

**Spring Hill Fire Rescue
Commission Meeting
4/25/07 - 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Chairman Raborn, Commissioner Biro, Commissioner Jacobs, Commissioner Perreira, Assistant Chief Davies, Chief Morrison, Attorney Salzman

Call To Order

Chairman Raborn called the Workshop to Order at 7:04pm

Invocation

Pastor Clemmons gave the Invocation

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Raborn led the Pledge of Allegiance

Presentation – Nature Coast

Assistant Chief Davies introduced Mr. Daniel Murphy from Nature Coast Technical High School's Automotive Program who would like to present a letter to the department thanking them for their participation during the NCT Friday Night Drive In program and he has a letter he would like to read (see attached).

The Board thanked Mr. Murphy for the presentation.

Chairman Raborn asked for a consensus to move to Open Forum. There was a consensus to move Open Forum to next item.

Open Forum

Ed Clifford, Bannock Street resident thanked the Board for its consideration and doing everything they said they would do regarding the property they were considering in the Bannock Street neighborhood for a fire station.

Lenny Kline, Bannock Street resident thanked the Board and offered on behalf of Bannock Street, their assistance in finding another property for the fire station.

Lucille Holland Bannock Street resident thanked the Board for listening to their concerns.

Richard Maass, Spring Hill Resident asked the Board why can't they annex next to the new library. Everyone owns the property and does not know why the

County thinks it has exclusive rights to something within the confines of Spring Hill. He feels this is something that should be aggressively pursued.

James Monk, Spring Hill resident asked Attorney Salzman asked if he checked about recalling Mr. Russell?

Attorney Salzman responded, there is a procedure for recall.

Chairman Raborn responded this is not a topic for Spring Hill Fire Rescue business.

Chairman Raborn asked if there any other comments for Open Forum. There were none.

Chief Morrison thanked the residents from the Bannock Street neighborhood and pointed out the neighborhood banded together and was very impressive.

Chief Morrison will be talking to the County Administrator about that property because SHFR's Board has given him that direction. It is a perfect location being on Spring Hill Dr.

Chairman Raborn stated he needs Chief Morrison to approach the neighbors in that area to see if they are pro or con to having a station in that area. If they can get the consensus of the area to approve it, they may be able to say everybody in the area would not mind having a station there.

Chief Morrison stated, he will make sure that the houses in that surrounding area, that's already been zoned commercial or public use, we will make every attempt that our entrance and exit is onto Spring Hill Drive, not onto that side road and then they turn to eliminate as much as we can from the neighborhood. He will have to check with legal if it's proper to have the neighborhood poled but they can do that. They will do that to see how they feel about SHFR looking at that land.

Report of Counsel

Attorney Salzman stated collective bargaining procedures are to start and he will notify the Board once they have a date with the Union to proceed accordingly. After they have their next meeting with the Board they will then set up a collective bargaining session with this Board and they are exempt from the Sunshine Law.

Attorney Salzman stated he was in contact with the State Attorney's office regarding their last meeting. The Attorney's office stated they have done the research and Florida statute's 447 provides that that meeting is held outside the Sunshine Law. They have been contacted by DCA that the County has contacted them and told them this department should be removed from the

Special Dependent District, because they are not a Dependent District, they are an MSBU. However, they take a contrary approach to that. They have given the documentation to DCA to tell them this is a Dependent District, based under Ordinance 73 and the Inter-local agreement they have. Hopefully, this is an issue which will not have to proceed much further but if it has to, they will protect the District accordingly.

He has received a Public Request for Records from the County for two bills one regarding letters to the Chief and the other letter to the Union President. It really bothered him the County did not call his office and ask for the documents, but instead they did a Public Records Request to him to explain the two letters he mentioned. He does not why they are requesting the letters this way and he is offended by the County's method. He thought all parties were attempting a repoire with the County and does not understand why this is the approach the County is taking. In response to the Public Records Request he called the Assistant County Attorney who had the Public Records Request and pointed out to him one of the letters dates were incorrect and was told that was a typo.

Attorney Salzman asked that the Board allow the Chief and Attorney deal with the County because they have the documentation and they are the ones contacting the DCA, the Attorney's office, etc. so they are the ones that should really be answering those questions. He would ask the Board to direct any one to them and not answer any questions.

