

SPRING HILL FIRE RESCUE
Commission Meeting
July 10, 2002
7:00 p.m.

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

Excused: Chief Morrison

Call to Order

Chairman Kanner called the Commission Meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Invocation

Rev. Clemons gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Kanner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Kanner asked if there were any questions regarding the Consent Agenda. There were no questions.

Motion

Commissioner Hollander made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda.

Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Report of Counsel

Attorney Salzman had nothing to report.

Chief's Report

A. Termite Contract

Assistant Chief Davies gave the Board copies of quotes for the Termite contract (copy attached). He stated there were only two companies offering a repair warrantee. They use Adam Ant Pest Control Company now, and for the money Adam Ant is charging, they should continue to use them.

Commissioner Hollander asked how limited is Adam Ant's repair warrantee?

Assistant Chief Davies reported \$3,000, but it is good for 60 days after treatment.

Commissioner Hollander asked if Adam Ant is the company that has been treating the termite issue?

Chairman Kanner stated not for termites, just for pest control.

Motion

Commissioner Hollander made a Motion to accept Adam Ant Pest Control Company's Bid for termite control.

Commissioner Panozzo seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Unfinished Business

A. Review/Update Status of Projects

Commissioner Martin stated that because Chief Morrison was not present for the meeting, he would like to Table this item.

The Board agreed to Table Status of Projects.

B. Revised RFP Medical Director

Assistant Chief Davies stated the Board received a revised copy of the RFP (Report for Proposal) for Medical Director in their packets. He asked if the Board has any questions regarding the revised copy?

Commissioner Martin asked Attorney Salzman if he reviewed the RFP?

Attorney Salzman stated he saw the copy of the RFP at the last regular meeting.

Chairman Kanner stated there were some changes that needed to be made on the Draft.

Assistant Chief Davies stated those changes were made. On page 2, Scope of Service, item (G), was changed to (minimum 48 hours) a year. Item (E) was changed to EMS Physician or designee. If the Medical Director is out of town, he can appoint someone else in his place. On page 5, item (E), reimbursement for travel was changed to cover the Medical Director's traveling to attend meetings.

Chairman Kanner quoted the added line, "specifically noted elsewhere in the RFP".

Assistant Chief Davies stated on page 4, item 8-Contract was added, and a time frame was added for when the proposals have to be back, which was set for August 5, 2002, at 5:00 p.m. He pointed out these changes were discussed at the last regular meeting.

Commissioner Martin asked if reporting back, is going to be done on a quarterly report to the Chief for Scope of Service, item (L)?

Assistant Chief Davies reported yes, basically they will be reviewing run reports and performing Quality Assurance on them.

Chairman Kanner asked if they still have a Quality Assurance Program?

Assistant Chief Davies stated yes, QA (Quality Assurance) cards.

Commissioner Martin stated on page 5, Presentation by Respondents, when he brought this issue up at the last Regular meeting, Commissioner Hollander said when the applications come in, if there are any questions as to interruption of the applications, he has someone who can review them or confer with him. However, regarding the presentation, the committee is going to be solely responsible for making the decisions. He would hate to think, a committee would be able to evaluate whether or not a doctor is qualified.

Attorney Salzman stated that section was intended if additional information is needed. What Commissioner Martin questioned at the last Regular meeting was, to have an expert to review the applications. The committee can direct that information comes back to the committee for an overall evaluation.

Chairman Kanner stated that it will still have to come back to the Board.

Attorney Salzman stated that is correct, but the committee is doing all the leg work. If the committee wants the applications reviewed by an expert, then it goes to an expert for review.

Commissioner Hollander stated that an expert would make sure all the credentials are in order, such as, no outstanding lawsuits, any infractions, history of insurance problems, anything to do with the bureaucratic part of a doctor's operation. The Department would have to hire an expert to do that, all he could do is recommend an expert in that field.

Attorney Salzman stated that is just additional information for the committee to help the Board make the right decision.

Commissioner Martin stated regarding Questions Concerning the RFP, item (11), he would also like to have something stating they will respond to the applicant within a certain time frame. He feels it is only fair if they are setting parameters for applications, then the applicant needs to have an idea as to when they can expect a reply to a question.

