

SPRING HILL FIRE RESCUE
Commission Meeting
June 12, 2002

Present: Chairman Kanner, Commissioner Hollander, Commissioner Panozzo, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Marasciullo, Chief Morrison, Assistant Chief Davies, Attorney Salzman

Call to Order

Chairman Kanner called the Commission Meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Invocation

Rev. Clemons gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Kanner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Promotion of Assistant Chief Davies

Chairman Kanner requested William Davies to come up to the podium, so he can take the pleasure of pinning the Assistant Chief's badge on him, which the Board voted on at the last regular meeting.

Chief Morrison pinned the four bugles on the collar of Assistant Chief Davies, and stated that he is looking forward to the future of the District with him, he feels the Board made a great choice.

Assistant Chief Davies stated he is looking forward to his new position, and thanked everyone.

Chairman Kanner stated that he was sure Assistant Chief Davies will do a good job.

Promotion of Lieutenant Lopez

Motion

Commissioner Hollander made a Motion to promote Firefighter/Paramedic Alex Lopez to Lieutenant.

Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Kanner requested Lieutenant Lopez to come up to the podium.

Assistant Chief Davies pinned Lt. Lopez with the Lieutenant's badge and wished him good luck and congratulations.

Lt. Lopez stated that he appreciates the opportunity and thanked the Board. He also thanked Chief Morrison and Assistant Chief Davies for the chance that he has been given. He stated that nine years ago he started with Spring Hill Fire Rescue as his first job, and now he is moving up and very happy and proud. He thanked his family and friends, and he gave a special thanks to Lt. Erhard, because ever since he started as an acting Lieutenant, Lt. Erhard, has been pushing him, and thought that he could do the job.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Kanner asked if there were any questions regarding the Consent Agenda.

Motion

Commissioner Panozzo made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.

Commissioner Martin asked about the Bill Explanation sheet for week ending 05/17/02 regarding Channel Innovations Corp. for cartridge/filter, is that an electronic filter?

Chief Morrison stated he was not sure, but will research that for him.

Commissioner Martin stated that on the same page for Fleet Services in the amount of \$818.11 there is no explanation for that service.

Chief Morrison stated that he will also research that.

Commissioner Martin asked about Withacoochee Electric on page 2, regarding FRSM, what is that for?

Chief Morrison stated that it stands for Fire Rescue Supply and Maintenance.

Commissioner Martin asked about the Bill Explanation sheet for 05/24/02 regarding reimbursement for the Assessment Center, does this come out of pocket and then reimbursed?

Chief Morrison stated yes, that was for various lunches, dinner and other supplies.

Commissioner Martin asked about Zimmet, Unice, Salzman, on the same page, was that a figure

more time than they had contracted for the month?

Attorney Salzman stated that he is not sure, but will look into it.

Chief Morrison stated that he will research that and fax Commissioner Martin with the information.

Commissioner Martin stated that regarding week ending 05/31/02 on page 1, for McMullen Oil Company, it shows that on the same day they received two shipments of diesel fuel, is that correct?

Chief Morrison stated he will research that and find out what the two different charges were for.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Report of Counsel

Attorney Salzman had nothing to report.

Proposal from Marty Martinson of Alternative Power Source - Emergency Generators

Chief Morrison stated that this is the company that Commissioner Martin made contacted and discussed generators. They are in the process of sorting out the issues with the electrical supply in the building. After having met with Withlacoochee River Electric Company, and their electrician, the best method that the experts agree too, are to sever the tie between the Administration building and Station #2. There is one power drop that comes into the Administration building and it is considered three phase. Station #2 is a single phase, similar to a home, which feeds off of the Administration building. Everyone agrees they should sever the two buildings, and that would eliminate the problems they had throughout the years. The only concern is that the Administration building has an emergency generator, but Station #2 does not. This would necessitate another emergency generator. Marty Martinson of Alternative Power Source, has an interesting plan, that is why Commissioner Martin invited him to the meeting in order to explain the plan to the Board.

Marty Martinson gave the Board a brochure regarding a product of theirs. He stated that they have created generator solutions for several municipalities, Special Districts and government agencies throughout the State of Florida. He would like to fit them into a program called, Emergency Management and Preparedness Assistance Trust Fund, so he introduced Mr. Colby who has all the information and does the actual grant writing process.

