



October 19, 2009

The Advisory Fire Commission met at a regular meeting on Monday, October 19, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. Vice Chairman Egan called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag. He then followed with a moment of silence for Commissioner Bob Chapman who passed away unexpectedly on August 21, 2009.

ROLL CALL:

Present:	Commissioners:	Barry Cunningham – District 4 Don Delcollo – District 1 Mike Egan – At Large #1 Walter Fields – District 5 Bill Granados – At Large #2 Ed Haynes – District 3 Melvin Chappel (Alternate – District 5) John Kelly (Alternate – District 3) Dylan Reinhold (Alternate – District 4)
	Interim Fire Chief:	John Ross
	Acting Assistant Chief:	Henry Warren
Vacancy:	District 2 Seat	

SERVICE AWARDS: No one was present to receive a service award.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Vice Chairman Egan opened the public hearing. Hearing no objections or protests to the 2009 Abatement Report, the hearing was closed. He then asked for a motion to adopt the "Resolution of Confirmation" confirming the 2009 Abatement Report in the amount of \$79,443.74. Commissioner Delcollo moved that the Commission adopt the Resolution of Confirmation confirming the Abatement Report, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Delcollo made an additional motion to order the District staff to adjust or modify any charges found to be incorrect because the charge was entered:

- a) more than once,
- b) through clerical error,
- c) through the error or mistake of a material fact, or
- d) illegally

Motion seconded by Commissioner Cunningham. All in favor, motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chief Ross introduced Deputy Fire Chief Gary Massetani of the San Francisco Fire Department who was present as an observer.

Mrs. Ameena Jandali was present to protest the weed abatement charges on APN #425-061-013-8 in El Sobrante for work performed by the District's contractor in the amount of \$4,252.00. It was determined that this charge was for work done in August of 2008. The listed property owners are Mohammad Al Khudari and Faris Jandali. *(Note: The actual weed abatement charges are \$3,634.34, with the total tax bill being in the amount of \$4,252.00.)* It is Mrs. Jandali's contention that: 1) abatement on this parcel was done by a contractor hired by her and 2) if the abatement was not done to meet District standards, she does not understand how the charge could be this large for a half acre of open field. Commissioner Granados asked if there was a lot of rubbish on the property. Mrs. Jandali's response was that according to her contractor it was all taken away. Commissioner Granados noted that there would be photographs of the condition of the parcel on record with the Exterior Hazard Control Division. Commissioner Cunningham then explained that the normal process is for the Fire Marshal to conduct an investigation into these charges with the staff of the Exterior Hazard Control Division. Mrs. Jandali was advised by Vice Chairman Egan to contact staff to begin the investigation process. She was advised that she could appear before the Commission at the December meeting if she needs to pursue this matter further.

CONSENT ITEMS:

AUGUST 10, 2009 MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Haynes made a motion to approve the August 10, 2009 meeting minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cunningham. All in favor, motion carried.

ACCEPT AND FILE REPORTS:

After review, the reports listed below were accepted and filed.

Personnel Report – Reviewed report of October 13, 2009.

Operating Budget – Reviewed report of September 3, 2009.

- Acct. 3620 – Gen Svc-Requested Mntce: Commissioner Fields asked whether the amount expended (\$45,992) was for some unexpected maintenance as it far exceeds the amount appropriated for this account (\$2,000). Chief Ross will check into this and reply to Commissioner Fields by email.

Fire Prevention Report – Reviewed August/September 2009 report.

- Investigations – Commissioner Fields inquired as to why the Investigation Unit was involved with a warrant service and what role they played. Chief Ross will check into this matter and report back to Commissioner Fields.

Incident Summary Report – Reviewed August/September 2009 reports.

- August - Commissioner Cunningham gave special mention to Stations 2, 6, 9, and 81 for meeting or exceeding their turn-out time goal for the month.
- September – Commissioner Cunningham gave special mention to Stations 2, 3, 5, 6, 11, 85 and 86 for meeting or exceeding their turn-out goal for the month.

Commissioners Fields and Haynes reiterated their concerns on the high call volume of Stations 6 and 70 and the fatigue factor/wear and tear to crew members. Chief Ross noted that Station 70's call volume has dropped 20% since August 17th with the elimination of the two-minute handicap involving Richmond FD. General discussion on this topic followed.

Suppression Leave Summary - Reviewed July/August 2009 reports.

- General discussion occurred on the trial 48/96 schedule. Chief Ross noted that both Local 1230 and the District will produce a combined report at the conclusion of the trial period evaluating the many different aspects of the trial schedule. Local 1230 will be conducting a membership vote at the conclusion of the trial period in December. The Commissioners requested that they be kept apprised of issues/findings relative to the 48/96 trial schedule in a timely manner.
- July Report – Commissioner Cunningham questioned the number of personnel hired back on July 11th (30) and the number of people allowed off on vacation on July 12th (13). Chief Ross will check into this matter.

Community & Media Relations – Reviewed August/September 2009 report.

Correspondence – None

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to accept the file reports as written, seconded by Commissioner Fields. All in favor, motion carried.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Reviewed report of October 14, 2009.