Chairman Raborn asked the Board to have a consensus to have all press releases, correspondence, be handled by the Board's attorney.

There was a consensus to allow the Attorney and Chief handle communications to the County, media, press pertaining to anything regarding the County and this District.

Attorney Salzman does not care for the one-sidedness of their communication with the County where this Department is to do everything and the County is required to do nothing. The list of issues brought up at the County meeting for example. While most items on the list were not true, all the County had to do was contact either him or the Chief and they could have answered the questions. They accused the attorney of giving an opinion he never gave. He just thinks the communication issue is not going both ways.

Chairman Raborn stated he needs Chief Morrison to contact the Board of County Commission Chairman. He thinks the letter that came out on the day of the meeting, the things that happened with Attorney Salzman, everything that's gone on in the last week since the County meeting, and just prior to the meeting, is all communication errors. They (SHFR and County) need to stop the ongoing mis-communication and have an open forum.

Attorney Salzman stated they will meet with the County and will notify the Board as it happens via memorandum or phone call. Attorney Salzman will contact County Chairman.

Chief Morrison pointed out to the Board that County Chairman Stabins found out about the letter not copied to the Chief and had it delivered personally and realizes there are problems between the two entities. He has been in constant contact with the County Administrator. Items can be discussed and if they could solve those problems or at least agree, they can come out a united front.

After the meeting on Tuesday, he contacted his office 2 hours later, realizing how contentious and difficult that meeting was on everybody, to start a dialogue and start mending fences. He had to leave town on a conference. He has contacted him since he got back into town. He has a meeting next Wednesday with his staff to discuss what happened and Thursday he will sit with him (C!) and they will discuss these items one-by-one and then this Board will be provided the written report on all of that.

Chief Morrison read item 13 regarding the use of County Legal and this department being cost allocated but choosing not to use it. He's check with all his staff and they have never been informed of that and if that is part of the County's budgeting, they did not know they could use them.

Chairman Raborn stated, if they are paying for this service that they cannot use, he wants their money back.

Chief Morrison stated, he will get that answer for the Board but he does not know what cost allocation actually is or how they are using it.

Commissioner Biro asked in reference to the letter listing 13 items, in his opinion, somebody needs to be accountable for putting a list like that out. They need to find out and have somebody be held accountable because that is serious allegation to put on the men and women of this Department. He knows it did not come from this Department or Board so obviously it had to have come from the other end.

Chief Morrison stated, they are not all false accusations, there are some true statements and they need to be addressed. Secondly, he has a meeting with the County Administrator and he is investigating it on his end and then will met with Chief Morrison and they will find out how they got to a very unhealthy spot.

Chairman Raborn stated they need to stop things like this from happening.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Biro made a Motion to approve the Consent Agenda.
Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Chiefs' Report

This has been a very continuous two weeks for this Board and Department. The men and women in this Department rallied by their Union president he has never been prouder of representing this organization as he has been in the last few weeks. He walked into the County meeting last week knowing that he would be known as the fire chief that lost the Spring Hill Fire Rescue District. These men and women were very professional and what they did was inform the citizens of Spring Hill of what the County was doing. It was a very difficult meeting. He said in that meeting that he talked in public that he works for five politicians, there are five over there (the County) and those are ten honorable individuals. It was difficult on the County Commissioners, he knows they were inundated with phone calls, emails, he knows he himself did not get much work done in the last couple of weeks because of this issue and he thinks it is the same over at the County. He would like to thank the County Commission. He feels very strongly that it is now time to move in a forward positive direction. The County Administrator feels the same way and that is why next Thursday, they have a meeting. If the Chairman does not mine, he will begin his report.

Fire Inspector Position

There is an open inspector position which he has asked the Board to Table at the last meeting. Two people have applied for the position of which one has the State certification for inspector, the other has the classes by not the certification. He would like to set up an interview for the one individual. The interviewers will be one of the inspectors, himself, a firefighter officer that has the inspector certification a one from the collective bargaining unit. The purpose of the interview will be to let the candidate know just what that job entails.

Chairman Raborn asked if this is an opportunity for a led inspection position.

Chief Morrison stated, that is an excellent idea but that would have to be negotiated and it would be an ideal time to consider it since they are going into negotiations. It is something they can talk about in Executive Session.

Chairman Raborn said, OK. The position has already been approved, so there is a consensus to move forward.

