



August 8, 2011

The Advisory Fire Commission met at a regular meeting on Monday, August 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Chairman Egan 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 Don Delcollo – District I Mike Egan – At Large #1 Bill Granados – District II Ed Haynes – District III Melvin Chappel (Alternate – District V) Matt Guichard (Alternate – District II) Denis Jackson (Alternate – District III) Daryl Louder
	Fire Chief:	Walter Fields – District V Dylan Reinhold (Alternate – District IV)
Absent:	Commissioners:	

PUBLIC HEARING:

Chairman Egan opened the public hearing. Hearing no objections or protests to the August 3, 2011 Abatement Report, the hearing was closed. He then asked for a motion to adopt the "Resolution of Confirmation" confirming the August 3, 2011 Abatement Report in the amount of \$10,345.00. Commissioner Haynes moved that the Commission adopt the Resolution of Confirmation confirming the Abatement Report, seconded by Commissioner Delcollo. All in favor, motion carried.

Commissioner Delcollo made an additional motion to have District staff 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: None

CONSENT ITEMS:

JUNE 13, 2011 MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to approve the June 13, 2011 meeting minutes as written. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Haynes. 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 2, 2011.

Operating Budget – Reviewed/discussed report of July 22, 2011.

- Apparatus – Commissioner Chapman inquired as to process used to rotate fleet as it ages. Chief Louder will look into process used by the District and report back.

Fire Prevention Report – Reviewed/discussed June/July 2011 report.

- Commissioner Haynes questioned why personal funds were expended by Captain Champion to attend a Forensic Fire Fatality Investigation course in San Luis Obispo. Chief Louder will check as to why personal, rather than District, funds were used

Incident Summary Reports – Reviewed/discussed June/July 2011 reports. Additional comments:

- June - Commissioner Cunningham gave special mention to Stations 2, 5, 6, 9, 11, 81, 84 and 85 for meeting or exceeding their turn-out time goal for the month.
- July - Commissioner Cunningham gave special mention to Stations 5 and 6 for meeting or exceeding their turn-out time goal for the month.
- Runs by Station Stat Sheet – Commissioner Haynes noted that the calls for Station 6 do not reflect that this is a two-company station. Asked that future stats reflect this condition.

Suppression Leave Summary - Reviewed/discussed May/June 2011 reports. It was noted that the dates in the June report were in incorrect order.

Correspondence – No comment.

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

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – Reviewed/discussed report of August 2, 2011.

Additional comments:

- Update: The County suspended the Service Award Program administered through the O.C. Tanner Co. on July 1, 2009 as a cost cutting measure due to the economic

downturn. We were also advised at that time that we could no longer purchase fire service lapel pins that are given to safety employees by the District beginning with the completion of ten years of service and at five year increments thereafter. We decided we would continue to award our lapel pins from remaining stock on hand but we have now reached the point of depletion of remaining stock. Until such time that the award program may be reinstated, the District will begin issuing a Certificate of Appreciation in lieu of a lapel pin. Up until now, service award recognition has been at Commission meetings. From this point forward, employees will be recognized for their years of service in conjunction with a badge pinning ceremony.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Battalion 7 Service Reduction: Discussion centered on Battalion 7 (West County) recent and pending changes in response coverage. Effective November 1, 2011, coverage will drop to four staffed stations in the battalion. This could result in longer response times and increased costs to the District due to greater use of Richmond FD resources.

Fire Trail Program Status Report: August 3, 2011 status report by Assistant Chief Ross was reviewed. No additional comments.

Discussion Item: Meeting Schedule – Commissioner Cunningham feels that returning to a monthly meeting schedule would allow for timelier processing of any weed abatement charge complaints by property owners. Commissioner Cunningham then made a motion to return to a monthly meeting schedule. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Delcollo. Discussion followed on the motion. A voice vote was taken on the aforementioned motion. The motion passed by a simple majority.

Further discussion followed on the merits of whether to perhaps utilize an altered schedule, i.e., monthly meetings during the period when weed abatement charges are heard/protested and then resumption of a bi-monthly schedule for the other months of the year. Chief Louder also offered that the District will be moving to an Executive Summary Report. General consensus was to continue this item for further discussion to the October 10 meeting that has already been publicly noticed.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:

Commissioner Haynes:

- Has noticed that some fire stations are flying American and California flags that appear worn and need of replacement. Perhaps this could be added to the station inspection checklist.
- Commented on the articles in the newspaper regarding the East Contra Costa Fire Protection District financial situation and the reference by Brentwood city officials for information from Con Fire on potential consolidation costs.

Commissioner Delcollo:

- Questioned whether the District was following proper flag etiquette by having flags flying continuously throughout the entire day/night. The District is following proper protocol and has elected to fly them continuously and illuminate them at night as per protocol.

Commissioner Chappel (Alternate):

- Complimented the members of the District's labor negotiations team for their recent efforts in reaching consensus labor concessions by Local 1230. He does have a concern regarding effect on morale of personnel. Chief Louder noted that he feels personnel are fully committed to providing necessary services.

Commissioner Granados:

- Requested that staff to the Commission inquire as to proper procedure to effect change in Commission Bylaws.

Commissioner Chapman:

- Concurs with Commissioner Chappel's and Chief Louder's comments on the joint success of labor and management in achieving much needed cost savings through the unprecedented salary "give backs" by safety personnel.

Commissioner Cunningham:

- Echoed the sentiments of both Commissioners Chappel and Chapman and noted that the results achieved will be of great benefit to the community.
- Second alarm fire on Jamie Drive, Concord – Was an observer at this incident and was very complimentary of the work done by first-in unit in containment of this fire. Excellent work!

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

Next Regular Meeting: Monday, October 10, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

All in favor, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Vicki Wisner, Recording Secretary