



August 9, 2010

The Advisory Fire Commission met at a regular meeting on Monday, August 9, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. Vice Chairman Granados called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Present:	Commissioners:	Richard Chapman – At Large #2 Barry Cunningham – District IV Walter Fields – District V Bill Granados – District II Ed Haynes – District III Melvin Chappel (Alternate – District V) Denis Jackson (Alternate – District III) Dylan Reinhold (Alternate – District IV)
	Fire Chief:	Daryl Louder
	Fire Marshal:	Lewis Broschard
Absent:		Don Delcollo – District I Mike Egan – At Large #1

SERVICE AWARDS: Lela Easter, Fiscal Specialist, was present to receive her 30-year award.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Appeal of Exterior Hazard Control Division Charges -

APN: 430-102-014 – 6060 Skyline Drive, El Sobrante

Property Owner: Darold Sims
46 Madrona Street
Mill Valley, CA 94941-1812
(415) 509-3415

Mr. Darold Sims was present at this meeting to request an investigation into the charges associated with weed abatement work done by the Fire District's contractor in 2008 on the above parcel. His complaint centered on his belief that the charges are excessive and also that our method of notifying property owners was not to his satisfaction. He

commented that he was hospitalized (two weeks in May) during the time period that the weed abatement notices were mailed to him and feels that the District should have phoned him prior to sending out its contractor. The Fire District had its contractor perform the required abatement work on the parcel due to noncompliance by the property owner. Total charges appearing on Mr. Sim's tax bill that he received in December 2009 are \$1,122.18.

Vice Chair Granados explained the appeal process to Mr. Sims and informed him that an investigation into above stated charges will be opened by District staff. Fire Marshal Broschard was present at this meeting and told Mr. Sims that he will contact him to discuss the particulars of this issue. If they are unable to reach resolution, this matter will be agendized to the October 18, 2010 meeting for further action.

CONSENT ITEMS:

JUNE 14, 2010 MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Haynes made a motion to approve the June 14, 2010 meeting minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fields. All in favor, motion carried.

ACCEPT AND FILE REPORTS:

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

Personnel Report – Reviewed/discussed report of August 3, 2010.

Operating Budget – Reviewed/discussed report of July 23, 2010.

Fire Prevention Report – Reviewed/discussed June/July 2010 report.

Incident Summary Reports – Reviewed/discussed June and July 2010 reports.
Additional comments:

- June - Commissioner Cunningham gave special mention to Stations 1, 6, 11 and 86 for meeting or exceeding their turn-out time goal for the month.
- July - Commissioner Cunningham gave special mention to Stations 2, 6, 9 and 22 for meeting or exceeding their turn-out time goal for the month.

Suppression Leave Summary - Reviewed/discussed May and June 2010 reports. A continuing concern is the potential for fatigue issues with the 48/96 work schedule. Chief Louder noted that we are monitoring the situation and that the District's depleted staffing resources and other variables can be a contributing factor to fatigue in personnel. He is working with County HR to implement a firefighter exam process as soon as possible. Also being considered is an academy of lateral entry firefighter hires. Maximum consecutive work hours previously set at 120 was also discussed and whether or not a revision may be needed. Commissioner Granados noted that he could bring the District's staffing concerns to a Board of Supervisors meeting in his capacity

as liaison to the Board. He also suggested that this is an issue that the Personnel Committee could address and bring to the Board. It was later concluded that the matter of adjusting the maximum consecutive work hours should wait until after the hiring of the next Firefighter Recruit class.

Correspondence – Reviewed.

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/discussed report of August 4, 2010.

- Commissioner Cunningham inquired about a proposed new ladder truck purchase. He asked that the Commission's Apparatus Committee members be made aware of the truck specs and the use plan. Chief Louder commented that the request was perhaps premature as we are presently only exploring the possibility of purchasing a ladder truck at this time.
- Responses to June 14 Meeting Inquiries:
 - The Water Tender that had been out of service and located at the Shop is now at Station 14, personnel training is occurring and unit will be back in service soon.
 - Weed Abatement contract received Board approval on July 13th.
- District web site is being redesigned/updated by private vendor at nominal cost.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Decision on Weed Abatement charges: APN 237-230-007 – Lafayette

APN: 237-230-007 – 1701 Hunsaker Canyon Road, Lafayette

Property Owner: John W. Halpin
1701 Hunsaker Canyon Road
Lafayette, CA 94549
(925) 284-4909

After review of Fire Marshal Broschard's written findings detailing his investigation into charges on above parcel, Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to uphold the findings of staff, reduce charges by 40% and a refund in the amount of \$2,174.35 be issued to Mr. Halpin. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Fields. All in favor, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

Declaration of Surplus Property - Report of June 16, 2010 consists of obsolete desktop computers and various items of electronic equipment. Commissioner Haynes made a motion to approve the surplus equipment list as provided, seconded by Commissioner Fields. All in favor, motion passed.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Haynes: Extended a welcome to Mr. Denis Jackson who was appointed as the District III Alternate on July 13, 2010.

Commissioner Fields: Thanks to Chiefs Louder and Broschard for their excellent communication with the Commission members, very much appreciated.

Commissioner Chapman: Commented that is an honor and a privilege to serve on the Commission, especially in these challenging times. Commissioner Chapman was appointed to the Commission on June 22, 2010.

Commissioner Cunningham: Suggested that the new Chief of Administrative Services, Jackie Lorrekovich, meet with the members of the Commission's Budget Committee to discuss the aforementioned budget proposals prior to submittal to the Board of Supervisors.

Commissioner Granados: Suggested that it might be a good idea for him to bring forth the idea of lateral firefighter hires to the Board of Supervisors at one of their next meetings. Chief Louder concurred.

Commissioner Chappel (Alternate): Commented that if the District decides to pursue lateral hiring of firefighters that it be weighed carefully. He feels that this has both pros/cons associated with it.

Commissioner Reinhold (Alternate): Commented that advance notification to the public of any station brownouts will be of critical importance. Chief Louder commented that a notification plan is in place in the event that any station brownouts occur. He is also speaking to all of the City Councils in the jurisdiction to make sure they are aware of the District's budget/staffing issues. Commissioner Haynes asked that the schedule of City Council meetings be sent to all Commission members.

Commissioner Jackson (Alternate): Thanked the Commission for the warm welcome and commented that it is a pleasure to serve on the Commission. He then spoke on his employment history.

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

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, October 18, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

All in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.



Vicki Wisner, Recording Secretary