Chief 3 Position

Chief Morrison stated, having three Chief's come in from the East Coast for an assessment center in the process of getting a Chief 3. After contacting the east coast and discussing the assessment center, he was told by his peers, he would be shirking his duties if he did not place himself on the assessment center board. Therefore, he will ask that he be allowed to be one of the Assessment Board members. It would therefore consist of himself, a Chief Officer from a different area, and an officer that has a ranking in a Union somewhere in the State of Florida. He will give the Department's Union President if he would like to be on the board for the Assessment. The current union president was asked and declined, therefore, someone in the fire service but also very familiar with the union will be selected.

Chief Morrison asked the attorney, if there is a 3 person independent outside board and they say candidate A and he as Chief says, no candidate B, what would be the liability?

Attorney Salzman stated, he would absolutely prefer that Chief Morrison be involved in the process.

There was a consensus Chief Morrison be part of the assessment center board.

Chief Morrison stated, the County stated, the County should be making these decisions and he explained to them, he is employed by this Fire Board. When this Board directs them, he then contacts HR giving them this Board's direction. If there are any issues, they will be told to this Board.

Chairman Raborn responded, the County does the advertising for this department, picking the best qualified people to submit to this Board and then this Board will conduct the interviews and the hiring.

Chief Morrison stated, he believes he has the Board's consensus to continue what he is doing and it will be an internal process and the salary will be ten percent above a topped out District Chief. They will advertise it internally before going externally and when someone is selected, it will be this Board and their attorney to negotiate a contract.

Medical Billing

Chief Morrison reported medical billing is three months behind and when they had a new operating system for medical billing they had to keep both systems operational because money comes in as much as two and three years behind. In talking with the medical billing clerks, he has re authorized a certain amount of over time. Since that authorization, they are not three months behind anymore.

What he would like to ask from the Board is to allow using a volunteer to help out in the billing department. In talking to members of the County he spoke to the Director of Social Services, Jeanne Raggs and this department can get one or two volunteers through Social Services. The volunteers would be able to answer the phones and help with some of the tasks that are time consuming for billing but are data entry. He is very particular about the voice that the public hears when they call. As long as the volunteers are not full time, he doesn't believe the Union will have any issue with this. And perhaps it will give purpose to a couple of people in the County that are looking for work.

Chairman Raborn stated, he thinks it is an excellent idea and excellent regarding accountability. If this department falls more than 30 days behind this Board is to be informed.

Chief Morrison stated they will get a report in their Consent Agenda monthly.

Commissioner Panozzo was disappointed that this department's collection rate was not brought up at the County meeting.

The Board asked that a Spring Hill resident who volunteers be given preference. There was a consensus of the Board for the Chief to see if he could get volunteers to help in the office.

Capital Purchase / Surplus Equipment

Chief Morrison distributed paperwork regarding a list of the Department's rolling stock. It is listed by numbers, next the year, description and model, type and name which explains where they are using it in the organization. Currently, they own 30 pieces. Then there is a serial number and then the mileage, which is all self explanatory. (See attached list)

Chairman Raborn stated the engines do not have their hours and that is more important to him than mileage.

Chief Morrison stated he understands that be the trucks do not sit and pump for hours although they do sit at sites.

Chairman Raborn stated, he apologized for talking above the general public's head.

Chief Morrison pointed out some of the ambulances are no longer able to be repaired enough to be used for transports.

Chairman Raborn pointed out the mileage on the ambulances are going up because they are using them for transports. They have two vehicle going to

surplus because they have high mileage and are not front line vehicle, therefore, why can't they keep them and use them for transports.

Chief Morrison pointed out, the mechanic will not allow those vehicles to leave Spring Hill. In their transports, they rotate among the stations and some are not safe enough to take out of town, mainly due to the transmissions and then engines. To replace the transmissions would be costly and therefore, keeping them low key locally would be better. The other suggestion that will come to this Board after 08/09 budget is to purchase a small F450 and put on two day people to do transports. It not only saves money here, but if he does not have an ambulance in Tampa, the response times in Spring Hill would be reduced.

Chairman Raborn stated that is why he thinks they should keep one of the surplus vehicles. They could use it for transports.

Chief Morrison stated, the problem would be to fully stock it and how does he get manpower for the vehicle. Meanwhile he's parked a front line unit. Man power is much more expensive then the equipment.

