

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

Camano Island Fire & Rescue (CIFR)
REGULAR COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Mabana Fire Station
June 24, 2019

Chairman Williams called the regular Commissioners meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Those in attendance were: Paul Williams, Jan Treml, Steve Lich, Erik Krieg, Jerry Evans, Levon Yengoyan, Craig Helgeland and Darla Tiner. There were several Guests and 2 Crew present, and Mary Jennings of Stanwood Camano News.

The flag salute was led by Chairman Williams.

Commissioner Evans moved to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Lich seconded; motion carried by unanimous vote.

CONSENT AGENDA –

1. Minutes of June 10, 2019, Regular Meeting
2. Approval of Vouchers: 2 EFT's for \$85,236.29, Payroll EFT for \$182,911.61, Expense Vouchers #191521 - #191571 for \$128,312.15, Trust Fund Voucher #191572 for \$1,525.00, Capital Fund Voucher #191573 for \$9,979.35, all totaling \$407,964.40.

Commissioner Treml moved to approve the Consent Agenda items 1 and 2 as presented. Commissioner Evans seconded; motion carried by unanimous vote.

GUEST PRESENTATION – Mr. Brian Harris of TCA Architecture presented his findings for a potential training center at Terry's Corner Fire Station (Sta. 1-3), and the potential remodel/building of Mabana Fire Station (Sta. 1-5). He has a lot of experience evaluating fire stations.

- Sta. 1-3 – Gave history of remodel and restrictions because of wetland area. This condition still exists; therefore, no extension of the footprint is allowed for any building. Can only build on the current footprint. This limits the building size.
- Sta. 1-5 – Gave findings. Will not be able to expand, rebuild, or go up due to current code requirements; and financial costs. Other option is to relocate the fire station. Issues include:
 - Seismic issues
 - Higher standard for fire stations than conventional buildings.
 - Current well has a 100 ft. buffer around it that can't be built on. It only serves the fire station.
 - Land is only 1.43 acres. County regulations require fire stations to be on 5 acres minimum.
 - Two Stories –
 - Have accessibility standards. Requires an elevator. This would use some of the existing footprint to accommodate.
 - Would put Station out of service during construction because everything will need to be upgraded in the building, e.g. pipes, electrical, etc. Because of this, would need a temporary facility – this would be an additional cost.
 - Need two means of egress.
 - There are new codes/requirements for building fire stations, like decontamination rooms.

- It would cost approximately \$1 million for a second story access (elevator).
- Public Questions:
 - Can you cantilever the elevator (2nd floor)? The State would still consider that adding to the footprint because would be building out.
 - Can you obtain a County State or Federal exception? Only one exception has ever been granted, and it wouldn't be in this case.
 - Are the environmental issues dictating this? Yes, Commissioner Evans stated that safety access trumps everything else.
 - Has the District looked for 5 acres elsewhere to relocate the Station? Yes, they have started to.
 - Would it be cheaper to locate it somewhere else? Chief showed a map that lists the location of all the emergent 2018 calls on the Island and stated that the Stations were very strategically located. Project Manager Cargile had suggested to wait on building right now because costs are too high. Should wait 1-2 years, costs may be better.
 - Suggestion to look at purchasing recently logged land in the Camano Ridge Park area; would be cheaper, and it has a well.
 - Since can't build training facility at Sta. 1-3, maybe build it at Sta. 1-5. Training needs to be more centrally located for all Crews and also for attending agencies.
 - Suggestion to sell area around Sta. 1-3 to use the funds for building Sta. 1-5. Can't sell it because it is not buildable.

Chairman Williams recessed the meeting at 5:05 p.m. to set up for the rest of the Board meeting.

Chairman Williams resumed the meeting at 5:11 p.m.

CHIEF'S REPORT – Chief Yengoyan gave his report. Commended A/C Helgeland for his work on the auto extrication grant.

The Chief answered several questions from the Public:

- Several were about current call statistics and response times. The Chief explained that, due to some system issues, the 2019 data is not currently available, but the District is working diligently to resolve the problems.
- Responses to some questions regarding Sta. 1-5's calls:
 - Sta. 1-5's calls are approximately 15% of the total volume and are mostly during the daytime.
 - Looking at possible quick fixes for the Station:
 - Daytime staffing – cost factor involved here.
 - Safer Grant for two additional firefighters but need to be sure District can sustain them after the Grant is finished.
 - Looking at other options if do not receive the Grant.
 - Possible redoing of response areas.
 - Sta. 1-3 was not fully staffed until mid-2018.

