

Spring Hill Fire Rescue  
Commission Meeting  
December 12, 2001

**Present:** Chairman Kanner, Commissioner Andrews, Commissioner Hollander, Commissioner Martin, Commissioner Panozzo, Interim Chief Morrison, and Attorney Salzman

**Call to Order**

Chairman Kanner called the Commission Meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**Invocation**

Rev. Clemons gave the invocation.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

Chairman Kanner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Board's Presentation to Mrs. Harry Painter**

Chairman Kanner and Steve Aanonsen, President of the Fire Police Association, presented a plaque to Mrs. Painter in memory of her late husband Mr. Harry Painter, in appreciation for his eighteen years of faithful service to the Spring Hill Fire Rescue District, the Volunteer Association Inc., and Volunteer Fire Police.

**Presentation of Plaque to Angelo Liparito**

Steve Aanonsen presented Angelo Liparito, Maintenance Technician who has retired, with a plaque in appreciation, and recognition for eighteen years of faithful service to the Spring Hill Fire Rescue District, the Volunteer Association Inc., and Volunteer Fire Police.

**Consent Agenda**

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

**Motion**

*Commissioner Andrews made a Motion to accept the Consent Agenda*

*Commissioner Hollander seconded the Motion*

Chief Morrison stated the County is still having difficulty with their new software, and we have yet to get access to the software from our buildings. Any reports that we get the County has to fax over. At the last meeting the Board received two versions of the Bill Explanation sheet, they titled them Expenditure Transaction Analysis and Check Register-Disbursement Fund, has the Board made a discussion to which one they prefer?

Commissioner Panozzo arrived at 7:10 p.m.

The Board agreed on the Check Register Bill Explanation sheet.

*The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).*

### **Report of Counsel**

Attorney Salzman reported that he contacted a Law firm who has expertise in litigation concerning sinkholes, he will try and have them come out to look at the sinkhole, and find out what will be appropriate action to take. This Law firm will analyze what they think would be potential, as far as whether we have to sue the insurance company, and he will come back to the Board with this information.

### **Chief's Report**

#### A. Copier Lease

Chief Morrison reported that the copier lease they have currently expires this month. Two companies left their copier as a demo for the Staff to use and decide which one they preferred. There are three different copies available, Lanier is the company that they currently use, the Staff's opinion was for the Lanier, this one would come in at \$306.93 a month. The other copier, EGP Inc., would be \$356.20 a month. Staff recommended entering a lease with Lanier. The copier at station four in which the Captains, Lieutenants and Inspectors use is no longer serviceable, Lanier has agreed to take our old copier back and replace it with a new one for Station 4.

### **Motion**

*Commissioner Martin made a Motion to go with Staff recommendation for the Lanier copier as information was provided before them.*

*Commissioner Andrews seconded the Motion*

*The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).*

#### B. Cell Phones - Nextel

Chief Morrison stated they currently use Alltel as a provider, but have received many complaints from the field, he is not happy with their service either. The equipment that they are using now is in disrepair, they are using bag phones from years ago, and the numbers are worn off of handsets, it is time to replace them. He has talked to other Departments in the area and around the State and has heard good things about Nextel. They had a State Government representative, provide four phones for a two-week period on a trial basis, which they tested. Nextel also has an advantage, it is not only a cell phone, but it has a phone to phone radio style communication available. The feedback was positive from those who used the Nextel phones. He would like to change the current configuration of the phone system that they have now, and disburse the phones so that the Chief's in the Department, Captains, Rescue Units, Mechanic, have a cell phone this would cover their current configuration. He would also like the Hydrant personnel, Inspectors and the Supply personnel to have one, but that would be a spare. The last cell phone would be for Dispatch, as a central location for times when people cannot get through to Dispatch on the radio. The monthly cost of these cell phones would be \$584.87, which includes long distance and each phone comes with 200 minutes, and this would go into one pool.

**Motion**

***Commissioner Hollander made a Motion to accept the Nextel plan.***

***Commissioner Martin seconded the Motion.***

The Board discussed insurance, replacement and some other issues on cell phones.