Chairman Raborn pointed out if they are doing the transport, they can pay the overtime from the bill of the transport hours.

Chief Morrison explained, he is not going to be able to get two people to come in on over time just to do the transport. Chief Morrison explained that in the past paramedics were paid over time to come in on their days off and the idea was to put on a day car and hire two paramedics over time, give them a day care and that way when they bring an ambulance in they still have 4 in the field. But he could not get 2 paramedics to come in for 12 hours of over time.

Plus, you can ask Commissioner Perriera that if he were to tell a hospital "OK you have a transport, give me 2 hours to get people in here on over time", it's called "turging" a patient and they want it in the back of his ambulance as quick as possible.

Chief Morrison stated, it is not only the transports, the department's transports have not gone up as much as their run numbers, but he is with the Board that these big boxes going to Tampa back and forth is not something they have to do. A small ambulance and 2 full time paramedics that are on a 40 hour week will give this Department 5 ambulances. Right now they may not have a station near Bannock, but he can sure park that ambulance in the library's parking lot waiting for the next call.

Everyone has read the paper about property taxes and right now this Department is not going anywhere with its budget. This Board has not been given solid figures because they have 2 more weeks before Tallahassee, Florida decides. At first he thought they were in good shape because they said they are rolling

back the rates 2 years. He wondered, does that mean a raise for them because this Department has been rolling its down for 2 years. The State is talking about the amount of funds everyone brought in 2 years. That will be catastrophic to this organization and every other organization. Next he was told Special Districts are exempt. He is not sure if this organization is a Special District. They just changed that to Independent Special Districts. This department needs to wait and see what Tallahassee, Florida does before he comes to this Board. This department is not quite to the point of having a day car for actually transporting a patient or putting on another unit, but are getting close. Putting on a day car will allow them to take more ambulances out of service for training, but gives them that 5th ambulance during their busiest hours. Also, a smaller ambulance would allow them to do transports costing less fuel and a vehicle like that are what the County called throw away ambulances.

Commissioner Jacobs stated, with vehicles, they have to think “green” for their future vehicles.

Chief Morrison agreed. They have 70% of their fleet using diesel and there are ultra low diesel engines being made. He will look into that and the additional cost to it.

Commissioner Perriera asked, since they are looking at a 2 year budget, do they have the volume of transports they’ve done over the past few years in terms of how much they’ve increased and by what percentage?

Chief Morrison stated, he can email those figures to Commissioner Perriera tomorrow.

Commissioner Perriera stated, that might be something they want to look at so they possibly budget for FY 08/09 a small ambulance and staffing.

Chief Morrison stated the DC1 vehicle needs to be replaced due to fuel expenses of close to fifty dollars a day. He recommends getting the DC vehicle an Expedition vehicle which has enough space to put their equipment and the other equipment he can make other arrangements for. He needs to move them back down from the vehicle they are using. The fuel costs are not allowing them to stay in the pick up truck, it is gallons per mile.

Chairman Raborn suggested moving Fleet Maintenance into the pick up truck.

Chief Morrison said, no due to it being too big and the mechanic enjoys the utility bed on his vehicle. However, the pick up truck could stay in the fleet.

Commissioner Perriera asked about DC2 vehicle.

Chief Morrison stated it is still being used. It was the Command vehicle and is used to tow the Fire Safety House. That however, could be surplus and move the Ford F250 to tow the Fire Safety House and then leave everything else and that way they get to surplus one more vehicle and they are still in good shape. Fiscally it does not save any money. This is a significant decrease to the last time Staff came to the Board for vehicle purchases.

Chairman Raborn asked if the Board were to say they could not do all of the vehicles and he had to leave one, which vehicle would remain?

Chief Morrison recommended his vehicle.

Chairman Raborn stated, he would like to see them get another year out of one of these vehicles.

Chief Morrison said, if that is the Board consensus, he will make it happen.

There was a consensus to get another year out of one of the surplus vehicles this budget year.

Chief Morrison stated that would be fleet maintenance and take another \$30,000 out.

The Board stated they appreciated that happening.

Chief Morrison stated he does not need a new vehicle, but his was trickling down to get rid of the 1997 that has 88,000 miles. They will take his vehicle next year and the fleet maintenance truck this year. He asked the Board to look at Department Capital and Construction.