Commissioner Hollander asked if that is customary and usual? He feels that would be saying they are irresponsible in getting back to a question.

Attorney Salzman stated that the intent of the section is to make sure they get complete bids. If the applicant has a question, they can submit it and get a response in order to get a complete bid, as opposed to an incomplete bid.

Commissioner Hollander stated from what he understands, Commissioner Martin would like something in there that would obligate them to reply by a certain date.

Attorney Salzman stated his concern is, if it is stated for them to respond within 48 hours, and they do not, then that would cause a bid challenge. A bid challenge is worst than having an incomplete bid, because they would have to defend it or do the whole thing over again, which is costly.

Commissioner Hollander stated if he was a doctor applying for the position, and had a question he did not get an answer on, he would call the Chief and ask him what needs to be done to get a question answered.

Attorney Salzman stated if the applicant contacts the Department, they should document it.

Commissioner Hollander stated it is already provided by law, if the applicant does not get an answer they can challenge the bid.

Commissioner Martin stated they may not have to put something in writing on the document, however, he would like to know if 24 hours or two business days, is a reasonable time to respond within a timely manner.

Chairman Kanner stated to direct this issue to the Chief's office to respond within two business days of a request of information.

Commissioner Hollander asked what if the response requires Board input?

Commissioner Martin stated then it will have to wait for the next meeting. The Chief's office does a good job of responding to issues, however, he just wants to make sure if they are putting a document together and expect people to jump through hoops, then they should respond in a timely manner as well.

Attorney Salzman stated that the Board can give a directive to the Chief's office to respond within 48 hours.

Commissioner Panozzo suggested giving a directive, but leave the document as read.

Attorney Salzman stated that something could come up such as an emergency within those 48 hours. Therefore, the Chief's office, would come back to the Board to extend the bid times.

Commissioner Panozzo stated they will still need leeway in case of an emergency.

Attorney Salzman pointed out that the proposal states they have (7) days prior to closing date.

Chairman Kanner stated if they cannot get an answer back to an applicant within 7 days, then they have a problem.

Commissioner Martin stated if they are looking for the best, professional and most capable people, then they need to do everything they can to make it as quick and thorough as possible.

Attorney Salzman stated that he would have recommended adding a time frame if it was a more technical bid. In this particular proposal, he does not think they need it, he believes the individual will either have the qualifications or not.

The Board made directed the Chief's office to try and answer any questions within two business days.

Commissioner Martin asked regarding page 7, the last sentence, reads Section should that be Selection?

Assistant Chief Davies said it should be selection and he will make that correction.

Chairman Kanner stated because Commissioner Hollander sat on the committee for the RFP, he wanted to know where did most of the information for the RFP come from?

Commissioner Hollander reported that Chief Morrison went to other Districts in the State of Florida and pulled their RFP's, so 99% of the proposal is from those RFP's. Most of it came from sections that are mandatory issues required by law.

Chairman Kanner asked if anybody else from the Board had any input at the committee meetings regarding the RFP?

Commissioner Hollander said not when he was there.

Motion

Commissioner Martin made a Motion to accept the RFP (Report for Proposal) after the corrections are made.

Commissioner Marasciullo seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Chairman Kanner directed Assistant Chief Davies to distribute the RFP and advertise for Medical Director as soon as the corrections are made.

Assistant Chief Davies stated Chief Morrison suggested calling both administrators at the local hospitals. They can also advertise on their web site page and in Brooksville.

New Business

Commissioner Panozzo stated he had some unfinished business. He previously requested that the Department's Policies and Procedures state that Board members cannot accept a position within the Department until one year after their term is up.

Chairman Kanner requested it be placed on the agenda for the next regular meeting

There was nothing for New Business.

Comments of Commission

Chairman Kanner had nothing to report.

Commissioner Hollander had nothing to report.

Commissioner Panozzo had nothing to report.

Commissioner Martin stated he would like to thank Commissioner Hollander for his effort in putting together the RFP. He read the last draft, and the corrected draft, being this is not an area he is strong in, so he had a lot of questions.

Commissioner Hollander stated he appreciates his input.

Commissioner Marasciullo had nothing to report.