- The CAO and County HR have hired a consultant (Alliance Resources Consulting LLC) to conduct the Fire Chief recruitment. Chief Ross confirmed that it is a role of the Commission to be involved in the screening and interview process for the appointment of the Fire Chief and they will be kept apprised of the situation.
- New Station 85 Signage – It was noted that the City of Pittsburg has included verbiage, at Supervisor Glover's order, memorializing a former Pittsburg official on the station frontage sign. The Commissioners again remarked that this is in direct violation of existing County policy regarding memorializing of a District fire station. Commissioner Cunningham noted for the record that he would like the City of Pittsburg to be reminded that there has only been one fire station that has been memorialized to an individual in the entire state and that entity is in the process of trying to reverse this process due to legal issues involving that individual. General discussion on this issue followed. It was agreed that I.A.F.F. Local 1230 will be

contacted to join in opposing the current signage. A motion was made by Commissioner Granados for the Commission to send a letter to the Board of Supervisors noting the violation of the existing "Policy on Memorializing Fire Stations" approved by the Board of Supervisors on August 15, 2000 and request that the Board members take steps to rectify said violation. Motion was seconded by Cunningham. Commissioner Fields abstained, with all remaining Commissioners voting in favor of the motion. Motion passed by majority vote.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Nomination and Selection of Vice Chair for Remainder of FY 2009/10 – In lieu of naming a new Vice Chair, Commissioner Haynes made a motion to leave the Chairman position vacant in honor of Commissioner Robert Chapman and to retain Commissioner Mike Egan as Vice Chair while fulfilling the duties of the Chairman for the remainder of FY 2009/10 . Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fields. All in favor, motion carried.

Discussion Item: Annual Report to the Board of Supervisors – General discussion on the topic commenced. Vice Chairman Egan then requested that the Commissioners submit their written comments to staff person Vicki Wisher for inclusion in the Annual Report.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Cunningham:

- Commented on a recent visit to Reno F.D. Station #1 in the downtown area. The actual fire station was torn down to allow for installation of a new ball park. The crew is being housed in a portable building and apparatus is parked in a temporary building (Super Tent).
- Requested that the repair of Quints and ladder trucks be prioritized over other vehicles as the aerial device shortage disturbs him. Chief Ross will follow up on this issue.

Commissioner Granados: None

Commissioner Fields:

- Expressed his thanks to the department for their participation in the services for Commissioner Chapman. He also expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Granados for all that he did to assist with the services and support to the family members. Commissioner Chapman was greatly admired by many.
- Thanks to Chief Ross and Vicki Wisher for the flow of information to keep the Commissioners apprised of District business/activities. He requested that he be provided with a list of where apparatus is located throughout the District, to include information on unit number, model year and type of apparatus.
- Confirmed that it is important for the Commission to participate in the selection process of the new Fire Chief.

- Thanks to Chief Grace for the updates on the Michele Drive Investigation recommendations. He realizes that budget constraints may delay implementation of some of the recommendations but it is important to see the progress and to realize that we have not forgotten the firefighters who we lost.

Commissioner Delcollo: None

Commissioner Haynes:

- Station 4, Type 2 apparatus – Noted that this unit has been out of service for at least 60 days due to a defroster problem. Requested that Chief Ross look into this matter.
- Requested that Vice Chair review the Committee assignments.
- Is appreciative of the information flow that has been coming to the Commissioners and ask that it continue.
- Regarding the City of Walnut Creek's recent adoption of the 2007 Fire Code, he noticed in the City Council meeting minutes some comments of a critical nature of the District for not being present at the meeting and not presenting the issue correctly. Commissioner Egan also noted that there was an article in the newspaper relative to this issue. Commissioner Haynes would like the Chief to look into this subject.
- Expressed that we all miss, and will continue to miss, Commissioner Chapman.

Commissioner Chappel (Alternate):

- Expressed his thanks to the Chief for the updates on the Michele Drive Recommendations. Noted that he has some questions needing clarification and will send them to staff person Vicki Wisher.
- Operating Budget Report – Is concerned with the timeliness of getting more current budget information. It was explained by Chief Ross that receipt of year end figures from the County takes a lengthy amount of time and is out of our control. Commissioner Chappel also inquired relative to current year information and whether that could be made available in a timelier manner. Chief Ross will follow up on this issue with the Chief of Administrative Services.

Commissioner Reinhold (Alternate):

Commented on a friend of his who is a paramedic at San Francisco F.D. and who has an internet blog and is communicating with a paramedic in the U.K. Over the course of approximately six months time, it was proposed that the BBC shoot a documentary comparing the differences in the paramedic services in the two countries. It now appears that this will not happen but the U.K. medic will be coming to the U.S. to visit his American paramedic friend. Some type of comparison report will be formulated by the two medics. Commissioner Reinhold will keep the Commission apprised of the status of this project.

Commissioner Egan

- Expressed concerns regarding ladder trucks and wondering if the District is going to stick with the Quints considering the problems we have had with them. Chief Ross remarked that our original intention was to buy a truck without a Quint. The current

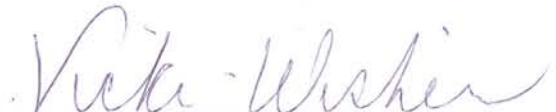
economic condition, however, has caused us to postpone this purchase. Commissioner Egan asked if we were considering a lease purchase or a straight lease. Chief Ross commented that he will look into this with the budget officer. Also noted his concern regarding the Type 2 units.

- 2nd Alarm Responses/Orinda-Moraga FD - Questioned why Orinda-Moraga FD did not go beyond a two-alarm response at a vegetation fire at the Caldecott Tunnel with 120 firefighters on scene. He also noted another incident earlier this month with over 60 firefighters that did not go beyond a second alarm. Chief Ross will look into this matter.
- In regard to recent publicized controversy over enhancement of fire department retirement compensation benefits, does the District have any plan to have vacation accruals be used each year. Chief Ross noted that we do not at this point.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME: Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Commissioner Fields, to:

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, December 14, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

All in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.



Vicki Wisner, Recording Secretary