

Minutes of the December 19, 2013 Commissioners Meeting

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:31 P.M.
2. Pledge of allegiance was recited
3. Quorum present, Commissioners McLellan, Ames, Shoppach, Gelasco and Hambric.
4. Luis Palacios of 5 Star Fire Protection spoke to the Board regarding Sparks Elementary School. Mr. Palacios will be the contractor putting in the sprinkler system at the new school. Mr. Palacios is asking the Board for permission to go ahead and pay his fees and be allowed to start his portion of the project which would be the underground at this point. Mr. Palacios understands that he is proceeding at his own risk. Fire Marshal Guillen said that he has worked with 5 Star and Mr. Palacios in the past and foresee no problems. Attorney Richard Contreras also stated that he sees no problem with the Board taking this action.
15. Motion made by Commissioner Hambric to move this item up for discussion. Steve Blanco, Attorney for SISD said that he has studied 775 and found that we do have the authority to conduct inspections and enforce the fire code. Mr. Baskin, the former attorney for the District was mistaken. Mr. Blanco stated that he now has the unenviable job of reporting this to the SISD Board of Trustees. Richard has instructed Fire Marshal Guillen to “red tag” the project issuing a stop work order until the fees are paid. Fire Marshal Guillen said that the only reason he has not done that yet is because they are only putting up walls so far which we have no jurisdiction over. Now that fire lines are being run it comes under the scope of the Fire Marshal’s authority. Richard stated that SISD may come in and pay the full fees do and that we can negotiate after that as far as areas that are not structural and refund a portion of the fees if necessary if they want to get the project started. Motion made by Commissioner Hambric to have Fire Marshal issue construction Permit to 5 Star to begin the underground portion of their project. Motion seconded by Commissioner Ames. Motion carried unanimously.
5. Minutes of November meeting were reviewed.
6. Financial report was reviewed
7. Tax income and investments were reviewed and Commissioner Ames reports that we have received approximately \$177,000 to date in 2014 taxes.
8. Accounts payable for November were approved.
9. No expenditures to approve.
10. Chief Keys not in attendance. Asst. Chief Menendez reports 159 calls in November and 1523 YTD. The stipend program is working as evidenced in our call volume. 1st quarter of 2013 we had 366 calls, 2nd quarter 359 calls, 3rd quarter 369 calls and 4th quarter after the stipend program went into effect we are up to 429 calls with 9 days to go in the quarter. Terrible month for maintenance. We have had a problem with almost every truck in the fleet. Attack#401 had new tires put on at a cost of \$3000 and it still has electrical issues and is still blowing the turbo hose. Quint#401 had to have new tires at a cost of \$5000. Pumper#402’s radiator went bad and we had issues with the shipping companies as the first one we ordered was lost somewhere in last week’s ice storm in Dallas and the second

one ordered also became lost. Finally the first one that was ordered showed up after the truck had been down for 10 days and a cost of \$2600. Pumper#401 blew the front discharge hose but Administrator Larson said he believes he can repair it. Rescue#402 was in the shop for an exhaust leak and an oil leak. Repair bill on that truck is approximately \$650. Rescue #403 may have blown the transmission returning from a call on Wednesday night. The truck would not shift out of first gear. The truck has been towed to Casa Ford and we are waiting on a diagnosis from them. Currently standing firm on 55 active members with applications pending the release of the hiring freeze. Commissioner Ames stated that we will review the Fire Chief's contract in January. We will need to look at how much has been spent on the stipend program at the end of December to determine how much will be necessary to go to 24 hour coverage. Motion to accept Fire Chief's report made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by commissioner Gelasco. Report accepted.