Preston Colby Captain of Public Safety, stated that since 1998 he has been writing grants for local governments from the Emergency Management and Preparedness Assistance Trust Fund. He is not prepared to discuss the merits of this program to them, because he does not know

enough about what their agency's position is in relationship to this program. He can give them a brief history of the advantages and disadvantages. The source of the money started as a result of the damage from hurricane Andrew. The State of Florida established a Commission to find methods of funding long term Emergency Management objectives. Recommendation-94 was to assess a surcharge on a homeowner and business owner that will go into a particular trust fund every year, this is not tax money this is a surcharge. The Legislator enacted Florida Statutes 252 - 372, which provides a \$2.00 per-policy homeowner insurance premium surcharge, and \$4.00 for a business and commercial surcharge. This generates the funds from which the Emergency Management and Preparedness Assistance Trust Fund can fund various programs through competitive grant writing options. There are two separate funds, Municipal and General. In the Municipal category the total amount that can be requested in one year is \$50,000 if you are a Municipal Government. All other State agencies, must compete in one big pot of money and that particular funding source was \$900,000, but it is down to \$300,000 per grant cycle. There would be some particular advantages to having the municipal Spring Hill District write this, because if the generator that they want is less than \$50,000 then they would be competing at a more level playing field. If they were to go against the Salvation Army or the Red Cross, in which they get the big ticket items, then before long there would be no more money. He suggested, if they are looking for generators, they should find a multiple use for them and make them affordable. They would get more points on the grant if the generator can be used for different functions throughout the year. The down side is, you have to make the generators available to other agencies if they are not using them in a disaster, which they do anyway under mutual aid agreements. The municipal agency of Spring Hill will be in a better position to apply for this and then turn the generators over to the Fire District for maintenance, operation and use. They will get more points on the grant to do it that way and will be in a smaller pool. As to the merits of their agency, having grants written, he does not know enough about how many sources or uses they have for the generator to be able to address that tonight.

Chief Morrison stated he can see some of the benefits and disadvantages to having a local generator. He would like the opportunity to meet with Mr. Colby and discuss the whole program.

The Board further discussed the issue of the new generator.

Chairman Kanner directed the Chief to meet with the gentlemen from Alternative Power Source and then come back to the Board with a report.

Chief's Report

A. Hiring of Firefighter to Fill Vacant Position

Chief Morrison stated that with the promotion of Lt. Lopez they have a vacancy in the department. He is looking to give an offer of employment to the next individual on the Firefighter hiring list.

Chairman Kanner asked with the new Budget, will they be hiring two additional Firefighters?

Chief Morrison reported yes they will.

Chairman Kanner stated that by the time it takes to get a background check, physical and the hiring process, it will be close to October 1,. He asked the Board what their feelings are regarding hiring the next three people on the list?

Commissioner Panozzo stated that they do not have the money.

Chairman Kanner asked the Chief if they have money in the budget?

Chief Morrison stated not currently in this budget year, and the Board has not approved the budget for next year, nor has the County Commission approved that budget. He would like to expire the current list they have and start testing for a new list, which would probably get done before October. Also, there are no paramedics on the list, and they need paramedics. They have five of their own in school, but they will not become paramedics for at least fourteen months. With orientation, it will be a year and a half before they will get to use them as paramedics. The list that they have now was formulated when their entry level salary was frozen for three years and they could not advertise something that was inviting. Now that the Board has adjusted that, he would like to advertise again.

Chairman Kanner asked what about the names that are on the list and available?

Chief Morrison stated he will let them know the list has been terminated, which would give them an opportunity to reapply.

Motion

Commissioner Panozzo made a Motion to go with Staff's recommendation.

Commissioner Hollander seconded the Motion.

Commissioner Martin asked how old was the list?

Chief Morrison reported that it was created September 2001.

Commissioner Martin asked if there is any reason why they do not want to maintain those people on the list?

Chief Morrison stated that they are EMT's and the department needs paramedics, although he is not opposed to having EMT's apply for the job.

Chairman Kanner stated that he recommends they advertise for Firefighter/Paramedic, because they are an ALS agency and they can always use paramedics.

