

Minutes of the **May 23, 2013** Commissioners Meeting

1. Meeting was called to order at **6:45** P.M.
2. Pledge of allegiance was recited
3. Quorum present, Commissioners McLellan, Ames, and Hambric.
4. Presentations: none
- 5-8 Motion to accept consent agenda made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Ames. Items carried unanimously.
9. Motion to approve expenditures to Raba Kistner, \$2413.13, attorney Richard Contreras, \$4025.00, and auditor Sammy Johnson, \$5280.00 made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Ames.
10. Chief Keys reports 112 calls in April and 579 year to date. Maintenance: Quint#1 will be put in the shop tomorrow for check engine light. Rescue#402 has had lingering engine problems that may have finally been fixed when a new glow plug was installed last week. Equipment: The Cascade system that refills the air bottles did not pass the last air sample test that was sent in. Test results showed moisture and oil in the system. We have changed out the filters and sent another sample in for testing. Depending on results we may have to have someone come in to work on the system. Training: In house training has been on the SCBA's. Firefighters went to the EPFD training facility to go through the maze. Sexual harassment training has held last week in conjunction with VFIS. Good turnout for that including members from District #2. The firefighters were given a tour of the new station last week so that they could see firsthand some of the construction techniques being used in today's construction and the dangers that they could encounter. Captain Ames attended rope training a couple weeks ago in Socorro, New Mexico. He will be going back next week for part two. Evaluating firefighters right now to see who is eligible to attend Texas A & M fire school in July. We will probably send 5 people as in years past. Lieutenant Carlos Ornelas asked to step down as an officer due to some ongoing personal issues. He will stay on as a firefighter. The FRO is done. We just need signatures from Raul Guerrero with TDSHS and Dr. Berumen, our medical director. Meeting set for next week for this. The "Shattered Dreams" demonstration at the high school went very well. Once the firefighters began cutting into the cars and removing patients the crowd of students got very quiet and just watched. Hopefully we made an impact. We have numerous other schools requesting us for career days and have already attended 3 this month. We have had good support at these from the firefighters. We put collection jars around town and collected donations to be sent to West Volunteer Fire Department. We collected a little over \$308, and the Fire Department Auxiliary will match the funds. We are also looking into taking the firefighters to Wet & Wild or to a Diablos game. Motion to accept the Chief's report was made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Ames. Item carried unanimously.
- 11-14 Fire Marshal Guillen reports all the school inspections for both districts have been done. We are still working with ESD #2 and EPFD to ensure all fees in El Paso County will be the same. All building permits, inspection fees and

citations should be consistent throughout the county. Continue working with SISD on the Eastlake High school expansion project. Chief Keys and Fire Marshal Guillen met with officials from SISD and Eastlake High School regarding a recent fire in the school that was not reported to us until 2 ½ hours after the fact. Meeting will ensure better communications for future events. FM Guillen asked the board if they were willing to carry his TECLEOSE license. Even though the Board is not comfortable with the Fire Marshal carrying a firearm the District will carry the license for him. Had a meeting with the County Commissioners after which “sticks and fin” fireworks were banned for this year because of the drought and fire danger. Fireworks could be banned all together as we get closer to the 4th of July depending on weather. He also met with El Paso County Road and Bridges regarding the Berryville subdivision. Attorney Richard Contreras is currently working with both Fire Marshals (ESD#1 & ESD#2) on citation fees. The County Commissioners would like to have both Fire Marshals attend the meeting on Monday June 3, so the County can recognize the work they are doing and lend the support and backing. Richard has a meeting with the County Attorney to discuss the citation fee schedule tomorrow. Richard will also write resolutions on the District’s policy on fire lanes. A motion to accept Fire Marshal’s report made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Hambric. Motion carried unanimously.

15. Motion made by Commissioner Hambric to table fire hydrant resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ames. Item tabled.

16 & 17 Motion made by Commissioner Hambric to allow \$2000 for the Fire Marshal to attend the State Conference in October. Commissioner Hambric also made the motion to accept the 2009 International Existing Building Codes. Motions seconded by Commissioner Ames. Both items passed unanimously.