***The Motion carried unanimously(5-0).***

C. Budgeted Portable Radio purchase

Chief Morrison stated that the budget for this year was to purchase four portable radios with headsets. The budget was set at \$8,600, he recommended that the Board authorize a purchase order for four portable radio's and four vehicle chargers for \$8,224, to Motorola in that amount. As far as the headsets, there are a number of different styles available, but if the Board authorizes the radios, he will purchase one headset and one adapter and see how well it works. If these do work, we can purchase the other three, this will come out of the operational line.

**Motion**

***Commissioner Martin made a Motion to follow Staff recommendation for the purchase of four Portable Radios and one Headset to see if it is desirable. If so, will be authorized to order three more.***

***Commissioner Panozzo seconded the Motion***

*The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).*

D. Update on sinkhole

Chief Morrison stated the Engineer's report shows when they did the drilling it was bad news, there were open voids under the building. When they did additional ground penetrating radar studies throughout the building, they found anomalies at the 8 to 10 foot mark underneath the interior slab itself. They recommended the same type of grout inject holes about every 8 feet around the perimeter of the building, 6 to 10 injection points in the interior of the building, and 6 to 10 injection points on either ends of the aprons. The engineers firm recommends that they go to three companies with their report and ask them to come up with a fix, what they would recommend to do and how much they would charge for that. The Engineer's firm is recommending that we retain them to oversee the job. The ball park figure is \$65,000.

Chairman Kanner asked Counsel if this is where they have to give the insurance company the option to take action or lose the account?

Attorney Salzman stated that he feels they will get the advise from the other firm, but he would assume based on the information, their insurance company should alter their position. Either way, pay up front and then go after the insurance company for the reimbursement. This is a potential emergency situation and it needs to be taken care of, there are health and safety issues here which are primary and they know what was going on.

Chief Morrison stated now that they are getting into this type of dollar figure, they must proceed cautiously. All Coast Engineering have been very responsible, they explained their reports and it all seems to make sense. However, he would like to get some references on the company. He has a good feeling about them, but if they want to oversee a job of this size, he would like to get some solid commercial references from All Coast. If they are over seeing the job, then it would be the process of getting at least three drilling companies to come in and bid on the job. The recommendation on the report is that the drilling companies have the experience of fifty drilling jobs in the past, he wants to use people that know what they are doing. There are some things that he has taken the liberty to cover in case of emergency.

Commissioner Hollander asked if the engineer gave any cautions about putting heavy equipment in that building?

Chief Morrison stated not in the building itself, only on the North corner of the building until the hole is filled.

Commissioner Martin stated there is one more issue to address, looking at the County purchasing manual Section 060B, under Emergency Purchases. It states that in the event that a County Official, Board, Department Head or employee determines that an emergency exists which requires the immediate purchase of an item, the contract or purchase order may be awarded

regardless of the amount of expenditure Ordinance. However, if the expenditure exceeds \$15,000.00 the circumstances surrounding the purchase shall be presented to the Board of the County Commissioners for its ratification by resolution at the earliest possible date. Are we to assume that this is, and this isn't an emergency situation?

Attorney Salzman stated first off he would have to question whether or not this is a purchase, under the County's definition of a purchase. What we are doing is getting a consultant, which is the engineer (a Professional Service Contract), the activities that they may recommend, may be under that purchase situation in a emergency situation. As it was stated under the Emergency situation, over \$15,000.00 all you are doing is bringing it back to the County to ratify it under a resolution. He feels that is not a problem.

Chief Morrison stated that they would be following the purchasing policy because we would be going out and getting three written bids on the work to be preformed. We would be following that up with the engineer and they said two weeks at \$4,800 to oversee the project, so that is underneath our guidelines, as far as we need to get written bids. He will call the County finance department and get some input. He had spoken to a couple of the County Commissioners and the County Administrator, they had nothing but support for what we are doing here.

Attorney Salzman stated the fact of the matter is, they are aware of the situation. Normally, your concern is when it is a surprise situation and they question what you are doing, as to try and get around the purchasing policy, but here they know, as everyone does, that sinkhole one day there is no problem and two days later you have a huge hole. So, we wouldn't be able to do any thing other then an emergency situation.

The Board discussed some minor details on the sinkhole matter.

Chief Morrison stated the direction from what he was receiving from the Board was to continue on the same path they are on. It is just a matter of getting proposals and references for the engineer.

The Board agreed if it was an absolute emergency the Chief would contact them.