Department Capital & Construction

Chief Morrison reported to desk top computers need to be replaced. The County has recommended a 5 year replacement and this department is beyond the 5 years. Two computers had to be replaced this year in billing. All the computer prices are State bid prices. Two lap tops with docking stations are for Chiefs 1 & 2. He has a lap top and a computer so his computer would be relatively new and would go out wherever it is needed to be used in the department. He would go to a lap top with a docking station. Currently, they do not have computers for the Maintenance department, the Supply or Hydrant Divisions. He needs a computer to email and he can delegate everything else.

Commissioner Perriera asked what does the Assistant Chief have for a computer?

Chief Morrison said the Assistant Chief has a computer.

In 2007 they need to replace the main server and this is the one the CAD system runs on. He has professionals telling him to do a 5 year replacement on the server. It is running fine but he wants to get it out of there. He wants to turn it into a document server. The following year, the billing server will need to be replaced. \$5,000 for audio video equipment and cameras is recommended by Mr. Rick Fodey from Hernando County.

The 3 computers in the Communications Center are more than 5 years and need to be replaced. Between the Chief's computer and those, he will select the best running to be used by Supply, Hydrant and the Maintenance Divisions.

Fuel Tanks

This current budget year, there is \$25,000 budgeted for a fuel tank. It will not cover the cost of a new fuel tank. They are using it to complete a drive around from the back of Vehicle Maintenance and put in a pad for the new tanks. The current fuel tank will be moved to that new pad which will be large enough for the upcoming new tank which will be larger.

Chairman Raborn stated citizens have asked him why they are doing this and they explained it about a year-and-a-half ago why. He thinks they should explain why the bigger system is needed.

Chief Morrison explained that the reason is because currently they are down to a 2 week fuel replacement (fill up) and that time is getting shorter and shorter. They cannot do that in the event of an emergency. The County told them they were not allowed regular fuel for all the other vehicles in-county and they had to go to a County fuel zone. There is not a zone within this District, therefore, the County allowed the department to use a Hess credit card to fuel the vehicles. What the department needs to do is have a fuel zone here and it will save money. They will make the small fuel tank they currently have on the property the unleaded fuel tank for the other vehicles and the large tank will be for fueling the ambulances and fire trucks and having a month supply of fuel. Buying bulk fuel will save the District money.

Chairs

Chief Morrison reported every year a chair for the Communications Center is budgeted to be replaced. The chairs in the Communications Center are sat in 24/7. they've budgeted \$1,000 for a chair and because they have reduced staff in the Communications Center, they did not replace a chair this year.

Fire Prevention

Fire Inspector 3 is looking at software that will improve the fire prevention records. Between that and the server, it puts everything in the Inspections department on line. Currently, all of their inspections are on paper. \$16,000 worth of software and hardware, which is similar to a palm pilot gives them instant access to any problems they have and gives the department records of what is going on and it doesn't give them the nightmare of an inspector who leaves and everyone trying to figure out the filing system used.

Chairman Raborn disagreed it is needed and thinks it is a wish list item. He thinks better accounting, filing would solve that issue. The files are done by address and reports by address. If something needs to be looked up, pull the file. This is a little too extravagant.

After further discuss, it was decided, the palm pilot cannot be justified.

Chief Morrison stated, he understands, however, it is a paperless world. If they want, Staff will come back with another suggestion that might be less than the palm pilot but at the same time, does the job.

Commissioner Biro asked if this will allow them to get to do more inspections.

Chief Morrison said, he does not know.

Commissioner Biro asked, will it make the job more efficient?

Chief Morrison stated, he would say yes, but he has not researched it.

Chairman Raborn pointed out that the Pasco County School District uses it and when they do their inspections without it along side Pasco, they are writing down the violation while Pasco is punching it into the computer. It is easier for the inspector. It does not save time.

Commissioner Biro asked does it save the inspectors from driving back and forth?

Chairman Raborn said, no.

Commissioner Perriera asked if there were any grants for this?

Chairman Raborn said absolutely. There are grant dollars in fire prevention.

Commissioner Perriera recommended they look at grant money for this.

Chief Morrison said, OK.

There was a consensus of the Board to look for grant money before they purchase anything.