Chief Morrison stated that he would like to think about the idea of going to all paramedics, this would be something that is positive for the Department.

Chairman Kanner stated that when he first came on the Board he said someday he would like to see this Department have all paramedics and as the EMT's retire, replace them with paramedics.

Chief Morrison stated that they will look for paramedics and if they do not get the type of diversity that they often look for when hiring, they will come back to the Board. He asked if the Board gave him direction to offer employment to the next person on the list in the last motion?

Chairman Kanner stated yes they did.

Commissioner Marasciullo asked if they hire just paramedics, will that lessen the opportunity for advancement for the EMT's that are employed in this Department?

Chief Morrison stated that they use to send the maximum of only two people to paramedic school, but this year they sent five.

Lt. Ferriero stated that there are some employees that are content and will be content throughout their whole career being a Firefighter/EMT's.

Commissioner Marasciullo asked if a paramedic is higher paid?

Chief Morrison stated the position is a higher pay, but is not a rank position, it is not a promotion from EMT.

Commissioner Marasciullo stated if all the EMT's became paramedics, the budget will go up \$2,400 a person.

Chief Morrison stated it would be money well spent.

Commissioner Panozzo stated that 80% of calls are medical calls and they need paramedics.

Chairman Kanner stated that they have a motion to hire the next person on the list, and to allow the Chief to advertise for a new list, to include Firefighter/Paramedic only at this time.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

B. Assistant Chief's Contract

Chief Morrison stated that Attorney Salzman will discuss this issue.

Attorney Salzman stated that regarding the Assistant Chief's contract, they have not started negotiations. He asked the Board if they would allow him and the Chief to negotiate the contract, and then bring it back to the Board for approval. Also, the Assistant Chief has already started serving in that capacity, and the County requires a vote by the Board to approve the candidate as Assistant Chief for his pay increase. Otherwise, he would have to wait until the Board approves the contract. If the Board does that, he would also suggest that the Assistant Chief's probation period start as of the Board approving him to the position. He may be able to have the contract ready for the next regular meeting or the meeting thereafter. It might take a while, pending any changes the Board makes, since it hasn't had any input on it.

Chairman Kanner stated that he believes that day would be May 22, 2002.

Motion

Commissioner Panozzo made the Motion.

Commissioner Hollander seconded the Motion.

Commissioner Martin asked if they pay the Assistant Chief from the date of promotion, but have not finalized the contract, based on what are they paying him for?

Attorney Salzman stated the salary they advised, for an Assistant Chief's position.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

C. Pilot Program - Summer Uniforms

Chief Morrison stated that he would like to implement a pilot program for summer uniforms. He has spoken to colleagues in the State throughout the Country, and this would not be the first department to think of this program. The program would be at no cost to the District, and would run from now until October 1, and then be evaluated. For the summer uniform, the employee in the field would have the option of wearing BDU shorts, which are the same as their pants, and the same shirt they wear now. They would also have the option of wearing a black low-cut boot or a boot style sneaker with black ankle socks. The employee would pay for their uniform to enter the pilot program, with the understanding, if the uniforms are not clean, will be replaced at their expense until the program is evaluated October 1,.

Chairman Kanner asked what does he think about having one firefighter on an engine in shorts and the other in pants?

Chief Morrison stated that is fine, because just by looking at them with the colors and combination, it will be easy to tell that they come from the same agency.

Chairman Kanner asked again, will this cost the Fire District any money?

Chief Morrison stated not during the pilot program.

The Board discussed the summer uniform.

Motion

Commissioner Hollander made a Motion to allow the Chief to start his pilot program and see how it goes.

Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

D. Report on Meeting - Medical Director RFP

Chief Morrison stated that the committee that was formed to draft the RFP for Medical Director met, and they have a draft document and will be putting the final touches on the RFP for Medical Director. It will be in the Board's next package and on the Agenda for their next regular meeting for discussion.

The Board had no questions.

