

Spring Hill Fire Rescue
Commission Meeting
7/27/05 - 7:00 P.M.

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

Excused: Commissioner Perreira

Call To Order

Chairman Panozzo called the Commission meeting to order at 7:05 P.M.

Invocation

Rev. Clemons gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Panozzo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner Biro made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Raborn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0)

Medical Director's Report

Chief Morrison reported that Dr. Blackburn, the Department's Medical Director was attending a conference and has requested that office manager Ruth Hoock speak on his behalf.

Ruth Hoock addressed the Board and reported that she was at the Commission Meeting at the request of the Department's Medical Director, Dr. Blackburn who regrets that he cannot attend the meeting. He is currently at the Florida Society of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians' Conference in Orlando. Dr. Blackburn will be receiving the Family Practice Physician of the Year Award on Saturday at the conference. He did want to report to the Board that on August 11, 2005 from 2:00 - 5:00 pm there is a scheduled conjoint meeting with SHFR, HCFR, BFD and High Point Fire Departments regarding county-wide protocols. Dr. Blackburn does have the protocols and they will be reviewed by all departments at that meeting. Today, five (5) complete copies were delivered to SHFR along with the CD disk of the protocols. At the next Regular Commission meeting, Dr. Blackburn will give the Board a full report of all the recent accomplishments. Again, he regrets that he is unable to attend tonight's meeting. Thank you.

Report of Counsel

Attorney Salzman reported on Firefighter Romine. Mr. Romine is serving in the Armed Forces

at this time and based on research looked at, discussions with Administration, and the opinions of the County, Counsel is requesting Firefighter Romine be put on a terminated status with the understanding that if he decides to return and wishes to be re-employed by SHFR that he be re-hired at that time. This is the recommendation by the County due to some State monies and issues that are going on from a budgetary and administrative status.

Chief Morrison stated any step-increases will be given upon Mr. Romine's return. Mr. Romine's accrued hours will remain on the books and be given should Mr. Romine decide to be re-employed. This step is being taken as a paper-work issue with the State. The Department's policies extend benefits for a period of one (1) year Active Duty and Mr. Romine's one (1) year ended in May 2005 and he is still on active duty.

Michael Rampino, Union President stated he is of the same understanding as the Fire Chief in this particular situation. He read the State statutes that the Chief provided for him and it clearly states Active Duty personnel have one (1) year and when Mr. Romine does come back he is reinstated and Mr. Romine understands that.

Chairman Panozzo asked for a motion.

Motion

Commissioner Raborn made a motion to terminate Firefighter Romine. Commissioner Jacobs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0)

New Business - Item B. Budget Amendment for Rental Property

Attorney Salzman reported that this particular lease which they have been negotiating is now in its final form. It is a Pass-Through Lease which means that normally it is the rental price plus any other costs on a sub-lease basis. The problem that arose as it was being finalized is that the payment of taxes by a governmental agency is not appropriate, however, the landlord will have to pay taxes they assumed were going to be paid by the tenant at the time of discussing the lease amount. It amounts to an additional thirty dollars a month. It has been requested by the landlord to increase the amount which will be a monthly rent of five hundred twenty-five dollars per month. It is being requested of the Board to approve the increased amount and go ahead with the lease which is ready at the increased amount. The terms have been reviewed, and necessary changes which are appropriate have been made.

Motion

Commissioner Jacobs made a motion to increase the monthly rent to five hundred twenty-five dollars. Commissioner Biro seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (4-0)

Chief's Report

Chief Morrison reported Commissioner Perriera contacted his office and informed him that the hospital that Commissioner Perriera works at has an award ceremony tonight for ten-year employees and she was the only administrator available. The Commissioner regrets that she could not be here tonight. The agenda was reviewed by Commissioner Perriera with the Chief and he informed the Commissioner a full report will be given after the meeting.

- A. Training - the training will continue for the next two weeks. Night training has been going on with SHFR, HCFR and BFD at the vacant Brooksville K-Mart store. Training starts at 6:00 pm and last night they were still involved in training at 11:00 p.m. Watching the different departments working together is impressive and the training division needs to be congratulate on the training provided. If the Board has an opportunity, stop by in Brooksville to see the training being practiced.
- B. ST#3 - The plans are completed and have been submitted to the County for review which will be completed within ten (10) days. Once completed, the Department can go out to bid. Contact has been kept with County Purchasing to make sure things are progressing. It will go out to bid and hopefully by August's Regular Commission meeting or at the very latest the September Regular Commission meeting, it can be approved by the Board and construction commence.
- C. Chief's Absence - Next week starting August 3, 2005 he (Chief Morrison) will be taking a week off to celebrate his mother's 90th birthday. He will be available by phone.
- D. Haz-Mat Training - The Haz-Mat Team is a county-wide team involving SHFR, HCFD and the BFD. Quarterly the teams are required to get together for inter-departmental training. Captain Rampino can elaborate further on the current training being done at the Hernando County Fairgrounds.