E. Budget Amendment for sinkhole

Chief Morrison stated that the expenses include a little less than \$400 for the flowable fill that went into the hole, \$1600 for the study, \$250 for the gutters, and a little left over for more fill. This is \$2,600 that would come out of reserve for the contingents, and go into the maintenance of the building.

**Motion**

***Commissioner Panozzo made a Motion to go with staff recommendation on the Budget Amendment-0203.***

***Commissioner Hollander seconded the Motion.***

***The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).***

F. Training Overtime

Chief Morrison stated there are a number of training opportunities coming up, and he would like the authority to authorize training overtime when he feels it is for the betterment of the district. Over time last budget year, October, November was \$17,000 in overtime in operations. Same period this fiscal year even with an employee out on workers compensation was \$10,000, we have drastically reduced the overtime being used in the department. There are a couple of opportunities coming up shortly, Brooksville will be burning down a house at the end of the month and has offered to let us use that house for Thermal Imaging training for three days this month. There is an employee who works part time in Brooksville that he would like to over see the training, but it would take some over time for that. One of the Captains has been doing training with the Level-C Bio-Hazard suits for three shifts, because he wanted that training done, he had authorized over time for him. The current policy of not being allowed to give overtime to get the training needs met when that special training item comes up, is pretty constraining.

Chairman Kanner asked if this over time is solely for training?

Chief Morrison stated yes it would be solely for training purpose.

Commissioner Martin asked if there is an estimated dollar figure for this over time?

Chief Morrison stated he can not see it going over \$1,000 a month. He can see months of not using it at all. It is just when opportunities come up, it would be nice to move forward and not have to wait for a Board meeting.

**Motion**

***Commissioner Hollander made a Motion to accept Staff recommendation for training over time.***

***Commissioner Panozzo seconded the Motion.***

Commissioner Martin asked when will the dates be for this training of Thermal Imaging?

Chief Morrison stated it would be on December 18, 19, and 20. He will furnish the Board with the addresses and bunker gear and invited all of the Board to come if they would like to. The Board would get to see the Thermal Imaging in action.

The Board discussed some issues in regards to the County Wide Hazmat Fund.

Chief Morrison stated currently our ordinance stands that the county cannot charge for the man hours for Hazmat incidents, they can only charge for materials used. Emergency Management is in the process of working with the county attorney to rewrite that ordinance which would cover our department also.

Chief Morrison proceeded to update the Board on their insurance company VFIS, which they will be getting a quote from them, and another company. The policy that they have now with VFIS will expire in January 2002, and as soon as he receives those quotes he will notify the Board, but it will require a meeting to vote on which policy to go with.

Chairman Kanner stated to backup to vote on the Motion to accept the Training of overtime.

***The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).***

Commissioner Hollander stated he would like to make a recommendation on point of order, that in the future when they do a vote, after we are though with the discussion and you vote that is it the discussion is before the vote and you move on.

Attorney Salzman stated that he disagrees on the point of order. What the Board should have is a report, then make a motion, second motion, then have your own internal discussion and then vote. What happens here is, the Board has additional questions, those questions should come before the motion. Any additional questions should be in reference to the motion.

Chairman Kanner stated that you cannot have conversation between the motion and the second motion. Once you have the second motion then you can have a discussion.

Attorney Salzman stated what should be done is Staff gives the Board a presentation, then the Board makes a motion, then a second motion, then discuss anything you may have, then vote.

### **Unfinished Business**

#### **A. Status of projects**

Commissioner Martin stated that he was glad to see that the Chief has gotten some of the past issues caught up.

Chairman Kanner asked about the project of the range hood at Station 4?

Chief Morrison stated there are a number of things in the current budget that are capital projects that he could add to this.

Commissioner Martin stated some of the projects were discussed and approved in the past, but for whatever reason were not finalized. Realizing that we just had a change with Chief's, some projects were in the process of being worked on ,but the status may have not been know by both parties. He just wants to shrink the list as much as possible, because he does not foresee in the new year having the luxury of time to carry some projects on. If there is a funding issue and need to postpone or element that project, then this is what has to be done. He sees a lot of the past projects done already.

Commissioner Hollander asked about the money they had put in the budget a while ago for security in the lobby and locks?

