

AGENDA

GOLDEN GATE FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

Meeting Location: Golden Gate Fire Station
4741 Golden Gate Parkway

August 8, 1989 7:30 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Opening Comments - Chairman
4. Agenda - Additions/Deletions
5. Approval of Minutes:
 - A. 6/13/89
 - B. 6/28/89
 - C. 7/11/89
6. Review of Bills
7. Fire Chief's Report:
 - A. Changes in F/F Minimum Standards
 - B. Status of Tanker
 - C. Status of Impact Fee Issue
 - D. Status of Emergency Complex Center
 - E. Prescribed Burning
 - F. Budget Hearing Dates
8. Firefighters' Association Report
9. Consideration to Put a Cap on Number of Volunteers or Consideration for Purchasing More Gear (Chairman Steffen)
10. Status of Fire Code Violations at Station #26 (Chief Hatcher)
11. Consideration for Purchase of Communications Equipment (Chief Hatcher)
12. Consideration for Purchase of Computer (Chief Hatcher)
13. Set Dates for Budget Workshops (Chief Hatcher)
14. Establish Workshops for Administrative S.O.P.s (Chief Hatcher)
15. Emergency Business
16. Comments from Commissioners
17. Comments from Audience
18. Closing Comments - Chairman
19. Agenda Items for Next Meeting
20. Adjournment

GOLDEN GATE FIRE CONTROL & RESCUE DISTRICT

COMMISSION MEETING

AUGUST 8, 1989

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

Opening Comments - Chairman:

Chairman Steffen advised that at his request, he and Chief Hatcher met with Phil Lewis, editor with the Naples Daily News that covers this area. The Chairman stated he had requested this meeting because of his concerns regarding the way the news in the Golden Gate area is covered. The Chairman and the Chief shared examples of news articles with the editor in order to show how biased the articles have been in the past. Chairman Steffen went on to say that he felt it was a good meeting and that things had been worked out.

Agenda - Additions/Deletions:

Chief Hatcher requested the addition of, "Discussion on Letter of Recommendation." This item will be handled immediately following the, "Review of Bills."

Approval of Minutes:

There was a brief discussion regarding what authority the Chairman has regarding the setting of an agenda.

- * Chairman Steffen stepped down from the chair to make a motion approving the 6/13/89 minutes as written. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried with Chairman Steffen and Commissioner Young voting yes. Commissioner Griffith voted no.

Chairman Steffen stepped down from the chair to make a motion approving the 6/28/89 minutes as written. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried with Chairman Steffen and Commissioner Young voting yes. Commissioner Griffith voted no.

The approval of the 7/11/89 minutes will be carried over to the next Commission Meeting in order to give Commissioner Young a chance to listen to the tapes before voting on the motion.

Review of Bills:

The Board reviewed the bills. The Board did not voice any objections to the bills as presented.

Discussion on Letter of Recommendation:

Chairman Steffen stated that the Board had received a memo from Chief Hatcher regarding the demotion of Lt. Dale Ginter.

Chief Hatcher stated that when Lt. Ginter, along with the other lieutenants, was promoted to the lieutenant positions, the Board had given them 18 months in which to obtain their Fire Officer Certifications as required under the minimum qualifications for lieutenant. The Chief went on to say that when Lt. Ginter and Lt. Fischer were unable to receive their fire officer certifications within the 18 month time period, he had approached the Board back in April 1988 and requested a blanket waiver of the 18 month requirement until such time that a determination could be made as to the amount of time needed to complete the officer's program offered by Edison Community College. Since that time, the Board has been supplied with draft copies of the Administrative S.O.P.s with a new time frame of 24 months for the Board to consider.

Chief Hatcher advised the Board that Lt. Ginter took the fire officer's examination approximately 34 months after his lieutenant's appointment was made and failed the exam (district was advised of test results on 8/1/89). The Chief went on to say that the Union had presented him with a letter this afternoon requesting that no action be taken at this time and for Lt. Ginter to retest in October.

Chief Hatcher recommended to the Board that he would take back his original letter of recommendation dated August 1, 1989 and go with the request from the Union, with the understanding that Lt. Ginter be placed on probation until such time that he takes the officer's examination in October. It is also understood that if he fails the exam in October, he would not only lose the lieutenant's position but he would be terminated. Much discussion followed.

Chairman Steffen expressed his feelings that there was no way that an employee of this district should be put on probation because he has failed an exam. The Chairman recommended that Lt. Ginter be given the opportunity to

retake the exam in October. If he fails the October exam, the Board would look at what action should be taken at that time.

Commissioner Young suggested that the time period be extended until October and to allow Lt. Ginter to take the test in October. If he does not pass the test in October, he is to be put on probation. In 6 months he would have the opportunity to take the test again and if he fails the test that third time, he would be demoted. Commissioner Young would like to see a policy put into effect so that this type of thing never happens again.

Commissioner Griffith stated that it seemed to him that the charge falls short because there is no time limit policy in effect and that if the Board wants a time limit set, a policy should be approved. At this time, nothing should be done to Lt. Ginter because there is no basis for charges. Chairman Steffen stated that he concurred with this.

Fire Chief's Report:

A. Every firefighter applicant must sign an affidavit that he/she has not used any tobacco product for one year previous to applying. Also, the 240 Hour Minimum Standards Course has been increased to 280 hours.