Open Forum

Cliff Casta, a Spring Hill resident, stated a while ago, the Board directed the former Chief to build a Five-Year Plan. He was at the last Regular meeting where the Board was buying trucks for the future, and the Board mentioned another station in the future somewhere in the Spring Hill area. So far nothing has been done, and property is never going to be as inexpensive as it is now. He feels the Chief should purchase a piece of property even if it takes five or ten years to build on it. If they never use the property, it can be sold at a later date. He feels purchasing the property now would be a savings down the road if they do need an additional Fire House.

Chairman Kanner stated that is something they can have the Chief look into on his Comprehensive Plan.

Commissioner Martin stated he spoke to Chief Morrison about the Five-Year Plan shortly after he became Chief. He was told it is the Chief's intention is to create a thorough Five Year Plan, but he wanted an Assistant Chief in place to provide input. He wanted everyone to have an opportunity to explain what they feel is necessary for the future. He agreed this is an excellent time to buy real estate, however, as soon as someone finds out that a government entity is interested in a piece of property, the value goes through the roof.

Cliff Casta stated he agrees, but he is talking about a possible 10, or 12 year plan. The District is set, it is not going to grow anymore, the only thing that will grow is the size of the buildings and the amount of the buildings. Having a piece of property or more then one, would be beneficial to the Department.

Chairman Kanner stated he should not say the District will not grow anymore. That is not for sure.

Commissioner Panozzo stated that the Five-Year Plan that was discussed at the last regular meeting was for equipment and manpower. If and when they get a new station, it should be for an ambulance, not for an engine company, since 80% of their calls are medical.

Chairman Kanner stated the issue was for the purchase of property, not about putting up another firehouse.

Commissioner Panozzo stated he agrees, as an investment.

Bob Bestercy, a Spring Hill resident, asked if they need another firehouse?

Chairman Kanner stated he feels they do not need one now.

Mr. Bestercy asked then why buy property? It is just wasting money.

Chairman Kanner stated that they need to let Chief Morrison look at the Comprehensive Plan and see if it will fit in anywhere.

Commissioner Panozzo stated that years ago, when Spring Hill Regional built the hospital, they offered the District a piece of property to put an ambulance on it.

Chairman Kanner asked if Timber Pines wanted to do the same thing for them.

Commissioner Panozzo stated Timber Pines wanted their own private station. He asked the former Chief if the offer was still on the table, because they could have gotten a piece of property from Spring Hill Hospital for an ambulance. That would have meant a free piece of property, and maybe contributed towards a building.

Chairman Kanner stated that it is not going to happen right away, but purchasing property is something to look into and consider.

Commissioner Marasciullo stated that area is going to be congested shortly, especially if the construction goes through for condominiums to be built on Mariner Blvd.

Commissioner Martin stated there are computer programs that will show ideal locations where Fire stations should be. They can even show where to move a Station or add one. He heard Chief Morrison talking about the possibility of looking into that in the future. He agrees, as far as an investment goes, buying a piece of property would appreciate faster than some of the investments they have through the County.

Commissioner Hollander stated if they look back a year to where they are now, the plan Chief Morrison put together for the ten-year vehicle plan is their biggest budget item. The Board made a decision to save the taxpayers money, by taking money that was already budgeted.

Chairman Kanner stated they are getting a new rescue unit for next year because the company guaranteed them the price. They do not payout a dime towards the vehicle that will be delivered next year.

Commissioner Hollander stated at the last regular meeting when they were looking over the budget for the various stations and the needs, that was a preparatory meeting toward developing a long range plan. So, he thinks this is a work in progress at this point, and they are moving forward in getting that plan in line. When the Chief puts the Five-Year Plan on paper, he will already have a lot of the foot work done towards that plan.

Commissioner Panozzo stated there are no large cities buying commercial property to put a firehouse on, they buy residential areas and then change the zoning.

Commissioner Martin stated regarding the commitment on the rescue unit, there was an issue on the emissions standards on the engines, so by making an early commitment they received a \$6,000 discount. That was another issue that prompted them to make the commitment.

Motion

Commissioner Panozzo made a Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Hollander seconded the Motion.

The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Adjourn

Chairman Kanner Adjourned the Commission Meeting at 7:38 p.m.

Robert Kanner, Chairman

Joan E. Chiofalo, Board Secretary

