

Minutes of the June 18, 2015 Commissioners Meeting

1. Meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M.
2. Pledge of allegiance was recited.
3. Quorum present: Commissioners' McLellan, Shoppach, Gelasco, and Sanchez. Also present Interim Fire Chief Kris Menendez, Captain Daniel Ames, Attorney Richard Contreras, Administrator Ron Larson and Administrative Accountant Katherine Ames
4. Presentations: None
5. Minutes were reviewed and a correction to last month's minutes was noted.
6. Administrative Accountant Ames reports all accounts are good, no need to move money at this time.
7. Taxes and Investments were reviewed.
8. Accounts payables were reviewed.
9. No expenditures to approve. Motion to accept consent agenda made by Commissioner Gelasco and seconded by Commissioner McLellan. Motion carried unanimously.
10. Interim Chief Menendez reports 225 calls in May and 1392 year to date. \$15,235 stipend payments last month. No major maintenance issues, however we did have an accident in Pumper 403 when it scraped a cement pole while on a call. Automatic aid working well and we responded to 3 structure fires in District#2 last month. At one of the fires in Montana Vista there were 2 injuries, 1 homeowner with smoke inhalation and a firefighter with dehydration. We have 9 people out on long term leave (military, fire academy, school and injuries) so we are looking to add more firefighters to the roster, possibly 3 immediately. Motion to accept Chief's report made by Commissioner Gelasco and seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously.
11. Fire Marshal Guillen reports that fireworks may or may not be allowed this year. At this moment we are not in the extreme drought range but will probably hit that index on Monday. The County Judge may be able to enact a 60 hour ban on 4th of July weekend as an emergency proclamation, but any longer than that would have to be approved by the Governor. "Sticks and Fins" would be allowed this year as the County Commissioners did not get it on the agenda in time to vote on banning them. American Patriots were invited to the meeting to speak to the Board but did not attend. 107 permits issued so far this year. Motion to accept Fire Marshal's report made by Commissioner Sanchez and seconded by commissioner McLellan. Motion carried unanimously.
12. EMS report: EMT's are working on continuing education hours concentrating on CVA's and chest pain calls. Motion to accept EMS report made by Commissioner Sanchez and seconded by Commissioner McLellan. Motion carried unanimously.
13. Communications: Channel 2 is now up and running meaning we can switch to it while on a scene and not tie up the main channel. When running calls with

District#2 we are experiencing some issues with “patching”. They can hear us fine but we do not receive them very well. Working on a resolution. Motion to accept Communications report made by Commissioner Sanchez and seconded by Commissioner McLellan. Motion carried unanimously.

14. Fire Marshal Guillen presented information on Fire Suppression System removal. EPFD charges \$71 for a permit and \$71/hr. while verifying removal. District#2 charges a flat \$71 for permit and removal. We will adopt a policy of \$71 total to keep charges equal throughout the county. Motion to accept made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Gelasco. Motion carried unanimously.
15. Motion to table “ride-a-long” program made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously.
16. We have received a proposal from Blair-Hall on closeout figures for the new station. This has been forwarded to BRW Architects for their suggestions and approval. We are waiting on their reply. Motion to table made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Item tabled.
17. SISD lawsuit; Richard has tried to contact the attorney for SISD to see what they are going to do next. The County has refused to get involved so we are now demanding payment. No contact back from their attorney yet. Motion to table made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Item tabled.
18. We have received a revised MOU agreement for dispatching services with a 23% increase over the fees that were agreed to approximately 6 months ago. The reason for the increase is that some personnel costs were inadvertently left off the original contract. The contract we signed stated in paragraph 4 that “All liabilities for salaries, wages, other compensation benefits, injury or sickness for City staff rendering service for this agreement shall be provided by the City. The Board along with Attorney Contreras asked that we have a meeting with Mayor Miller and Police Chief McConnell along with Attorney Contreras, Administrator Larson and one of our Commissioners. Administrator Larson will contact the city to set up the meeting. Motion to table made by Commissioner Gelasco and seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Item tabled.
19. Motion to table church land made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Item tabled.
20. Motion made by Commissioner Shoppach to approve \$9,880 for equipment for the heavy rescue. The equipment includes hose, cutters and vehicle lock-out kits. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously.
21. Motion to allow \$3,583 for “flash” upgrade to the communications system. This will help with the issues we now have with radio “patches”. District#2 does not use the same band width as us making this necessary. We will also be receiving 3 hand-held radios to use when running mutual aid calls for better communications. Motion made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Shoppach. Motion carried unanimously.
22. Motion made by Commissioner Gelasco to allow \$3,375 to send 4 firefighters and 1 officer to rope rescue class in Socorro, N.M. This is a 2 part class. Part