11. Fire Marshal Guillen stated that his quarterly report will be given next month. Deputy Fire Marshal Carlos Ornelas is doing very well and should be released soon to conduct yearly business inspections. Motion to accept Fire Marshal's report made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner McLellan. Report accepted.
12. Motion to move item 12, new station to executive session made by Commissioner Hambric. The Board of Commissioners moved into Executive Session to consult with Attorney at 7:01 P.M. and returned at 7:76 P.M. No action taken. After returning from Executive session a motion was made by Commissioner McLellan to allow Blair Hall to continue work on the station until the next meeting but they will have to show considerable progress between now and the next meeting on January 30. A performance evaluation will be conducted then. Motion made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Hambric. Motion carried unanimously.
13. Fire Marshal Guillen stated that his office will begin using Emergency Reporting System for his reports instead of Firehouse so that information may be shared between the Fire Marshal's Division and the Operations Division. He presented a new occupancy form for the Board to review and accept. Motion to accept form made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Shoppach. Form accepted unanimously.
14. Motion to table surplus property made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Shoppach. Item tabled.
16. Attack#401 is down for repairs AGAIN. Commissioner Ames stated that she Asst. Chief Menendez to look into trading it in, putting it on consignment or whatever we can do to get rid of it. She also asked Asst. Chief Menendez to get some figures on possibly getting a chassis only to put the Attack's box on, a price on a new small Rescue and a price on a full blown Rescue truck. The chassis only option is not a good one as Pierce would have to do some modifications in the engine compartment for the pump which is part of the problems we have experienced with the current truck. The small Rescue truck option is not really a good option for us as we need the pump capabilities on the truck and these do not come equipped with a pump. The best option for us

is a combination Medium Rescue/Pumper combination truck. Siddons Martin said they could build us one with pump, CAFS system and hydraulic reels already plumbed into the truck for approximately \$783,000. We would like to stick to Peirce Manufacturing as that is the same Manufacturer as our the rest of our fleet and the same manufacturer that E.P.F.D. uses. F.T.Repair who currently takes care of maintenance issues on our trucks will probably not be around much longer and we would have to utilize an M.O.U. with the E.P.F.D. maintenance department. Motion to get pricing and finance options made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Hambric. Motion carried unanimously.

17. Commissioner Gelasco wanted to revisit the Fire Marshal's firearm. He asked when the last time an E.P.F.D. Fire Marshal had to pull their gun? Will the Deputy Fire Marshal also be carrying a gun? Fire Marshal Guillen stated that he did not have any information on when the last time a gun was pulled. The Deputy Fire Marshal will not carry a weapon. Commissioner Gelasco asked that it be put into the record that he is opposed to this and feels it is a liability. Commissioner Hambric stated that he feels it is a question of his authority was the reason for letting him carry it in the first place. Commissioner Gelasco made a statement that authority "comes from your position". We still need SOP's from Fire Marshal's office before he will carry his weapon.
18. Motion to allow \$12,000 to send 8 people to the SAFE-D Conference. Motion made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Shoppach. Motion carried unanimously.
19. Motion to allow \$2,250 to purchase 15 stethoscopes made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Shoppach. Motion carried unanimously.
20. Commissioner McLellan spoke to Rachel of Life Ambulance about raising the rent for their apartment from \$250 to \$600 per month. Rachel does not want to pay more stating that they are in negotiations with the County regarding the amount of money the County gives them every year. She also stated that they pay \$400 in Fabens station for more square footage. Motion to counter offer a rent of \$400 Made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Hambric. Motion carried unanimously.
21. Motion to table SOP's made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Hambric. Motion tabled.
22. An MOU has been forwarded to Richard from 911 regarding the radio fees. The fee is \$28,000 per year on a 10 year contract. The plan is to switch to digital by the end of January. RTC will have to switch our radios over from analog to digital at a cost of \$6,612. Motion to approve M.O.U. made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Gelasco. Motion carried unanimously.
23. Asst. Chief Menendez appeared in front of Horizon City council to speak about our possible use of the Horizon Police dispatcher. City council voted unanimously to approve the plan to move ahead. The cost for the equipment to upgrade from a 4 channel system to a 12 channel system in order for the system to handle our calls is \$53,640. The cost to add two additional dispatchers is \$68,723. Asst. Chief Menendez is going to 911 to try and get help with the funding. He is also going to

try to get the city to pick up some of the salary cost for the dispatchers. We are going to propose that we pay for 1 ½ dispatchers at a cost of \$48,000 to fit in to our allocated budget. We will not pay for comp time, vacations or sick leave. Asst. Chief Menendez will attend the 911 meeting on January 14th to see how much funding we will receive from 911. Motion to proceed made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Shoppach. Motion carried unanimously.

24. Motion to allow Asst. Chief Menendez to apply for the Texas Forest Service grant for training, workman's compensation insurance, and \$2,000 for SCBA's. Motion made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Shoppach. Motion approved unanomously.

25. Nothing for Executive Session

26. Nothing for good of the district.

27. Next meeting will be January 30 because of the SAFE-D Conference.

28. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner McLellan. Meeting adjourned at 9:05