

GOLDEN GATE FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

SPECIAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 21, 1989

The special board meeting of the Golden Gate Fire Commissioners opened with the Pledge of Allegiance; all board members were present.

Commissioner Griffith advised the Board of a \$1,300.00 bill for uniforms that had previously been authorized and according to policy this item needs to be brought to the Board's attention before payment is made. The Board was in agreement on paying the \$1,300.00 bill for uniforms.

Green Brush Truck Evaluation Report:

Chairman Steffen stated that the written report was very complete and commented on the number of faults this vehicle has. A copy of the report is attached.

Commissioner Young would like to see this vehicle kept in Collier County so that we may benefit from its usable parts and suggested that a letter be sent to the Division of Forestry requesting this. Chief Siebold suggested that we release the brush truck and he will request it for his district, that way it will stay in our area.

* Chairman Steffen stepped down to make a motion to approve of releasing the green brush truck from the district and to use the proper procedure for notifying D.O.F. of this decision. Commissioner Griffith seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Utilization of Present Manpower:

Commissioner Young stated that we need to go over the budget and find areas where money can be reallocated towards salary for additional manpower.

Chief Hatcher stated that he felt this meeting was to be a brainstorming session. The Chief then presented some alternatives to staffing problems which are ideas that have come from himself, the Commissioners, and the men. They are as follows:

1. Find Monies in Budget
2. Estates Station to Volunteers
3. Placing Staff Members on Shift
4. Reverting Back to County
5. Contracting with Adjacent Fire District(s)

Chief Hatcher presented the Board with an estimated projected budget for the next fiscal year. The Chief explained:

1. Based on past history, the projected ad valorem tax was increased by 10½%.
2. Will lose \$40,000 dollars in revenue because of the loss of the Vineyards.
3. If three (3) new firefighters are hired, there are no increases in salaries for present employees, and operational costs are kept at the same level as for this year (except for retirement and insurance which we know will increase).
4. The additional expense of rent money for the new Emergency Complex.
5. The district would go over budget by \$32,000 if the above four items are met.

Much discussion followed.

Commissioner Griffith asked the Chief to state some of the benefits for this district, if it went under a contract with East Naples Fire District.

1. There would be a total of five (5) stations protecting East Naples and Golden Gate.
2. Both GGFD and ENFD use the same insurance company for some of the same insurance coverages and could possibly combine the insurances and save there.
3. Having a larger number of manpower to draw from to enable transfer of men to stations that are short handed due to regular assigned men being off because of time off, schooling, or sickness.
4. East Naples have their own fuel tanks, so fuel could be obtained at a lower cost (it is hoped that fuel tanks would be included in the construction of the new Golden Gate Emergency Complex).

Chairman Steffen expressed the need for the Board to meet with the Volunteer Association to see if they could offer a solution that might help with our manpower problem.

Commissioner Young would like to see two (2) men stationed at each station with a guarantee of two and one. Commissioner Young went on to say that he would like to put the Captain on shift, hire one new man, and use overtime and volunteers for the remaining shift.

Chairman Steffen felt that the taxpayers in this fire district would not like to revert back to being under the County.

Upon being asked, Chief Hatcher expressed his concerns regarding whether this district could afford an additional expense of \$10,000 for overtime. The Chief felt that more than likely the extra expense could be handled but not knowing what unknown expenses could occur, such as a breakdown of a pumper, he declined to say yes.

Commissioner Young felt that with realigning the budget, one (1) new man and added overtime could all be handled very easily. Chief Hatcher stated that if this was the Board's wishes, that he hopes this would not be the case, but for the Board not to be surprised if he comes to them at the end of the year requesting the need to borrow money in order to meet needed expenses.

Commissioner Griffith stated that he did not feel that a one (1) man response was unsafe and is adequate and has been done that way by this department for the past twelve (12) years. He also feels that the Captain is more valuable to us on day work than he would be on shift and is in favor of paying for overtime for response to emergencies.