one will certify the firefighters with rope awareness and part two will certify them with rope technician. The \$3,375 is only for part one of the class. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously.

23. I.S.O. - Mike Kitsch from I.S.O. was in town and met with Chief Menendez and Chief Adler to discuss an ISO rerate. We have been quoted consulting fees in the past as high as \$50,000. Mr. Kitsch presented a contract that he would work with us while coming in to work with District#2 so that we may share some of the travel costs. Mr. Kitsch told Chief Menendez that just based on discussion, the equipment we have and other variables he feels certain that we could up our ratings by 2-3 points inside the City limits and similar savings outside the City limits. An improvement of 2 points would equate to a 9-12% savings for the homeowner on their fire insurance. ISO is supposed to rate fire departments every 5 years but it has been more than 10 years since our last rating. We can either sign up for this or ISO could come in anytime they want for a rating. The cost associated with this would be \$12,000 for two visits. On the first visit it will be all about paperwork and records. Visit two is where we would have to go out and squirt water and prove ourselves. We foresee no problems with our records and with the equipment we have now should be able to perform the water tests as well. Motion to approve pulling \$12,000 from reserve to pay for this made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Gelasco. Motion carried unanimously.
24. Motion to approve \$13,675 for the equipment necessary to perform our own "fit testing" of the SCBA masks. This is an NFPA requirement, will help with ISO ratings and would be necessary in the event anyone ever got hurt on a scene. Motion made by Commissioner Shoppach and seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously.
25. Motion to approve the resolution authorizing Administrator Ron Larson and Administrative Accountant to be one of the signers on the bank accounts. Administration would only be one of the countersigners in the event that a second Commissioner is unavailable, otherwise it is preferred that two Commissioners sign the checks. This resolution is allowed under Texas Health and Safety code 775.073. Additionally former Chief Allen Keys will be removed from the authorized signers due to extended illness. He may be placed back on the authorized signature list at a later time should his health improve. Motion made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Gelasco. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners retired into Executive Session at 7:20 P.M. to discuss the following:

26. Personnel matters were discussed.
27. Stipend program was discussed.
28. Fire Chief Job description discussed.
29. Volunteer Fire Chief Job description discussed.

The Board of Commissioners returned from Executive Session at 7:45 P.M. No action taken.

30. Motion to table personnel matters made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Gelasco. Item tabled.
31. Motion to accept stipend program as presented made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Shoppach. Motion carried unanimously.
32. Motion to table Fire Chief's Job description made by Commissioner McLellan and seconded by Commissioner Gelasco. Motion carried unanimously.
33. Motion made by Commissioner Gelasco to appoint Kris Menendez the Chief of Horizon Fire Department pending approval of the Chief's job description. Motion seconded by Commissioner Sanchez. Motion carried unanimously.
34. Good of the District: Chief Menendez and Administrator Larson had a very productive meeting last week with Rick Wallace of T.C.F.P. to have some of our questions about the stipend program answered. After meeting with him we are very confident that what we are putting together will be compliant with all agencies concerned.
35. Next meeting: July 23, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.
36. Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner McLellan. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.