18. Motion made to allow Fire Marshal to purchase a “Class A” uniform coat to be worn at formal events and meetings. A uniform policy will be written by Commissioner Ames to address the daily uniforms of paid employees and presented at the next meeting. A motion was made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Hambric. Motion carried unanimously.

19. Motion to table church demolition made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Ames. Item tabled.

20. Motion to accept the financial audit prepared by Sammy Johnson made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Ames. Motion carried unanimously.

21. Motion to table forms made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Ames. Item tabled.

22. Motion to table surplus equipment made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Ames. Item tabled.

23. The counter tops that we chose for the station are no longer available. BRW sent photos of the closest they could find. The color is a little lighter. The Board instructed Commissioner Ames to make a decision and we will stick with it. We have tried on numerous occasions to get input from various people on these decisions for the station to no avail. As stated by Commissioner Hambric if they don’t like it they had their chance. “If you don’t vote the don’t complain about

the results” AST, the company chosen for the technology at the new station seems to be having trouble getting bonded. They have called and asked numerous questions and including working under Blair-Halls bond. They have been instructed that we must have a bond in their name showing the District as the beneficiary. Attorney Richard Contreras will write a letter informing them that they have 30 days to present us a performance bond or we will put the project back out for bid. Motion to table made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Hambric. Item tabled.

24. Paid on Call: Asst. Chief Menendez spoke with TCFD to determine the criteria that paid on call firefighters would be working under. TCFP says that stipends are allowable and that the firefighters do not have to be TCFP or SFFMA certified true volunteers. Before we can proceed we must do some research on pay scales, scheduling shifts, and SOP’s. He will try and have a proposal done by the June meeting. Motion to table made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Hambric. Item tabled.

25. A motion to allow \$120,000 for the purchase of a new pick-up quick response vehicle to replace R#402 which is 12 years old and for ,a new Tahoe for the Fire Marshal to replace his 2004 vehicle. Both vehicles will come in already equipped with light package, radio and equipment. The old Fire Marshal vehicle will be kept to be used by the next part-time inspector that we hire. The old Rescue will be kept and have all the equipment taken out so that it may be used as a utility vehicle for hauling air packs, hose etc. to large incidents. We will also purchase a new Pierce Pumper at a cost of \$649,000. This truck will also come in already equipped with lights, radio, and hose. Commissioner Ames presented 6 different financing packages as prepared by our financial advisor Tom Lawrence. Three were for 7 years with down payments from \$100,000 to \$300,000. The other three were the same packages on 10 year terms. After discussion the Board decided on a package for 10 years with \$300,000 down. The other small trucks we will pay cash for. We will also allow Pierce’s parent company Oshkosh to bid on the finance package. Motion to purchase vehicles made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Ames. Motion carried unanimously.

26. Richard met with Veronica Escobar after the passage of the signing of the bill giving the County complete authority over us. He says that it is business as usual. The County would like to sign off on our budget when it is prepared. Ron and Katherine will be meeting with various agencies (Tax Assessor Collector, County Tax Office, County Auditor, Central Appraisal District, and our financial institutions) this summer to go over our budget, our investments and some of the reports sent to us by the County and CAD which can be difficult to decipher. Motion to delete made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Ames. Item deleted.

27. Motion made by Commissioner McLellan to allow \$368 for Asst. Chief Menendez to attend water and rope training in Dallas. The cost of the class is covered by Dallas Fire; he will drive his truck down there using the District fuel card. The only expense to us is per diem. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Hambric. Motion carried unanimously.

28. A motion to table Fire Marshal Contract made by Commissioner Ames and seconded by Commissioner Hambric. Item tabled.
29. Motion to delete made by Commissioner Hambric and seconded by Commissioner Ames. Item deleted.
30. For the Good of the District: Richard reports that the County Commissioners are very impressed with the Fire Marshals from both Districts. They display excellent knowledge and professionalism.
31. Next meeting: Thursday June 27, 2013 at 6:30 P.M.
32. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner McLellan. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.