B. He and the other chiefs are waiting for all of the bid information to come back on the tanker.

C. The County is still waiting for a reply from the State regarding the collection of impact fees.

D. The Board of County Commissioners approved the Emergency Services Complex at their July 25th meeting.

E. Met with Division of Forestry regarding the prescribed burning that the State wishes to have accomplished this year. It has been planned to burn off 13,000 acres in our area.

F. The budget hearing dates have been scheduled as follows:
Tentative Budget Hearing - September 14, 1989
Final Budget Hearing - September 28, 1989

G. The Chief read outloud, a letter of appreciation from John Beauvais for Engineer Bill's professionalism during a rescue call.

H. Advised the Board of another incident that caused damage to a bay door at Station #27. Temporary repairs have already been completed and arrangements have been made to make the necessary permanent repairs. To help prevent future bay door damage, preventative measures are being looked into.

I. The auditors have already started working on the fiscal year 1988/89 annual report.

J. The NFPA presented Assistant Chief Peterson with a certificate of membership to the Wildland Fire Management Section.

K. The union negotiations are still underway. The district has presented a counterproposal and the union has submitted additional proposals. The next negotiating meeting will be held next Monday at 5:00 P.M.

Firefighters' Association Report:

Ward Seeley presented an oral report, a copy is attached.

Consideration to Put a Cap on Number of Volunteers or Consideration for Purchasing More Gear:

Chief Hatcher advised that the Volunteer Association has put a freeze on active volunteer status. The Fire Commission Board had previously set a cap on number of firefighting personnel. Because of the cap, the department only has enough gear to outfit 40 fire fighting personnel. There are currently 29 active volunteers and 13 paid men. At the present time, 2½ sets of gear are needed to outfit everyone. After much discussion:

- * A motion was made by Commissioner Griffith and seconded by Commissioner Young to eliminate any policy that set a cap on fire fighting personnel adopted by previous Boards and to give the Chief the authority to use his discretion, based on money available, as to the number of personnel that can be outfitted. Motion carried unanimously.

Status of Fire Code Violations at Station #26:

Chief Hatcher stated that the Board had previously advised that they would review the compliance of fire code violations in 18 months and this is the 18th month.

Some violations still exist at this time but to correct them would take large sums of money and the majority seemed to feel that the taxpayers would not want those large sums of money spent on this building since it will be torn down as soon as the Emergency Services Complex is built.

- * A motion was made by Commissioner Young and seconded by Chairman Steffen to extend the time period for complying with life safety codes until the department moves into the new building (Emergency Services Complex). Motion carried with Commissioner Young and Chairman Steffen voting yes. Commissioner Griffith voted no.

Consideration for Purchase of Communications Equipment:

Chief Hatcher stated that one of the things that was discussed as a priority item by the Board at the Planning Meetings was communications. The Chief then requested authorization to purchase two new radios, one for the Chief's car and one for the Asst. Chief's car, and to install the staff vehicle radios into the two brush trucks. Assistant Chief Peterson stated that according to the quote he now had, the cost per radio was \$2,000.00 but that there had been an increase of approximately \$200.00 per radio. After much discussion:

- * A motion was made by Commissioner Young and seconded by Chairman Steffen to authorize the Chief to purchase two radios, one for the Chief's car and one for the Asst. Chief's car, and to install the two Midland radios from the staff vehicles into the two brush trucks (approximate cost of \$4,400.00). Motion carried unanimously.

In order to clarify authorization for purchasing new bunker gear, the following motion was made.

- * Chairman Steffen stepped down from the chair to make a motion authorizing Chief Hatcher to purchase the necessary equipment to outfit 2½ volunteers at an approximate total cost of \$2,400.00. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

Consideration for Purchase of Computer:

Chief Hatcher stated that the auditors have recommended for the past three years the need for this department to start considering computerization, especially in the area of accounting. The Chief proposed purchasing a basic system for the front office and to start by setting up for the accounting process. The system could then be added to as funds became available. After some discussion:

- * A motion was made by Commissioner Young and seconded by Chairman Steffen authorizing the Chief to purchase a computer as long as the cost was not above 10% of \$4,700.00 (\$5,170.00) after going out for bid. Motion carried unanimously.

Set Dates for Budget Workshops:

The first budget workshop will be held on Thursday, August 17, 1989 at 7:30 P.M.

Establish Workshops for Administrative SOP's:

These workshops will be set by the Board after the budget process has been completed.

Comments from Audience:

Assistant Chief Peterson wanted the record to show that when he went out earlier in the meeting to check on a call, he found two pop cans on top of the Assistant Chief's vehicle. One of the cans was crushed, one was not. He found an indentation on the vehicle where the crushed can was located.

Commission Meeting
Page 7
August 8, 1989

The Assistant Chief wanted to go on record saying, "that in light of what happened tonight there was no intent or any misconceptions that go along with it, that there would be any kind of retaliation on my part for any reason for what happened tonight. I also think that should be two ways. I don't know how it occurred. Even if I did know how it occurred, it would be a bad situation but it's another gremlin that occurs, maybe we will find out, I don't know. I'm just bringing it to light, it's not severe type of damage, but it did occur."

Agenda Items for Next Meeting:

It was decided to make another motion for approving the last month's minutes.

- * Chairman Steffen stepped down from the chair to make a motion approving the minutes of the 7/11/89 meeting as written. Commissioner Young seconded the motion. Motion carried with Chairman Steffen and Commissioner Young voting yes. Commissioner Griffith voted no.


Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 10:53 P.M.

Minutes of 8/8/89 Commission Meeting were approved on 9/12/89.



Commissioner Marvin Steffen



Commissioner Wayne B. Young



Commissioner Willard P. Griffith