

Spring Hill Fire Rescue
Commission Meeting
11/30/05 - 7:00 P.M.

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

Excused: Attorney Salzman

Call To Order

Chairman Panozzo called the Commission meeting to order at 7:09 P.M.

Invocation

Rev. Clemons gave the Invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Panozzo led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Chairman Panozzo asked if there were any questions regarding the Consent Agenda. There were none.

Motion

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

Report of Counsel

None.

Chiefs' Report

Chief Morrison thanked the Board of Fire Commissioners for attending the Christmas Lighting Ceremony. There was a nice turn out. It was well attended and he would like to thank Local 2794 for putting on the event and the Board for allowing them.

The Annual Awards Banquet for the Department is December 16, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. It will require a vote of the Board to approve the District paying for the meals for the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Chaplains and Volunteer Fire Police.

Motion

Commissioner Jacobs made a Motion for the Board to approve the payment for the volunteer attendees at the Annual Award Banquet. Commissioner Biro seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

Firefighter Openings - The Board has been given an Eligibility List to review. To bring the Board up-to-date, the hiring process has been completed. Four candidates made it through the entire process and they make up the list. They are ranked and he would like to request the Board to vote on it later in the meeting. There are two new openings which the Board approved in this year's fiscal budget. Also, there are two resignations which need to be replaced and there is also the promotion of the Training Officer that created a vacancy. This makes five (5) vacancies along with one employee going on Long Term Military Leave. The Board at the last Workshop meeting gave approval to begin the hiring process and are advertising with a deadline of December 16, 2005. The application for a position is posted on the Department's website and the County has posted it on its website.

Chief Morrison reported that the County is also advertising and has offered to inform applicants they can also apply with this Department.

The applicants mentioned who completed the entire process will be given offers of employment, contingent upon successful completion of a background check, a drug screen and a pre-employment physical. Anticipating the Board's wishes, the Chief's office has already started the process and hopefully the new hires can start before the first of the year.

Then with the next process they will move that on as quick as they can. At the Board's wishes they will open up the testing dates to two different dates. The interview dates also to two different dates in an effort to give applicants every opportunity to come in and apply.

Chairman Panozzo asked how many on the list are paramedics?

Assistant Chief Davies stated there are two (2) FF/EMT currently enrolled in Paramedic school; one (1) Paramedic who will be finished with Fire School in about two weeks; and one (1) Paramedic that will have to attend Fire School.

Chief Morrison pointed out this is the first time this Department will have hired a paramedic and have to put them through Fire School. This is an effort to try new things on the requirements to fill the openings. This is the first time the Department has hired a sole paramedic and putting them through Fire School. Usually it is a Firefighter / EMT that the Department puts through Paramedic School. He is looking forward to it and hopefully it will

help fill the ranks.

Ambulance - Chief Morrison reported, the Department took delivery today on the replacement rescue unit for Rescue-4. It will take a few weeks to install the radios, equipment and have it lettered. That vehicle should be on the road within the next two weeks. That gives the Department three (3) spare rescues and they only need two. It was not traded in because vendors will not take trade-ins on a rescue. All three rescues are over 200,000 miles. Rather than surplus the rescue unit, the Chief's office would like to request from the Board that the vehicle be designated to the USAR Team. They have received the cache from the State which the State had planned on giving free of charge for the USAR Team. The equipment is being stored at ST#2 and they need a vehicle to put that equipment on and using that spare rescue would be an ideal usage for that unit rather than surplus it out. Later, when discussing grant money, he would like the Board to discuss applying for grant money for a vehicle for the USAR Team. Unless, there is an objection from the Board, they would like to move that unit over to the USAR Team and allow them to get their equipment on it.

Also, the Purchase Order was written and signed with Board approval last February and usually does not take this long to purchase an ambulance. They had a problem with providing the chassis that this Department normally gets. The manufacturer determined that they did not want to make that chassis with a conventional breaking system. They wanted it to have air brakes. They had to go to a different chassis and there was no cost to the District and having air brakes on the truck has made the Department's mechanic very happy.