Captain Rampino explained that Haz-Mat training is on its odd- months phase involving hands-on training by the entire team. On even-months, the crews do a computer-based scenario type training at the stations that is networked into the county. Grades and training records can then be produced. Air monitoring & sampling training is currently going on as hands-on training. This is all part of the International Association of Firefighters' 160-Hour Haz-Mat Technician training. This is the 3rd week of that training with one more 40-Hour training session that has to be completed before the team can go up to the State Fire College to take the State test which will make them certified as a 160-Hour Haz-Mat Material Technician.

Unfinished Business

- A. ST#2 Renovation Architect Vote - Chief Morrison reported the bid for an architect has gone out and the Board has reviewed it. He will allow Assistant Chief Davies to report on this.

Assistant Chief Davies reported that at the last meeting it was presented that the number one choice of the three architects was Fleischman Garcia from Tampa, Florida which is his recommendation and he believes the majority of the Board's consensus. The second choice would be Atelier and third choice is Starner Ranaldi. He is requesting at this time a vote by the Board and then negotiations will begin. If terms cannot be met with the first choice of architect the second choice will be contacted.

Motion

Commissioner Biro Made a Motion to accept Fleischman Garcia as the architect.
Commissioner Raborn seconded the motion.
The Motion was unanimous (4-0)

- A. Discussion of ST#5 and ST#6 - Chief Morrison reported that discussions have been ongoing about a piece of County owned property on Linden. The County has adopted a rule that parkland cannot be used for other purposes. There is a County specialist he has been talking to and he has an appointment for further discussion regarding the feasibility of some other properties that have been discussed with the Fire Board individually. Currently, they are still moving forward regarding ST#5. At the last Staff meeting there was extensive discussion as to whether or not there is a need for a ST#6. With the addition of ST#5 it will put over 95% of the District within 2 miles of a fire station and ST#6 would not be necessary at this time even though they are experiencing large growth on the Elgin Road side of the District. ST#4 and ST#3 are around that growth area. When ST#5 exists it will significantly reduce the call load of ST#3 which will allow that station to go into the growth area. There is an automatic mutual aid agreement with the County which involves the County's ST#11. ST#11 is within a one-and-a-half miles of that large growth area. Even considering the growth of the community, the Department cannot see a time where a sixth station will be needed. Should the call load increase, they could possibly see ST#5 becoming a master station, that they might have to run 2 ambulances from. The physical size of the District being forty-nine square miles does not make a sixth station seem necessary. Possibly a sixth rescue but not a station.
- B. Proposed Change in Ad for Firefighter Openings - Chief Morrison reported the Board has already discussed placing an ad for anticipated future position openings. That ad was not published because there were some questions that arose and he would like to readdress it with the Board. Firefighter/Paramedic has been the preference and the Board has also authorized Staff to advertise just for paramedics requiring them to become a firefighter within one (1) year. That is a change from years ago when they advertised for Firefighter/EMT and gave them three (3) years to become a paramedic. Giving paramedics one (1) year to become firefighter the Department goal will be accomplished quicker. Firefighter/EMTs that are currently in paramedic school has been discussed, but what has happened is that some students which are riding Clinical at this Department asked are they going to be able to apply for a job with SHFR. It was realized at that time, that was an area not covered. Therefore, he would like to expand the ad to include Firefighter/PMs that would be required to become State certified firefighters within one (1) year, but also, allow FF/EMTs that are currently enrolled in a paramedic school to apply and be accepted with the understanding that they must become certified paramedics within one (1) year.

Commissioner Raborn pointed out that "enrolled" does not mean "in school" but only ready to attend school. Will the Department be responsible to pay for that schooling? He is only considering the bottom line as to the cost to the Department.

Attorney Salzman said no.

Chief Morrison explained that department policy is that it will help with tuition. If already

enrolled, the Department only pays up front the first semester and reimburses for second and third semesters upon successful completion.

Attorney Salzman clarified further that they are case-by-case basis because these are applicants for the position. When ranked and looking at applicants they consider everything in making a determination that the Chief presents as a recommendation to the Board as to who to hire. If in a situation where it is a scenario like just mentioned, where an applicant is just “enrolled”, that would be reported to the Board and a determination would have to be made at that time.

Chief Morrison pointed out that paramedic school takes a full year. The requirement that they become a State certified paramedic within one year does not take into consideration the time required when they must then apply to the State to sit for the exam and that is at least a thirty (30) day process. Therefore, someone “enrolled” but not currently attending paramedic school would not be able to graduate and become a certified paramedic within the one (1) year requirement.