- * A motion was made by Commissioner Young and seconded by Chairman Steffen to put the Captain on shift, to hire one (1) new man and to fill in for the 3rd shift with overtime. Commissioner Young amended his motion to make this a temporary solution until the next regular meeting when a written response is to be received from the Union regarding putting the Captain on shift. The Captain will temporarily be put on shift effective 2/27/89. The motion carried with Commissioner Young and Chairman Steffen voting yes. Commissioner Griffith voted no.

Commissioner Young stated that the only immediate impact to the district at this time would be the Captain going on shift, effective on Monday.

The Union President would like to have a written memo from the Board to present to the other Union members regarding the changing of the Captain position from a 40 hour employee to a shift employee.

The Asst. Chief asked if the only change that would be made at this time, until the next meeting, would be to put the captain on shift. Commissioner Young replied, "right." Chairman Steffen replied, "starting Monday." Asst. Chief Peterson then asked if we were to institute the completion of the testing procedure. Both Commissioner Young and Chairman Steffen replied, "yes." The Asst. Chief then asked if we also institute overtime to fill in at the other station. Commissioner Young replied, "yes."

Both Chairman Steffen and Commissioner Young stated that it was not the intention of the Board to institute minimum manning of two and one at this time. The intention is to provide for one more man on each shift.

The Asst. Chief asked for a clarification on all of the above discussion. Is the following to be started immediately? The Captain is to be put on shift for one position and overtime is to be scheduled for the second position. The hiring process is to continue for filling the third position. Commissioner Young replied, "yes."

- * A motion was made by Commissioner Young and seconded by Commissioner Griffith for the Chief, Asst. Chief, and one outside fire department personnel to make up the oral interview board for hiring a new firefighter and to bring back their recommendation to the Board. Motion carried unanimously.

Authorization to Purchase Capital Improvement Items:

The Board did not wish to authorize the expenditure of \$7,206.75 before they had a chance to go over the budget with the Chief in order to find areas where monies can be reallocated for hiring one new man and for increased overtime expenditures.

- * A motion was made by Commissioner Young and seconded by Chairman Steffen for the Chief to meet with Chairman Steffen to go over the budget in order to find monies for hiring one new man, monies needed for increased overtime, and monies for purchasing needed capital improvement items for the mini-pumper and to come back to the Board at the next regular meeting with their recommendation. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief Hatcher stated that the Board had previously been advised of the need to purchase medical equipment for the mini-pumper. In order to equip the new mini-pumper, the needed supplies were taken off of #2620 and those supplies need to be replaced.

- * A motion was made by Commissioner Young and seconded by Chairman Steffen to approve the expenditure of \$1089.75 plus shipping for the needed medical equipment and the air pack brackets from the Capital Improvement Item list, copy is attached. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Griffith suggested that the Board make a motion directing the Chief to look into some of the other alternatives for handling manpower shortages. Commissioner Young did not feel there was a need for a motion for the Chief to look into reverting back to the County and to obtain information regarding contracting with an adjacent fire district. He did not really wish the Chief to seek information on this but if Chief Martin wished to make a presentation that was up to Chief Martin. Commissioner Young did not want any of this to be a time consuming project for this district. Chairman Steffen asked the Chief if he would be more comfortable with a motion. The Chief replied that personally, he had no problem talking with Chief Martin.

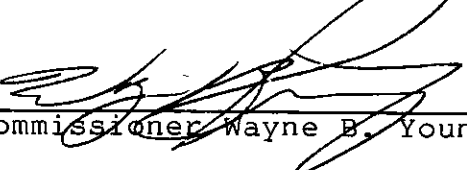
Adjournment:

- * Chairman Steffen stepped down to make a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.


Minutes of 2/21/89 Special Meeting approved on 3/14/89.



Commissioner Marvin Steffen



Commissioner Wayne B. Young



Commissioner Willard P. Griffith