The down payment from the District, \$50,000 was budgeted last fiscal year, the Department was hoping to receive this truck before October 1, 2005, however, it was not possible and was received today. They have put the paperwork forward to the County for a budget amendment that \$50,000 is still in the Department's budget but it becomes a part of the Carry Forward, and to move that money out of Carry Forward and put it back into the Capital Vehicle Line for the down payment on the vehicle.

Chief Morrison asked if there were any questions regarding the payment on the vehicle. There were none.

Ladder Truck - Chief Morrison reported, the Chief's office heard from County Legal regarding the ladder truck. The reply back was different from earlier replies received from that department. They said their reply is a courtesy to us and that they would like the Department's counsel to give us the legal reply on this. They did offer some opinions and given this Department's counsel some guidelines that should be followed. They site some cases that have happened in Florida as far as impact fees. This has been sent down to Attorney Salzman. He and the attorney have already had some discussions on it and the attorney sees absolutely no problem. In the Chief's opinion, this truck fits the very definition of why impact fees are collected. County Finance not only went out and received quotes on both a Line of Credit and a Lease for this Department, but also allowed the Department to go out to the

companies that they have financed with in the past. They have the quotes in and he will be talking with the head of County Finance tomorrow. It is currently less than 4% for the financing of the ladder truck. It is his recommendation, after talking to County Finance and with Board approval, that they will use \$300,000 out of Impact Fees and they will finance the rest for a period of seven (7) years. Again, they hope to have that truck in the fleet for 16 - 20 years, however, he does not want to finance it for more than seven years. It will be \$358,000 to finance more than seven years. Those payments will come out of impact fees. So the entire purchase of the ladder truck will come out of impact fees and not out of the Department's regular budget.

Commissioner Jacobs pointed out State Statute allows an Independent District to use impact fees to purchase fire trucks, build buildings and anything to improve the department. Therefore, as long as State Statute allows a fire department to use the money for that there should not be any qualms about it here.

Chief Morrison pointed some of the points that County Legal presented were, if the purpose of the truck is solely to fight fires in a multistory building, should we only be using the impact fees for multistory buildings and that obviously isn't the purpose of that truck. The truck will be going to every fire. With the set backs in this District, the truck is already 50 ft. away from the front of any building in this District. That truck will definitely get its use.

Attorney Salzman will have that to the Chief this week. The Chief has not heard back from County Purchasing, however, this Department has provided them with everything they require, and hopefully, the Department should see this truck on the County's Agenda by their next meeting. If not their next meeting, definitely by their December 20, 2005 meeting.

Commissioner Biro asked if they are still going to be able to get the truck that is coming in April?

Chief Morrison said, currently, that is the truck they are attempting to purchase and he has not heard any different from the vendor.

Station 3 Project - Chief Morrison reported, that ST#3's new building went out to bid today (November 30, 2005). It will be out to bid for a period of thirty (30) days. After that it will be the first Board meeting in January 2006 that they will come to the Board and discuss what bidder to recommend on that project.

Temporary Housing - Chief Morrison reported they are progressing slowly on this project. They have looked at every available option to house these firefighters in this District while their station is being refurbished. The only viable option is to put a manufactured home on that lot on a temporary basis. That building has to be built to commercial specs because it will be a commercial building. They have found a vendor that's willing to do that, however, with all the past hurricanes, manufactured homes are at a premium. Temporary shelters, ones that they

have used in the past, simply do not exist anymore. They have all been taken by FEMA and are not available. The manufacturer mentioned, is will to build the home, however, he is not willing to install a sprinkler system. It being a commercial structure that they are going sleep individuals in, it must have a sprinkler system installed. The manufacturer has provided engineering specifications similar to what would be required to build a commercial building. They have been submitted to County Planning and there should be a response from the County as early as tomorrow (December 1, 2005). The Chief's office would like permission from the Board, as they move forward, to go ahead and request the Purchase Order from the County to purchase this building. This is a manufactured home, built to commercial specifications. The price received from the manufacturer is \$65,930. There is a significant roof leak at Station 3 and every company looking at the building has not been willing to attempt repairs on the building. They want to re-roof the building at a minimum of \$20,000. This is the same building they are going out to bid to completely replace the roof. It is his opinion spending \$20,000 of the Taxpayers' money is just a waste at this point. However, there is a roof leak and there is significant leakage to do damage to the drywall. That station is rapidly becoming unliveable in his opinion and he wants to get the firefighters out of there and into something else. He does not think they can do a bid process on this. He does not know how he can get anybody to bid when they can barely get the manufacturers to even discuss it. This is a perfect example of what would constitute an "Emergency Purchase." He would like to ask the Board for permission, if County Planning signs off on this building, to go ahead and release funds for a contingency to purchase this building.

