

SPRING HILL FIRE RESCUE  
Commission Meeting  
June 25, 2003  
7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Chairman Hollander, Commissioner Panozzo, Commissioner Marasciullo,  
Commissioner Hamilton, Chief Morrison, Attorney Salzman

**Excused:** Commissioner Martin, Assistant Chief Davies

**Call to Order:**

Chairman Hollander called the Commission Meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

**Invocation**

Rev. Clemons gave the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Hollander led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Approval of Consent Agenda**

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

There were no questions

**Motion**

*Commissioner Marasciullo made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda.*

*Commissioner Panozzo seconded the Motion.*

Commissioner Hamilton stated that the policy for charging the public for copies, audio and video tapes, on the surface, does not seem to be that honest. Why should the general public pay for something that is already public information. He suggested this issue should be put on a sliding scale (he gave an example).

Chairman Hollander stated that he and the Chief have discussed that possibility, but the problem was that it would become a very complicated scale. Therefore, that is why he suggested they have a policy exactly like the County's so they do not deviate from the standards.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that he thought about that too, but he feels it will not happen that often. His other suggestion was to exempt certain things that would be of interest to the public, such as the Minutes and the Budget.

Chief Morrison stated that the problem is in the research of items such as the Minutes. If the Board leaves the policy as it is and let's Administration use common sense it will dictate everything else. There are extra copies of the Budget available at the Workshop for the newspapers and if someone asks for a copy of the Budget it is free to the public right now. The Minutes are available on line at [www.springhillfire.com](http://www.springhillfire.com). This policy is for more formal requests and it will give them some guidelines, but they will use common sense.

The Board further discussed the policy.

Attorney Salzman stated that whatever policy the Board adopts they would be limited to charging that amount plus the labor cost.

***The Motion carried unanimously (4-0).***

**Medical Director's Report** - (copy attached)

Dr. Blackburn stated that he will give a brief report of his activities. He has had four EMS meetings and there is an EMS committee meeting scheduled July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2003. He has attended a Stroke Alert meeting in Tampa and an update on ACLS. He attended a lecture on Bio-Terrorism and accompanied Chief Morrison at the Bayfront Medical Center for the Customer Service Advisory Board. He has implemented the control of medication in his office, if any station runs low on medication they call his office ahead of time (he further discussed the medications). There was a presentation of Resolution 2003-137 for EMS Week, by the Board of County Commissioners, which he and others participated in and it was well received. He will have another report for the Board next month.

Chairman Hollander stated that Dr. Blackburn is taking this job very seriously and thanked him.

**Report of Counsel**

There was nothing to report.

**Chief's Report**

A. Sale of Vehicle to the Sheriff

Chief Morrison stated that the Sheriff's office can make good use of the rolled ambulance for their SWAT team, therefore, he recommended they sell the vehicle to the Sheriff's Office for \$6,000. They will make sure it is road at the time of sale.

## **Motion**

Commissioner Panozzo made a Motion to sell the ambulance for \$6,000 to the Sheriff's Office.

Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Chief Morrison stated that the SHARPS patrol (committee watch) has more than 500 members and they do not have a dispatch station. The Department has an office at old Station-1, which they can use for a dispatch station.

The Board gave consensuses to have the SHARPS patrol use old station one for their dispatch station.

Chief Morrison stated that Local 2794 requested a Blood Drive be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> and they have contacted the Blood Bank. In order to encourage people to come out and donate blood, the Union will be serving lunch. They hope to advertise this event and bring the Fire Safety House out and have an award given out to the crew who collects the most blood. Lt. Lopez will be in charge. There may be a need to spend some funds, but it will only be a few hundred dollars to help pull this event together.

The Board gave consensuses to have the Blood Drive.

Chief Morrison stated that the month of July is going to be very busy. The State EMS committee meeting will be held the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in July and he is the President of the Florida Association of EMS providers. Their Department has a team put together for the first time competing in Klingcot and he would like to attend. This event will take place on July 9<sup>th</sup>, however, the Board has a scheduled Workshop on that day, therefore, if the Board approves he would like to reschedule their Workshop for Monday, July 7<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 a.m.

The Board agreed to reschedule the Workshop for July 7th, at 9:00 a.m.

Chief Morrison stated that he will try to coordinate everything and send an e-mail out.

## **Unfinished Business**

A. Budget for Fiscal Year 2003/2004

Chairman Hollander stated that there needs to be a Motion to approve the Budget.

## Motion

*Commissioner Panozzo made a Motion to accept the Budget as written.*

*Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.*

Commissioner Hamilton stated that he would like to amend the Motion to reduce the amount of salary, overtime and other pay by an amount of \$179,000, which will allow the remaining total of \$4,232,000 for the 3-additions to the workforce and an inflation rate increase of 3%.

Commissioner Marasciullo stated that he does not understand how that can be done.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that is up to the Chief to get it done.

Chief Morrison asked if he was suggesting they break the contract?

Commissioner Hamilton said no, he was suggesting that they budget \$4,232,000.

Chief Morrison stated that the amount of salary is set by contract.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that there are other things that can be controlled.

Chief Morrison said not under salaries.

Commissioner Hamilton stated yes they can and he would feel better at that rate than at the rate they have now. They may have to go back and increase the budget, but the budget does not have anything to do with the contract.

Chairman Hollander asked if Counsel has ever seen this done before?

Attorney Salzman said no, but it does not mean it cannot be done. He has seen budgets passed with a lesser amount then requested, but not in a specific section.