USAR

Chief Morrison reported they budgeted \$5,000 for the USAR trailer. They already discussed moving the team into a van. That \$5,000 could be looked for in grant money.

Chairman Raborn said absolutely, if it is not needed right now and Homeland Security will probably give that money for the USAR trailer.

Air Bags

Chief Morrison explained that air bags are the things they use to lift vehicles to get people out. They've had the air bags serviced, but did not realize there was a certain amount of time they can be used before discarded. That time has come and they need to replace them.

Chief Davies stated, they are \$3,600 not \$600 each.

Chairman Raborn stated, that is a life safety issue and he does not have a problem with that.

Portable Radios

Chief Morrison stated, he would like to leave the money in the budget for portable radios. There are still some questions about the upgrade in the radios and that they might not have to spend the money, but reminded the Board all the portable radios were purchased at the same time. With the ladder truck, the additional inspector, etc., they need five a year. He does not want to use the money elsewhere and then need to purchase portable radios, having to ask this Board for \$60,000 for radio equipment. When the update comes in, Motorola might be replacing their Nextels and they might not have to use the budgeted money. However, Motorola has not committed to when that is going to happen.

Generator

Chief Morrison reported the generator at ST#1 needs to be replaced. It is sixteen years old and needs to be upgraded with a generator that will serve the entire station.

Matching Grant

Chief Morrison reported the \$150,000 he would like to decrease to \$100,000 and that is money if they receive grants for anything else, they need to have matching money.

Toughbooks

Chief Morrison explained the Toughbooks are lap tops that are held in the rescues and engines. They are approaching 5 years old and he would like to move the ones from the rescues into the engines and put new Toughbooks in the rescues. That gives them 4 spares and one might go to the Maintenance Division. They purchased all at the same time and when they go out he does not need to be replacing 20 lap tops at the same time, therefore, they need to have a replacement system in place.

Chairman Raborn asked if those being replaced could go to the Chiefs?

Chief Morrison said, no because the Toughbooks would not work with the docking stations, they are not fast enough and it is a flip screen. They really are not for business offices.

Commissioner Perriera asked what is the other \$50,000 under Administration for.

Chief Morrison said that is unspecified capital which is put into the budget every year, in the event the department needs something over \$1,000 and would otherwise require them to go through the process of getting on the County agenda, attending a meeting, etc. it becomes a 6 week process for something that they might be able to get quicker.

Construction

Chief Morrison reported \$2,000 for Station 2 renovations; \$100,000 for Station 5; for Stations 1 and 4 both need interior and exterior painting; Headquarters needs exterior painting. The hood over the stove at Station 1 needs to be replaced for Code reasons. Station 4 needs roof repairs and the stucco repaired on the front of the building. Brick is a better investment than stucco because it lasts longer. Pasco County did a study on this and at 8 years in Florida weather, if properly maintained, brick because a wash. So what he would like to do with these funds, is make these repairs and brick the face of Station 4.

Cargo Containers

Chief Morrison explained these containers are being asked for for the Training Division and he would like them to consider the containers. They are asking that if they get these two containers that they use to store equipment while the Station 2 renovations are being done and then they would be given to the Training Division.

USAR Props

Chief Morrisons stated the USAR Team is looking for \$10,000 for props.

The Board directed the Chief to look into grants.

Chairman Raborn pointed out anything with USAR can fall under Homeland Security and they will give them money through grants.

Training Props

Chief Morrison stated, \$5,000 in props is needed in Training. These would not be capital items, they would go into budget lines and needed in training.

Chairman Raborn asked couldn't some of the medical items go under the medical matching grant?

Chief Morrison said, they have the County EMS Grant which has to go to further EMS treatment on a patient. They could do that if the Board is willing to let him tell the Training Division that they get \$5,000 out of that budget next year.

The Board said yes.

Video Camera

Chief Morrison stated, they are converting all of training to a learning management system that they have been trained on and in this system, they are saying the video camera for \$3,500 is what they need. He questions that and think a DVD or video camera does not cost this much. They are saying this is the camera they need, they have not given any documentation justifying this camera. He can look into grant money for them.

Chairman Raborn agreed to look for grant money and leave it in the budget and if they do not like it, they do not have to purchase it.

Chief Morrison said, that is true and none of these items will be purchased without coming in front of this Board first.