Chief Morrison stated that this issue was discussed before, regarding the EMS Advisory Committee. This committee meets every quarter and he has attended these meetings for many years. He is currently the Vice President of this committee, and in July he will move up to president. The next meeting will be held in Orlando in July, and according to his new contract, any traveling he does has to come before the Board, so he would like to get the Board's approval. The organization will be electing him President and he would need to make a commitment to them. Therefore, he would like the Board to give him a standard approval for these quarterly meetings so he does not have to come to the Board every three months with this issue.

Motion

Commissioner Hollander made a Motion to allow Chief Morrison to go to the EMS Advisory Committee seminars four times a year.

Commissioner Martin seconded the Motion.

Commissioner Martin asked if this would conflict with any of his duties here, or to finalize his schooling?

Chief Morrison stated it would not interfere with his duties nor his schooling.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Kanner stated he would like to give the Board a report on the Training Officer position which he and the Chief discussed. The reason the Training Officer Workshop was removed from the agenda on May 5, was because they have a Firefighter/Paramedic who has been doing the training for three or four months. Because he was injured, and is on Light Duty, workmen's compensation is paying half his salary and they are paying the other half. They are getting the training done, at half of the Firefighter/Paramedic salary. They are not even tapping into the Training Officer's salary which gives them a savings of \$50,000 a year.

Chief Morrison stated that the firefighter has gone for testing, and has every intention to get back into the field, however, the specialist told him that the bone density will not get to the maximum in his ankle for at least six months. Workmen's compensation will allow it for another year while he is healing, and attempting to get clearance from his Doctor so he can get back to his chosen profession. While he is out of the field, they have to fill in for him, and this may cost over time.

Chairman Kanner stated it may be one out of every three days in overtime.

Chief Morrison stated that they are saving a considerable amount by allowing him to continue.

Chairman Kanner asked if that would be a savings of \$45,000, even with the overtime that could cost them?

Chief Morrison stated that figure should be a \$40,000 savings.

Chairman Kanner asked the Board if they thought it was okay to continue with this process since it is working?

The Board agreed to continue with the process.

Unfinished Business

A. Vote on Resolution Endorsing Independence

Chairman Kanner read Resolution No. 2002-01 in reference to Independence for the Spring Hill Fire District (copy attached).

Motion

Commissioner Panozzo made a Motion to accept Resolution No. 2002-01.

Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Kanner read Section 1 and Section 2 of the Resolution.

The Board signed Resolution NO. 2002-01.

Chairman Kanner stated that he will contact the Hernando County Commissioners and ask to be put on the Agenda for their next meeting.

Attorney Salzman stated that a copy of the Resolution should be sent to the Hernando County Commissioners.

Chief Morrison stated he will take care of that.

Chairman Kanner requested that Chief Morrison go with him to the County Board.

Chief Morrison stated he would accompany Chairman Kanner.

Chairman Kanner stated that this would probably be on the County's Agenda in two weeks.

Lt. Ferriero asked if this has to go through the Agenda or would it be faster to have it put on the Consent Agenda?

Chairman Kanner spoke to a few people at the County and he believes it would have to go on the Agenda.

Commissioner Panozzo stated to leave it up the Attorney and Chief Morrison to see what would be the fastest way to process the Resolution.

Commissioner Kingsley, County Commissioner, stated that they could get the Resolution on the Consent Agenda and there would be no reason to put it on the regular Agenda.

Chief Morrison stated that he and Chairman Kanner would still have to attend the meeting when the County discusses their Consent Agenda.

New Business

Commissioner Panozzo stated that Commissioner Hollander brought up a proposal regarding the Policy and Procedure, whereas, any Commissioner who desires a job in the department has to wait a year until his term expires. He would like this issue be put on the Agenda for the next regular meeting.

Chief Morrison stated that he will put that on the next Agenda and have a draft of the Policy in their packets.

Comments of Commission

Chairman Kanner had nothing to report.

Commissioner Hollander had nothing to report.

Commissioner Panozzo had nothing to report.

Commissioner Martin stated that he used the Department services, because his wife is pregnant and developed a situation in which the firefighters from Station #4 arrived on the scene. He received positive comments from the people in his area about the Department. Regarding the Policy and Procedures manual and other handouts available for the public during meetings, he would like to see that done again.

Commissioner Marasciullo asked the Chief if he received any new information concerning the air-conditioning problem?