The Board further discussed the budget.

Chief Morrison asked if the money Commissioner Hamilton wants to reduce will go into Reserves?

Commissioner Hamilton stated that was going to be part of his Motion, to identify the savings as an earmark for the Expedition.

Chief Morrison stated then it would not be savings because under contract that money is going to be spent.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that is assuming they would have 72-people for 12-months.

The Board further discussed the budget.

Chief Morrison stated that by contract they have to have 17-people out in the field.

Commissioner Hamilton asked what is their anticipation on expenditures for this year's salaries?

Chief Morrison stated they are looking at expending 100% this year. In Operations right now they are 65.02% and in Administration they are at 74.93% and those are the two biggest costs.

Commissioner Hamilton asked how much in expenditures would they have during the year?

Chief Morrison stated that he would need to look into that.

Chairman Hollander stated that it does not make sense to him, because they are dealing with this type of operation where they have fixed manpower.

The Board further discussed the budget.

Chief Morrison stated that Revenue and Expense totals in the budget will remain the same, because they are just moving it from one line to another.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that they do not have a Reserve setup for the fifth fire station, they have a Cash Balance that they could earmark.

Chief Morrison stated that he has been doing the Budget for nine years. This budget reflects what they are currently spending and what was spent in the past. It calls for trending that information and coming up with a reasonable assumption as to what expenses the District will incur for the next budget year.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that he knows what has been budgeted so far this year, but he does not have a dollar figure for some Line items.

Chairman Hollander stated that he does not understand why Commissioner Hamilton did not meet with the Chief prior to the meeting to go over any questions he had about the budget.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that at the previous meeting he brought up the same issues.

Chairman Hollander stated that he has no problem with the Budget because it's balanced. If it didn't balance than he would look into it further.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that the budget balances because they are projecting a 14.5% increase in total revenues this year over last year and they need to tighten it up.

Chairman Hollander stated that the only way to tighten up the budget would be not to put on the additional men.

The Board further discussed the budget.

Chairman Hollander called for a vote.

***The Motion carried (3-1)***

Commissioner Hamilton opposed.

**B. Proposal for Televised Commission Meeting - Hamilton**

Commissioner Hamilton stated that he believes if they televise their Commission meetings it will benefit the community and the Department. They can televise these meetings at a price that is nothing compared to the \$9 million budget they just passed. This would benefit all the people who would like to attend their meetings.

**Motion**

***Commissioner Hamilton made a Motion to accept the proposal from the County to televise their meetings at the rate of \$2,000 a year for one meeting a month.***

***The Motion did not carry.***

**New Business**

Lt. Lopez asked if the Board had any questions concerning the Blood Drive.

Commissioner Hamilton asked what is being done to publicize the Blood Drive?

Lt. Lopez stated that he is having a meeting with Florida Emergency Services to discuss that issue.

**Comments of Commission**

Commissioner Panozzo stated that this issue surprised him, but he would like to respond to the Letter to the Editor article from a former Fire Commissioner, which was in two newspapers. This former Commissioner served 2-years on the Board and never mentioned having the meetings televised. When he read in the paper that this former Commissioner stated that

“taxpayer have a right to know.” He does not understand the newspapers, they criticized this former Commissioner for trying to hide the sex scandal and to keep everything quiet so it wouldn’t make the news, so why did these newspapers print his letter? Where is the investigative reporting in this town?

Commissioner Marasciullo stated that he was quoted for being against televising the meetings, however, he reviewed the minutes and he was just concerned as to where it would fit into their scope of Unfinished Business and projects. He thanked the Chief for all his hard work he put into the budget.

Commissioner Hamilton stated that he does not endorse personal attacks on the Board by newspapers. The Board has expressed their opinion regarding televised meetings, however, he will bring it up again, because as the Chairman indicated, he would be in favor of it at a later time. He was not attacking the Chief or the Department regarding the budget, but in the future they need to review actual expense totals as incurred by the Department. He is very proud of having a Blood Drive, the Department really needs the publicity and he thanked the Board for listening to his position.

Commissioner Panozzo asked if there has been any word from Commissioner Martin?

Chief Morrison said no, he has not heard anything.

Commissioner Hollander stated that his coming from a corporate environment, the parameters of a government agency are very different and to most people it does not make much sense. This Department as in all other Fire Departments, has to deal with standard issues that are across the country and have to live under certain guidelines. Therefore, what is the “norm” in this particular area? Looking at surrounding Departments, he usually uses the Palm Harbor Fire Department as an example, to look at what kind of a budget those departments deal with. Based on what he has seen, the budget this Department has is not considered unusually high for a Department of this size. In fact, it might be low, based on the manpower and services they supply. As they move forward, he senses the frustration Commissioner Hamilton has, because he felt the same way when he first got on the Board. That is why he gave Commissioner Hamilton so much time because he was interested in what he had to say and if there is a better way of doing things, he is always open to new ideas. He encouraged the Board to take advantage of the Chief’s willingness to meet with them anytime prior to their meeting. It would be good to get as much information as they can so when it comes to discussing those issues they would have as much of the information from the Chief. The budget was voted on and will be presented to the County and as the year goes by they may have to make some Line item changes, as they always do.

### **Open Forum**

There were no comments

**Motion**

Commissioner Hamilton made a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

**Adjourn**

Chairman Hollander Adjourned the Commission Meeting at 8:30 p.m.

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Jeff Hollander, Chairman

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Joan E. Chiofalo, Board Secretary