Chairman Raborn said that is correct. Just because it is budgeted does not mean they have to purchase the item.

Flat Screen

Chief Morrison explained with the Training Division being relocated to a different site, they will need a flat screen that will be permanently mounted. They would

not want Training adjusting the equipment used in the back of the conference room. He would not want it broken.

Tables & Chairs

Chief Morrison explained the tables and chairs in the conference room will be re located to equip a small class room for the Training Division. When the equipment goes there, they need to be replaced.

Training computer software updates

Chief Morrison explained the computer software is \$1,000 for updates. The schooling budget they are asking to increase \$20,000 for Training 5 paramedics and additional training.

Commissioner Biro asked what is budgeted now?

Chief Morrison said, a little more than \$10,000. Their problem this year is that they ran out of training money within the first 4 months because of the amount of EMTs they are hiring and have to put through paramedic school.

Chairman Raborn stated, they can put \$20,000 in the budget and then address it as they go along.

Office equipment

Chief Morrison stated, the Training Division will be re located and will need filing cabinets, tables, shelving. They are looking at \$1,500 which would not be capital, but added to the office supply line.

Commissioner Perriera pointed out the dates need to be changed to 07/08 and the total needs to be changed.

Chief Morrison said, thank you.

Chief Morrison stated, they can table the Stations 2 and 3 updates. They are coming along nicely. Chief Rampino did a walk through to point out some of the issues they wanted corrected. The three Chiefs will go on a walk through by the end of this week and make a Punch List for them.

Land for Future Stations

Chief Morrison pointed out this has already been discussed tonight and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Office Space

Chief Morrison asked the Board to refer to the document distributed to the Board. Chief Rampino will report what the updated material entails.

Interim Chief Rampino read the list (See attached list). He asked the Board if there were any questions.

Chief Morrison asked to be excused for a moment.

Chairman Raborn asked if they found out if Communications is going to be a problem.

Interim Chief Rampino stated, medical billing will not be able to be relocated to the new location due to communication with the fiber network.

Chairman Raborn asked if they can move everybody else with out a problem?

Interim Chief Rampino said, correct.

Chief Morrison returned.

Chairman Raborn stated, looking at the two sites they get more space and value by moving to Libby Road and it is more centrally located. Is it worth it to them for the extra \$7,000 plus a year to have a little less room but be able to move their medical billing over there? He thinks they can move more people into the Libby Road location and have more room here for the medical billing.

Chief Morrison stated, Staff has made no decisions of recommendations of who to move and in fact he would hope the Board would allow him to move who he wanted to move. The secure wireless connection he has right now has a 20 mile range. He doesn't have to move medical billing, he has other options. Let him move Hydrant and Supply up to Libby, sell the land at Old Station 1 and use it to refurbish Station 2 and he will put new offices in over there.

The Board liked that idea.

Chairman Raborn said he thinks Libby saves them money, gives them more room and thinks they will be less cramped.

Chief Morrison stated he has listened to the arguments on the computer for medical billing. He thought VPN would work and actually tried it from his house through the County system here. He is not crazy about it. Right now one of the problems they are having in medical billing is the server has to stay here.

Chairman Raborn stated the Chief answered a lot of his questions and being they just had this problem, he'd rather medical billing be where they can see it.

Commissioner Biro agreed and thinks leaving medical billing where it is would not be a problem?

Chief Morrison said, no it would not be a problem

Commissioner Perriera thanked Interim Chief Rampino for putting the side-by-side analysis together because it really does make it very clear that there is a cost savings but does think they have to accept the recommendation that the carpet be replaced as well.

There was a consensus to have the Chief move forward leasing office space at Libby Rd.

Chairman Raborn asked for a motion on the leasing office space at Libby.

Motion

Commissioner Biro made a motion to have Chief Morrison look into obtaining a lease and replacement of carpet at Libby Road for office space rather than leasing at Forest Oaks Blvd. due to cost savings. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Richard Maass, former employee asked what was in the Parker Ave. fire station. He suggested they keep the building.

Chief Morrison stated they have all their medical supplies, hydrant division and also there are volunteers for Crime Watch in the building. The problem with the building besides its age is its location. It is out of zone and they are trying to get centrally located. Selling the land and using the funds elsewhere is more practical.

Richard Maass felt it being one of the oldest building in Spring Hill, it could be a historical site.