- How does growth on the Island compare to other areas? The Chief is looking into this. Next year's Census will produce better data to assist with this.
- Question regarding the amount of staffing used at other Stations and suggestion to lower that number so that two could be placed at Sta. 1-5. Chief explained the current staffing module is based on safety requirements.
- The monies received from the EMS and Fire levies was explained, including the 1% cap collection limitation. We are limited to collecting 1% each year, although construction growth could be 17%.
- Our current Bond provided for Station building and remodeling and equipment purchase. It cannot be used for staffing.
- A citizen asked why a recent fire call had a response time of 18 minutes. Chief said he would need to look at the call to determine this, but explained how fire call responses are handled.
- Question asked about overlapping calls and long hospital travel times. The Chief explained how staffing and mutual aid worked in these instances.
- Suggestion to pay our Volunteers to be on-call. Chief explained how we used to do this, but there were some problems with the program. Will look into this process again. But need to work on recruitment and retention of Volunteers also.
- When was the last time that the border lines for each Station area were looked at. Probably not since they were developed. Chief is planning on doing an analysis of the current layout. He wants to make sure he makes good decisions based on good data.
- Commissioners commented that Sta. 1-5 cannot currently be staffed 24/7 by Law due to no sleeping accommodations, seismic standards and code requirements. But can staff during the daytime.
- Question on the different skill levels required by Crews. Chief explained that all are firefighters/EMT's. Volunteers follow the same rigorous training as the fulltime Crews.
- Sta. 1-5 used to have daytime staffing, what happened to that? We were able to staff it some days during the week for about six months by using our Community Paramedic at the inception of the program. And we are able to staff it when we have a full Crew on that day. But that doesn't happen very often.
- What are Volunteers allowed to do? Anything they are qualified for. But there are lots of State requirements for training which is sometimes hard for Volunteers to accomplish given their time constraints.
- Do Volunteers earn hours toward becoming Full Time? Not, they apply for promotions just like anyone else. But they do get credit points for their years of service as a Volunteer.
- What about bringing in a trailer for sleeping quarters? The well buffer and septic system would not accommodate this.
- Commissioner commented that the District needs to be sure they can staff the station before they build it.

Chief Yengoyan stated that the District and the Board are aware of the longer response times for Sta. 1-5. That's why they are look for funding for staffing and building a new facility. They have heard the Community's concerns. He commended the creation of the Sta. 1-5 Task Force. "We all want the same thing. We need to be responsible with the money and be transparent."

Questions on how transports are staffed and handled, and if could transport to other locations. The Chief is looking at different options but, by Law, can only transport to hospitals. Trying to change this by speaking with our Legislatures; the public can contact them also. The Chief thanked the audience for thinking “outside the box.” One Citizen thanked the District for all they do.

Commissioner Trembl suggested reforming the old Community Advisory Board; they could assist the District.

- Does the Coast Guard subsidize us for Marine calls? No, we respond because others do not.

CORRESPONDENCE – Article in local paper about our new Fire Chief.

PUBLIC INPUT –

- Cynthia Smith – Feels the District has the funds now to staff Sta. 1-5.
- Dale Schwarzmilller – Appreciated response from the Board and the Chief’s explanation of response times; also how our taxes are used. Appreciate what we do.
- Frank Harshfield – Voiced concern over apparent lack of access for the fire dept. at the Camano Ridge park area. The Board stated they would look into it.

MEMBER INPUT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

Safety/Risk Management – Meeting held, two injuries reported.

ICOM – Next meeting in July.

Finance – Will meet in July. Budget is on track.

Communications – Discussed getting information out to the Community. Have a firefighter as a potential candidate for the PIO position. But needs to take some training.

SNO-ISLE –

- New training program introduced – called A.C.T.
 - A – Antidote - Opioid crises
 - C – CPR
 - T – Tourniquet- Stop the Bleed
- Next meeting September 5th at 7:30 p.m., at Central Whidbey

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – None

PUBLIC INPUT – None

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Next Commissioner Meeting Monday, July 8, 2019, 4:30 p.m., at the Administration Office

- Thursday, June 27th at 6pm – Swearing in of new Fire Chief at the Vista/Madrona Fire Station
- Empty Books after this meeting

Meeting recessed at 6:18 p.m. and went into a Closed Session at 6:28 p.m. to discuss Contract Negotiations per RCW 42.30.140(4)(a). The Board emerged from the Closed Session at 7:15 p.m. and immediately went back into Regular Session.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Darla Tiner
Board Secretary