Attorney Salzman pointed out that the last sentence of the requirements covers this concern, which states: “All applicants must be able to become Florida State Firefighters compliant and certified as a State of Florida Paramedic within one (1) year of employment.” That includes certified. They have to meet the requirements or will not be hired.

The Board had a Consensus to the proposed change in ad for firefighter openings.

- A. Budget Update - Chief Morrison discussed where the department budget currently stands. After the Board adopted the last budget presented, the Property Appraiser gave the value of the District resulting in a change in the numbers on the budget. The County budget office did not want to take the budget that this Board adopted and then change numbers. They asked that the tax numbers be adjusted based on the most recent information with the 2.65 millage rate. Other than that, the budget has not changed significantly. The *Fuel Line* in the budget did need to be increased for anticipated increases to \$75,000 for next year. Also, under *Capital Items*, the fans being purchased. There are two budgeted and they talked about possibly purchasing four. After discussion with staff, he (Chief Morrison) recommends keeping it at two (2) purchases. Radio communication on the fire ground was a problem as a result of the noise generated by the gas powered fans. The electric fans on the other hand require cords to be strung around and come in different configurations. Staff would still like to look and evaluation the pros and cons of both type fans. The Safety Committee has met and it is their strong recommendation that of the \$50,000 in the budget listed as *Unidentified Capital* allow \$16,000 of it to be used for communication devices. The equipment is a microphone that attaches to the Department’s current radios and an amplifier attaches onto the mask. This results in clear communication from the outside when there is chaos inside. The Haz-Mat Team is already using them and it is a success.

The fan issue was brought up because of the communication issue. He is asking the Board to allow them to use \$16,000 for the equipment to increase communication. This

is a firefighter safety issue. The proposal from the Safety Committee was a \$30,000 proposal that would put an amplifier in every mask, however, \$16,000 would outfit all of the Officers. The Officers are who need to have crisp communication and they are the ones he wants to hear from. A firefighter can still communicate with his radio. The \$30,000 can be curtailed by focusing on the Officer's masks while ensuring a better level of safety.

Commissioner Raborn recommended purchasing the amplifiers through their funding and try to get a grant for outfitting the other half of the department.

Chief Morrison stated he can definitely do that. The County grant that comes out of Traffic Fines yearly is given to EMS as a funding that they have talked to the Board about for next year. That is traditionally \$12,000 - \$15,000 that comes to the Department. He is not certain they can use it for this, but there are other grant opportunities out there.

Chief Morrison stated they were currently awarded \$136,000 in grant money from the State of Florida for the 12 led EKGs. The Board approved our match (25%) \$42,000 in next year's budget. It was reported to the Board that Staff was going to approach the County and ask for the \$42,000 now to be moved out of *Reserve Funds*. The Board of County Commissioners approved that yesterday. Staff is moving forward and the vendor was here today. It means next year's budget still has that \$42,000 allocated for something the department is going to do this year. Now, next year Staff will be applying for a continuation in that grant.

To inform the Board, the County Administrator called him today and they are to meet tomorrow to discuss transitions with this Department's Human Resources, Budgeting, Finance, etc. Mr. Adam's just wants to make sure that everything goes smoothly. It is a good transition and he will be meeting with Mr. Adams tomorrow morning. Staff would like to find out how the County feels about leaving that money earmarked for matching grants, for an upcoming grant. Or whether or not they want to roll that money back into *Reserves* and then this Department applies for it next year. With the Board's permission he (Chief Morrison) would like to see how the County wants to handle that \$42,000 that has been put into the budget for next year that the Department is now spending *Reserve* money for in order to get that project on the road.

The Board gave its consensus.

Chief Morrison stated, other than those item changes, the budget is as reported. He pointed out *Reserves* have gone up a little and he feels it is a healthy budget. The County will be having their budget workshops starting tomorrow. There has not been any Notice stating this Department's budget will be discussed at the workshops. Usually, the County notifies if they want to discuss this Department but he will be in contact with the County Administrator and reporting back to this Board at its next Workshop.

Commissioner Raborn pointed out on the bottom line of Firefighters, it still shows Firefighter/EMT and he was to change that to Firefighter Paramedic so the budget reflects the higher pay. Also, the smoke ejector fan will probably go up in price by a few

thousand dollars and Chief Morrison should reflect that in the budget.

Chief Morrison stated he will make those changes and show the units here if possible regarding the fans.

Again, they do not have the final numbers on their Workers Comp or Health Insurance. There are still things that the Board needs to address.