They have been in contact with companies that install sprinkler systems since this manufacturer will not install a sprinkler system in, who are willing to fit the building with sprinkler systems as soon as the Department takes delivery. The firefighters will not occupy the building until everything is signed off by the County. However, they will have it on site, have the sprinkler system installed, and the stove has to comply with commercial cooking standards, which means a full hood system. The firefighters will be in the building for close to a year, and as the Board knows, after this project, they will relocate the manufactured home and use it for their ST#2 project and then relocate it again for the ST#5 project. This building will be in use for a number of years. They can install a hood system in the building at a later, but to get the firefighters into the building quickly, there is no way they can get somebody to design a hood system for that in a timely fashion.

Commissioner Perreira asked, once the Purchase Order is approved, what is the time line he is looking at?

Chief Morrison stated, once they have the Purchase Order approved they are looking at 3 - 4 weeks.

Commissioner Jacobs asked if the price included delivery and set up?

Chief Morrison said, yes.

Commissioner Panozzo asked if they have a price for the installation of the sprinkler system?

Chief Morrison said, no, the vendors cannot give a price, they have not even seen drawings of the building yet, however, knowing that line of work, he would estimate the cost to be anywhere from \$6,000 - \$8,000.

Commissioner Panozzo asked why the manufacturer of the home will not install the sprinkler system

Chief Morrison explained it is because the manufacturer is not able to interrupt their assembly line to attempt to retrofit something they have no expertise on. Sprinkler systems have to be built to the national code. They would have to have that system engineered to make sure it does the job that it is suppose to do. They are not willing to take that liability understandably.

Chief Morrison informed the Board, the vendors he spoke to have asked that they order the home without the ceilings installed, so they can do a job that would be attractive once completed. He does not want to get involved with that because this job needs to be fast-tracked. The home will be ordered, and while the sprinkler system might not be attractive, but it will comply with law, and that is the goal.

Commissioner Raborn asked if the price included utility hook-up?

Chief Morrison said, no. There is a temporary stub out power supply already at that site.

Commissioner Biro stated he agreed they need to fast-track this and it is a good price considering how much they are going to use this home on three projects. It is his recommendation they should give the Chief permission to do the emergency purchase order to get this established.

Motion

Commissioner Biro made a Motion to allow the Chief to do an emergency purchase order immediately with the County. Commissioner Raborn seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

A. Firefighter Hiring List

Chief Morrison asked for approval to give offers of employment to all four names on the Eligibility List contingent upon successful completion of a background check, drug screen and pre-employment physical.

Motion

Commissioner Biro made a Motion to allow the Chief to offer employment to all four candidates contingent upon passing a background check, drug screen and pre-employment physical. Commissioner Perreira seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

B. ST#3 Project

Chief Morrison stated this item was discussed and the Board already voted on.

Commissioner Perreira asked if the Chief needed a Motion regarding the sprinkler system?

Chief Morrison stated, hopefully by the next meeting.

Also, as a reminder, the scheduled meeting for December for next month will be December 14, 2005 and hopefully he will have a good progress report at that time regarding the sprinkler system. Currently, he does not have enough information regarding the sprinkler system for him to ask the Board to vote on it.

New Business

A. Grant Money for ST#5

Commissioner Raborn noticed Hernando County Fire Rescue received over \$300,000 in grant money for upgrades of building, personnel, etc. This Department needs to go for grant money before building ST#5 because grant money cannot be sought after for something that is already built. It is his recommendation they should aggressively apply for grant money immediately and attempt to acquire a good portion of the money through the grant money. They should create a laundry list of what they are going to need to have the grant money go towards those items.

Chief Morrison stated, congratulations to the County for getting that grant money. The FEMA grant does not allow grant money for "bricks and mortar" unfortunately. However, he will double check to make sure that has not changes. They will not give grant money for "fixed facilities." That is why there are portable fire training simulators, because they will not give grant money for fixed ones but they will for portable ones.