Chairman Raborn stated unfortunately, he does not think that building is going to stand.

Letter of Resignation – M. Mezzapelle

Chief Morrison stated, a letter of resignation from Mezzapelle says she is willing to work part time. It is Staff's recommendation that they accept the resignation and if this young lady is looking for part time that she apply for part time.

Commissioner Biro asked, if this person was a Communications Officer?

Chief Morrison said yes.

Motion

Commissioner Perriera made a motion to accept the Meghann Mezzapelle's resignation. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business

None.

Comments of Commissioners

Commissioner Panozzo asked the Chief and Attorney Salzman why does the County always turn this Board down when asked to have time for this Fire Board to meet with them. The County always says no.

Attorney Salzman said it would only be speculation on their part but they will continue to make themselves available to them and maybe in light of recent events they will be willing to sit down and talk with this Department.

Commissioner Pierriera – Thanked the public for the support they should this Department at the County Commission meeting and for the vote of the County Commissioners. It was a long meeting and appreciates everyone that was there. Also, she has requested an application from the County Commissioner.

Commissioner Jacobs – He thinks it is unfortunate that the County Commission was criticize for listening to the people. He was under the impression that people in Government are suppose to listen to the people, but evidently the paper doesn't thinks that is correct because they have been criticized heavily.

Commissioner Biro – Thanked the public for coming out and the County Commission for listening to the people. Would it benefit them to have language written up for the referendum and circulate a petition?

Attorney Salzman explained, all they can do is look at the referendum question and make any comments as a Board. The other aspect of it is really a citizen's action and not appropriate for a Board.

Chief Morrison stated he knows that the Board of County Commissioners will be discussing the upcoming referendum and he is wondering if this Fire Board might direct Staff to ask the County if this Board or Staff will have input on the language of that referendum.

Chairman Raborn asked that legal have input.

There was a consensus to have the Board's attorney ask the County regarding the language of the referendum and if the Board will have input.

Commissioner Biro asked to have one of the Chiefs at all the meeting coming up regarding this District, not that he doesn't trust the County but he'd want one of his own there.

Chief Morrison said he will be at the meetings and not for the reason Commissioner Biro said, but because his Board is directing him to be there. He's sorry, but he trusts the County.

Commissioner Biro said he was thinking they should perhaps having a voting meeting every meeting. He would like it be a voting meeting, every meeting because there is too much going on right now. He thinks it could be discussed at the next meeting.

Attorney Salzman said it is up to the Board.

Chairman Raborn said, they would have too many meetings and they would have to be televised.

Attorney Salzman pointed out if they had to have a special meeting or emergency meeting it could be before a Workshop or after. They are trying to streamline but they can always put voting items on the workshops if they had to.

Commissioner Perriera stated they could put a voting item in the event two weeks were too long?

Attorney Salzman said absolutely. They can move forward on the time period.

Commissioner Raborn thanked everyone who attended the County Commission meeting and thanked Commissioner Perriera for putting her hat in the race and asked the public to petition the County Commission to keep her on this Board. He thinks the public's voice would give the Boar the acknowledgement that this Fire Board wants to keep the commissioner on this Board.

Chief Morrison stated, regarding the budgeted positions that were turned down (6 firefighters, PIO/Grant Writer/Public Education positions). He was told when the

County Commission hears the budget he can plead their case at that point. Interim Assistant Chief Rampino told him there is a process he can go through, however, it has not been explained. He received a one line email, "you get one firefighter this year and a couple next year." It is confusing so he needs to work with the District's Attorney. Also, if these employees are employees of the County of the District. The PIO is an excellent idea and that will be one of the topics of conversation when he meets with the Administrator.

Union President Troy Hagar thanked the employees for their support and pointed out they did this for the people and they were the mouthpiece and got the word out to the public. There were many involved in addition to employees, including citizens. He promises the citizens and this Board a renewed dedication to the job they love so much. He can assure this Board as Union president that he is going to do everything he can, a more concentrated effort, going an extra mile for the citizens of Spring Hill and hopes this Board and Administration will join him in this effort and show the citizens that we are truly "Ready To Assist".

Motion

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to adjourn the Commission meeting. Commissioner Biro seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

The Commission meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Charles Raborn, Chairman

Michele B. Stevens, Recording Secretary