that does not add value*".

BOARD DISCUSSION AND DIRECTION TO STAFF RELATIVE TO POTENTIAL BOND ISSUE

Chief Church added that we are here today to answer any questions that the Board may have, we started this process back in 2008-2009, we held a number of public meetings looking at a Bond at over $80 million dollars, then the recession hit. We put the Bond on hold and focused on the immediate needs to continue staffing with a 30% loss of revenue. We knew that we would have to do a Bond at some point with the capital needs of the department. In 2014 we began working on the Bond again, at this time we are being very conservative with a $53.7 million Bond moving the department forward for the next 20 – 25 years. We have held a number of Town Hall Meetings to gain input from our citizens. It's up to the Board, who represents the citizens to decide. A/C Plumlee added that we spent a lot of time working on the facilities and apparatus needs. Our needs aren't going to go away; right now it's all about responding to calls and keeping our firefighters safe. All of the questions that were asked at the Town Hall Meetings were great questions he appreciates the input that we received. Joe Ganem added that what we put forward at the Town Hall Meetings is a system, everything in the system has to function, to make it so we can respond which includes

preventing the buildings from collapsing so the fire engines can get out of the station, making sure that the fire engines don't have a problem and reliable technology to help us get to the scene.

Commissioner Freitas asked if there had been any changes in construction costs or interpretation with the different Cities.

Commissioner Fossos arrived at 0920 hours.

There was some great discussion about construction costs, seismic upgrades and fuel tanks at the stations. Dave Fergus replied that constructions costs are always going up and changing, seismic upgrades are needed to be able to respond to calls and fuel tanks have reached the end of their life. Commissioner Fossos added that it isn't a matter of if an earthquake will happen, it is when and our stations are old and they need to be brought up to the current seismic conditions. Local 2024 President Winter added they are prepared to fully support the Bond measure, firefighter's safety is of paramount concern with aging stations and aging fleet, they know it is time to make the decision.

Commissioner Freitas added that he has some concerns with the whole process, the Board agreed to more forward to gain input from the citizens, however we held 3 Town Hall Meetings and he believes that we could have done more, the total cost of the Bond, and funding sources, can we maintain what we build. We will go forward and let the public decide on this measure. He believes that the public should have the opportunity to vote on this, he hopes that we will continue to seek public input.

Commissioner Gates added that it is our responsibility as the governing body of the Fire District is to work to maintain a District that saves lives and property if we can't fulfill that responsibility if we let our facilities, apparatus and equipment deteriorate. Everything in this Bond measure is aimed at improving all of those things, so we can continue to be able to provide first class responses to the emergency calls that we receive.

Commissioner Thompson added that a number of other departments keep going back to their voters for additional funds, we have done the best that we can living within the amount that we have. Several people at the Town Hall meetings were not aware that our statins are not seismic sound. He supports the $53.7 Bond, it will really help us more forward and gets us back on track with Capital needs.

Commissioner Fossos added that our main job is to save lives and protect property and we can't do that if we don't have the tools to do that. He whole heartily supports the Bond, it is good for our District, it is essential and brings us into the 21st century with our buildings and apparatus. Our apparatus has to be reliable, someone's life depends on it, life is important.

Commissioner Thompson made a Motion to direct Chief Church and staff to prepare a resolution for placing the $53.7 million Firefighter Safety and Emergency Response Bond measure on the April 28th ballot. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fossos. This resolution will be presented to the Board at the February 24th meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Thompson made a Motion to direct Chief Church and staff to prepare a resolution for the February 24th meeting to pay for the fire departments prorate share of the ballot and elections costs. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fossos. Motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Gates thanked everyone for their input and comments.

Bob McKenzie thanked the Board for voting in favor of putting the Bond on the ballot, public safety and public education are the two most important foundation stones to our way of life, our country and our nation. A couple of weeks ago, the Highline School District was on the ballot and unfortunately, their measure failed. We have to remind the public how important this Bond is to us.

Meeting adjourned at 1000 hours.

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CHAIR/COMMISSIONER VICE CHAIR/COMMISSIONER

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BOARD SECRETARY