The next grant cycle which opens up in December is the State EMS grant and Staff has already been discussing the things they would like to try for in that grants. They would like the Board's permission to apply for Rescue 5. To get R-5 paid for out of the State EMS grant money. He thinks it is a project that has a good chance for those funds and that will get them one step closer to that project. The other thing is the Department's Training Division has asked to apply for monies to help fund an on-line training program which will help not only do

training from the Department but also, over their network which they can access from stations and it will also track their continuing education units (CDU). The next thing would be the FEMA grant they would like to go after for E-5. They cannot go for the station, however, if they can go for the trucks being paid for, that would help them go a long way.

There are grants allowed for rural departments, however, this Department does not meet those requirements. Also, the County has an individual whose job is to go after grants for the County and she has offered help in the past to this Department and has been helping. He will double-check with her in the morning to see what is available for grants out there and he will report back to this Board December 14, 2005.

Commissioner Jacobs asked, what is the cycle on grants. How long are they awarded.

Chief Morrison stated, the cycle is an annual cycle on the FEMA grant, they take that entire year. From the close of application they award the money over the year. It may not be known if you've received the requested grant until the very end of the cycle.

Commissioner Raborn asked if the State of Florida has low interest loans or bond money for fire departments.

Chief Morrison stated, he can call County Finance but currently the leasing that is offered is below 4%. So there is low interest money out there, however, he does not believe there are any State funds.

Commissioner Jacobs asked where do they stand on the land they were looking at to build ST#5

Chief Morrison reported there's been no further development on that since the last time he talked to the Board.

They are looking at having Rescue 5 up not during this fiscal year but coming to the Board next fiscal year to get the manpower for Rescue 5 and having that as a forty (40) hour unit Day Car the first year. That will give them the 5th unit during peak times. Manning it for forty hours is much easier on the budget than manning it 24/7. It would be the year after that they would look to going to 24/7. As far as ST#5 land acquisition, they want to do that as soon as possible. They want to make sure that regardless when that station is built, that they have a spot for it, because there isn't much land left. They still have the two other parcels that are both County properties, which he would consider the back up to the land they are looking at, which he thinks is the ideal piece of property.

Comments of Commission

Commissioner Raborn - Thanks to the rank and file. Michele did a great job. Beautiful night

Friday night and the entire thing looked superb. Nice professional job.

Commissioner Biro - He was not able to make it Friday night because he was sick and he's heard nothing but good things about how it was put together for a second year and he's sure Michele will do just as good of a job if not better next year and years to come.

Commissioner Perreira - She had a wonderful time Friday night. It was really well attended, she could not believe how many people came out.

Commissioner Perreira would like to know if Chief Morrison knows anything else about the 12-Lead Cardiac monitors.

Chief Morrison said no. It has been approved by the County Commission and the Chief's office asked last week where the purchase order was and there seems to have been a disconnect between County Budget and County Purchase. They are asking the County Departments to get to the bottom of it. He was hoping to have a call from them today. He was talking to the vendor today and they are waiting on the purchase order. He hopes to have a call from them today and have the purchase order to the vendor this week.

These are put into the field as 3-Lead EKG. Rather than training the rank and file on an entirely new platform and 12-Lead at the same time, they are going to put them in the field as 3-Lead EKG. While doing the 3-Lead training, they are making arrangements for both of their Training Officers to go to "Train The Trainer" classes for 12-Lead, but he has let them know Commissioner Perreira is interested in coming in and helping them train and they are looking forward to working with Commissioner Perreira.

Commissioner Jacobs - It was a good time at the Lighting Ceremony and it was nice to see power at work out there because nothing moved and nothing happened until that was done. It was nice to watch something like that.

Commissioner Panozzo - He agrees the Lighting Ceremony was a great success. He is glad they got the cakes this year from Wal-Mart. They were decorated very nicely.

Open Forum

Nothing.

Motion

Commissioner Biro made a Motion to adjourn the Commission Meeting. Commissioner Perreira seconded the Motion. The Motion carried unanimously.

The Commission Meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Gene Panozzo, Chairman

Michele B. Stevens, Recording Secretary