Chief Morrison stated that he is still working on that issue.

Commissioner Marasciullo asked instead of doing Workshops on separate Wednesday's, could they do a regular meeting with a Workshop to follow?

The Board discussed the Workshop issue.

Attorney Salzman stated that what he thinks Commissioner Marasciullo would like to do is have their regular meeting and than have the Workshops to follow, until the Board feels they want to agenda the rest of the issues for their next regular meeting..

Chairman Kanner stated that they will start this process in July after they finish with the Budget.

Open Forum

Lt. Ferriero stated regarding Independence and the Resolution he thanked the Board for their support, and thanked Commissioner Kingsley for his statements regarding the issue. He asked about the process and what it will entail from this point forward?

Chief Morrison stated that the committee to help with Independence had their first meeting, and it was a successful meeting. The committee decided that a September ballot would be the one they would choose, which means they need to keep moving forward regarding this issue. With the County Commissions help, as soon as they adopt a Resolution, they can meet with the County Department and discuss what ballot they can get on and word the referendum.

Chairman Kanner asked Attorney Salzman if he would help the County put the wording together for the referendum?

Attorney Salzman stated yes, but they hired an Attorney to do that.

Chairman Kanner stated that they did not hire an Attorney.

Commissioner Marasciullo stated that he was under the impression that the Board did hire Council.

Chairman Kanner stated that they did not hire Council to put the referendum together, that was just to give the Board an idea of which way to go. The Board never voted to spend \$10,000 to \$20,000.

Attorney Salzman stated that at the last meeting, it was stated wording of the Special Act is very important and more likely than not, contain the requirement that a referendum occur in the County before it takes effect. He can work on the referendum, but he does not want to do anything that will affect the language of the Special Act. The Governor is very careful on how he signs these referendums, and the wording in the Special Act, which will probably contain the wording for the referendum, would have to be to the Governor's liking. The Board has to have the Legislator Delegation determine when they are going to present the Act, which is the key.

Chairman Kanner asked if they should get the referendum written first and voted on, and then go for the Special Act.

Attorney Salzman stated that they can go either way, but he suggested contacting the other Attorney to ask him. The Board authorized \$1,500 to spend regarding the other Council, in which the first call was free.

The Board discussed the referendum.

Chairman Kanner asked if Attorney Salzman can start drafting the referendum.

Attorney Salzman stated he could start drafting the referendum, however, he feels the Board should use the Attorney who is an expert regarding this issue. Have them draft a referendum, get everything in place for a referendum vote, and have them contact the Legislator Delegation for the Special Act and get that written. This process can take awhile.

Commissioner Marasciullo stated that from what he understood from the last meeting, that Attorney is an expert in the area of referendums, therefore, he feels it would be in the District's best interest to hire that Attorney to do the referendum. He suggested to have a conference call on June 19, to speak to Mr. Lewis and get the ball rolling.

Chairman Kanner asked Attorney Salzman if he can contact the Attorney's office to see if they can have a conference call on either June 19, or the 26, at 7:00 p.m.

Chief Morrison stated that they have a committee in place to handle this issue.

Chairman Kanner stated that this goes beyond the committee, he thinks the Board would like to be the prize of this.

Lt. Ferriero asked if the Department can start the ball rolling while other elections are going on?

Attorney Salzman stated yes, because once a bill gets started that is all they need.

Commissioner Panozzo stated that he feels very comfortable with Chief Morrison and Attorney Salzman handling the situation, he does not need to have a conference call.

Attorney Salzman stated that they would ask the other Attorney to give a formal proposal and then bring it to the Board for a vote to retain them. When they have the conference call, they can mention it to them to send the agreement so the Board can vote on it.

Chairman Kanner stated that for the record, he wants to be one Commissioner that is a part of the conference call.

Attorney Salzman stated he will call Mr. Terry Lewis and set up the conference call.

Lt. Ferriero asked if it is too soon to set up any Town meetings?

Chairman Kanner stated that they should wait to see what happens on June 19.

Motion

Commissioner Hollander made a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0)

Adjourn

Chairman Kanner Adjourned the Commission Meeting at 8:40 p.m.

Robert Kanner, Chairman

Joan E. Chiofalo, Board Secretary