MINUTES

August 11, 2014

The Advisory Fire Commission met at a regular meeting on Monday, August 11, 2014, at 7:00 p.m. Chair Tom Chapman called the meeting to order and led the salute to the flag.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Commissioners:

Richard “Tom” Chapman – At Large #2
Barry Cunningham – District IV
Mike Egan – At Large #1
Bill Granados – District II
Ed Haynes – District III
Randall Henderson – District I
Nat Rojanasathira – District V
Melvin Chappel (Alternate – District III)
Erin Horn (Alternate – District II)
Dylan Reinhold (Alternate – District IV)
Jeff Carman

Absent:

None

BADGE PINNING CEREMONY

The following personnel were present for the badge pinning ceremony: Battalion Chief Jim Howard (promoted August 1), Fire Captain Brent Boling (promoted August 1), Fire Captain Ken Loo (promoted August 1).

SERVICE AWARDS

The following personnel were present to receive service awards: Battalion Chief Jim Howard (30 years), Captain Brent Boling (10 years), and Captain Matthew de Polo (10 years).
PUBLIC HEARINGS

A. Chairman Chapman opened the public hearing on the August 6, 2014 Report on the Cost of Abatement. Hearing no objections or protests to the August 6, 2014 Abatement Report, the hearing was closed. He then asked for a motion to adopt the “Resolution of Confirmation” confirming the February 26, 2014 Abatement Report in the amount of $26,772. Commissioner Haynes moved that the Commission adopt the Resolution of Confirmation confirming the Abatement Report, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Cunningham, Egan, Granados, Haynes, Henderson, Rojanasathira).

Commissioner Cunningham 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 Granados. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Cunningham, Egan, Granados, Haynes, Henderson, Rojanasathira).

B. Chairman Chapman opened the public hearing on the August 11, 2014 Abate Cost Confirmation for Real Property located at 175 Hillcrest Avenue, Pittsburg.

Vahishta Falahat, Esq., accompanied by Jeanette Rasmussen, Trustee for 175 Hillcrest Ave., Pittsburg, addressed the Commission to request that the Commission reconsider the cost of the abatement. She stated that in her research she determined the contractor’s charge to be six times the market rate. Ms. Falahat provided supporting documents. After a lengthy discussion, Commissioner Cunningham made a motion to continue the public hearing to October 13th and recommended that the principals involved meet with County Counsel to see if they can negotiate a reduction in the abatement invoice. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Rojanasathira. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Cunningham, Egan, Granados, Haynes, Henderson, Rojanasathira).

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. David Fowler addressed the Commission requesting that the District cease to require abatement of parcel #376-090-005 on Howe Road in Martinez. He also requested relief from the charges and penalties for the years 2009, 2011, and 2012. He provided a written request and photos.
CONSENT ITEMS:

June 9, 2014 Meeting Minutes:

Commissioner Granados made a motion to approve the June 9, 2014 meeting minutes as corrected. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Cunningham. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Cunningham, Egan, Granados, Haynes, Henderson, Rojanasathira).

ACCEPT AND FILE REPORTS:

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


- Commissioner Cunningham asked Chief Carman for the status of hiring 27 firefighters as a result of the SAFER grant. Chief Carman replied that we currently have 17 cadets in the academy and are in the process of hiring for a second academy.

- Commissioner Haynes asked for clarification as to the employment status of Dr. Peter Benson. Chief Carman replied that he is a contractor, not an employee.

- Alternate Commissioner Chappel asked Chief Carman if the District is in compliance with consent decree hiring. Chief Carman replied that the consent decree was removed earlier this year, but the County continues with their commitment to attract as much diversity as possible.

- Commissioner Haynes asked Chief Carman for an update regarding the hiring of mechanics. Chief Carman replied that we are still working with County Human Resources to move the recruitment process forward. In the meantime the District is looking to hire a couple of temporary fire mechanics.


- Commissioner Rojanasathira complemented Fire Marshal Marshall on the good work of the Bureau in regards to the major fireworks arrest and recovery of dangerous fireworks as well as the resulting education of the public.

Incident Summary Reports – Reviewed/discussed June/July 2014 reports.

- Commissioner Haynes continues to be concerned about response times in the closed Station 4’s area.
• Commissioner Cunningham commended all stations for meeting their turnout times for the months of June and July.

**Suppression Leave Summary** – Reviewed/discussed June/July 2014 reports.

• Commissioner Haynes expressed his concern for the toll that is taken on firefighters working excessive mandatory overtime. Chief Carman echoed his concern but hopes the situation will get better when the academy graduates.

**Correspondence** – Reviewed.

Commissioner Egan made a motion to accept and file reports as written, seconded by Commissioner Cunningham. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Cunningham, Egan, Granados, Haynes, Henderson, Rojanasathira).

**FIRE CHIEF’S REPORT** – Reviewed/discussed report of August 1, 2014.

Chief Carman added that the new apparatus will display the new District logo.

• Commissioner Egan asked Chief Carman how the District will staff ambulances when we are currently so short staffed. Chief Carman replied that he has been in contact with HR regarding the timing of hiring should we be successful in the bid process.

• Alternative Commissioner Reinhold asked when the expansion of the East Cell will happen. Chief Carman responded that EBRCs is on hold until they can reduce the busy signal on the East Cell or they can do something to expand it. Acting Assistant Chief Goetsch interjected that we are partially using EBRCs and there has already been improved communication between the Comm Center and the units in the field.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Surplus Property – Reports of June 6, 2014 and July 11, 2014:** Commissioner Granados made a motion to approve the Surplus Property Reports of June 6, 2014 and July 11, 2014. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Rojanasathira. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Cunningham, Egan, Granados, Haynes, Henderson, Rojanasathira).
COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

- Commissioner Tom Chapman reported that he met with County Counsel Mary Ann Mason recently about meeting procedures and there are a couple of items to report on: The first being the need to change the meeting location in the Bylaws. [The second item was unintelligible, but Commissioner Chapman recalled the item concerned the need to revisit procedures for agendizing weed abatement issues.]

Commissioner Chapman also asked the Bylaws Committee to convene to review the Bylaws and recommend amendments as needed, reporting back at the October 13th meeting.

- Commissioner Rojanasathira shared that he went on a ride-along with the crew at Station 81 in Antioch. Captain Greg Sawyer, Engineer Nick Sinosky, and Firefighter-Paramedic Mike Vela provided an excellent experience.

- Commissioner Cunningham requested that a response to David Fowler’s request be agendized for October 13th.

- Commissioner Haynes asked that frequency of Commission meetings be agendized for the October 13th meeting.

Commissioner Granados made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Commissioner Egan. Said motion carried by a unanimous vote (AYES: Chapman, Cunningham, Egan, Granados, Haynes, Henderson, Rojanasathira).

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME:

October 13, 2014, 7:00 p.m.

Shawn de Leuze, Recording Secretary