New Business

- B. Network, Computer and Phone Services for Rental Property - Medical billing and Fire Safety Inspectors need to be placed on the computer network and it needs to be secured. The Inspectors need to be secured mainly because the Department is tied to the Sheriff's Office and County buildings with fiber. We are an access point into this very large network and it is recommended to do a wireless connect. The medical billing office has to have the highest level of security. The County Technology Service has recommended a wireless connect and it has to be secured. They have recommended three (3) vendors and Staff has three quotes and the one being recommended to the Board is the Next Connect Network and information about them has been provided in the Board packets. It is the second option. The cheaper of the two options listed for \$3,284.00. This will allow the building to be fully networked with HQ. This includes installation. Currently there is funding available under the *Capital Needs Line* and also under the *Data Processing Line*. Staff needs an approval from the Board for this expenditure. Also, on the next page under a County Purchasing contract for a needed computer for the third Billing Clerk position which already has been approved. Staff needs an approval from the Board for this expenditure of \$1,002.00 and on the third page under a County Purchasing contract is for a computer without a monitor. This is needed for one Fire Safety Inspector. It is necessary to upgrade the Inspector's computer so it is compatible with the network. Staff needs an approval from the Board for this expenditure. These purchases are necessary to move into the building.

Motion

Commissioner Biro made a Motion to approve the purchase the Chief discussed for the computers and networking as presented for \$3,284.00 and \$1,002.00 and \$721.28 Commissioner Jacobs seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously (4-0)

ST#4 - Commissioner Biro asked if they are going to enlarge ST#4?

Chief Morrison reported they will use the added space as a Bunk Room once the Fire Inspectors are moved. The Firefighters will not remove the wall to open the space up but will leave it as a separate bedroom

- B. Budget Amendment for Rental Property - \$1,050.00 in rent is required for the remaining two months of the fiscal year regarding the rental property. Staff thinks the Rentals, Lease, Equipment Line is the appropriate line, however, they are going to double check with the County to see whether-or-not the Department needs a line added to the budget.

Staff will need approval that if it needs to move into another line it be moved. If Staff can find another Line as Operating of Budgets in Administration that Staff be allowed to move it there or request from the County that they move \$1,050.00 out of Reserves. This is a two (2) year lease. ST#2 will be completed by the time the lease is completed.

Motion

Commissioner Jacobs made a Motion to allow the Chief to make a Line Item change to transfer money to the needed item to pay for the rental of the building for the remainder of the physical year.

Commissioner Biro seconded the Motion.
The Motion carried unanimously (4 - 0)

Chief Morrison stated he had nothing else to report.

Comments of Commissioners

Commissioner Raborn - Thank you to the men and women of this Department as far as training at night. Also, he received a phone call from Spring Hill Fire Rescue Boosters asking for money.

Chief Morrison stated Staff is aware of that. It would not be SHFR Boosters because SHFR does not solicit funds from anybody in any way, shape or form. Local 2794 does a phone solicitation campaign for funds.

Michael Rampino, Union President reported there is an agreement with a company by the name of Safetel. If the identification comes from SHFR Boosters, there are fraudulent people who will try to solicit funds. Safetel is required to have caller ID and it has to come up as Safetel. Therefore if it does not come up as SAFETEL, it was not the company the Local uses.

Motion

Commissioner Raborn made a Motion to excuse Commissioner Perriera.
Commissioner Biro Seconded the Motion.
The Motion carried unanimously (4-0)

Commissioner Biro - Are they pursuing a ladder truck

Chief Morrison said yes. Assistant Chief Davies has been directed to contact E-1 in Ocala, Florida and have a ladder truck brought to SHFR. Pierce ladder truck has already been looked at. It has been written in various places it will cost SHFR a million dollars to house a ladder truck. The Station next door was built with a ladder truck in mind. The bays are twice the size of the department's other bays which could also house a ladder truck. Staff is looking at other models of ladder trucks and Staff is working with the County on making sure the written documentation from County Legal that Impact Fees are appropriate for this purchase.

With the new Ordinance and talking with the Administrator it is clear he wants to make sure there

is a smooth transition. The County Administrator has offered a ton of help. He will be meeting with Jim Gant as soon as he comes back into town and Mr. Gant will be able to help with that process. This is something he does and he is glad Mr. Gant is on Board.

Commissioner Jacob - Mr. Monk a retired chief was at the DAV and asked how they are going to man the ladder truck because NFPA says you must have 5 men on a ladder truck.

Commissioner Raborn stated how they are going to run the ladder truck will be something they are going to have to look at. There is minimum manning on a truck.

Commissioner Panozzo stated Commissioner Raborn recommended this Board during the meetings regarding the change to the Ordinance and he would like to thank him for that and for a good job.

Open Forum

Nothing.

Motion

Commissioner Biro made a motion to adjourn the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Jacobs Seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously (4-0)

The commission meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Adjourn

The Commission meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Gene Panozzo, Chairman

Michele B. Stevens, Recording Secretary