Chief Morrison stated he is in the process of trying to get quotes for that project. He has contacted ten vendors, they received two quotes, but he would like to get a third before he presents it to the Board.

Commissioner Panozzo stated he would like the Board to be presented with a list of Status of Projects on the first meeting of the month.

Chief Morrison stated he would do that for the Board.

#### B. Discussion of Fire Police

Commissioner Martin stated that earlier this month there was a meeting and they elected new officers so there is going to be some changes in the Fire Police. He went to a luncheon for the Fire Police and he received a little feedback with some of their concerns. As we discussed a couple of meetings ago Commissioner Kanner has volunteered to conduct some of the training and Sheriff Nugent has also offered his services. So once we get into our first or second meeting of January we will probably start looking at getting those things scheduled and functioning between the Fire Police and the Board. It is not his intent to try and run their organization, just basically keep the rest of us advised as to what is going on and lend them a hand wherever we can.

#### C. Schedule Policy and Procedures workshop

Commissioner Martin asked for a brief five minute break to get some copies of a calendar for January and February for workshop planning.

The Board returned from break at 8:30 p.m.

Commissioner Martin stated that the Board should bring a planner at every meeting in case something should come up. The Board needs to schedule a Policy and Procedures workshop

Commissioner Panozzo stated that the first workshop should be in regards to the Chief and the

Assistant Chief's position. Then schedule the Policy and Procedures, and Training Officers, and there will be a few workshops coming up.

The Board agreed to schedule a workshop on January 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. concerning the position of Chief and Assistant Chief.

Commissioner Panozzo stated that they need a Policy and Procedures workshop.

The Board agreed to schedule a workshop on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 6:30 followed by the Commission meeting.

Commissioner Panozzo stated that on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, of January the Board can discuss when to schedule a workshop for the training position.

### **New Business**

Chairman Kanner stated that the Board will not meet for the next scheduled meeting on December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001, there is a question of changing Insurance Companies that has to be done prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002, being that they are not going to have a second meeting, he would like to give the Chief the authority to change Insurance companies and select one to go with. Before he makes any decisions, get in touch with Attorney Salzman. The Board can ratify it at the first meeting in January.

Attorney Salzman stated to clear this up a bit, they would tell the insurance company that the Chief is recommending them, but subject to the Board's approval. For any reason we have to call an emergency meeting we can have one.

### **Comments of Commissioners**

Commissioner Andrews stated he appreciated the invite to the Fire Police's luncheon, but he was out of town and was unable to attend. He also stated that he is not getting all of his pages, he has been having this problem for awhile. The last issue is, on the December 4<sup>th</sup>, he had taken off from work to be here for the State Attorneys meeting, which was canceled. He was not to happy about that, because he missed a whole days pay from his job.

Attorney Salzman stated that he apologized to Commission Andrews, he acted directly to what the State Attorney told him, which was to make sure all five Commissioners were present, and schedule it. When they got in on the first meeting, that is when they decided they only needed to talk to two Commissioners. He apologized, but he only acted as he was directed.

Commissioner Hollander had nothing to report.

Commissioner Martin had nothing to report.

Commissioner Panozzo asked about the letter to Chief Morrison in regards to a resident who wants a discount on his ambulance service, how did we handle it?

Chief Morrison stated he contacted the resident and explained to him that we would accept payments from him, and thanked him for the kind letter.

Commissioner Panozzo stated that we have an employee who has a wife that is very sick. From what he understands is, the hospitalization will not pay, or they paid the max and will not pay anymore. However, she needs rehabilitation and now she has to pay out of her own pocket.

Chief Morrison stated there are two employees that have wives that are very ill, but has not been made aware of that either one of them had any issues. He knows of one that had issues with an insurance company, that has been cleared up. If the other employee is having issues, he will contact him tomorrow and get an Agent on it.

Chairman Kanner wished everyone a Happy Holiday.

### **Open Forum**

There were no comments from the audience.

### **Motion**

*Commissioner Hollander made a Motion to adjourn the meeting.*

*Commissioner Panozzo seconded the Motion*

*The Motion carried unanimously (5-0).*

### **Adjourn**

Chairman Kanner Adjourned the Commission Meeting at 8:55 p.m.

---

Robert Kanner, Chairman

---

Joan Chiofalo, Board Secretary

