

**SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
May 14, 2008**

Chair Albert Olson called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

- Bob Jarman, John Jensen and Albert Olson.

OTHERS PRESENT:

Chief Steve Marler, Assistant Chief Brad Creesy, Lt. Noel Monin, Firefighters Kyle Davies and Hector Cyre, Administrative Assistant Carolyn Hudson, Mike Taylor, commercial loan officer with Whidbey Island Bank, and representing Roche Harbor, David Gibbs, Bob Ward and Brent Snow.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS: None.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- Vice-Chair Jarman **MOVED** to approve the minutes for April 9, 2008. Commissioner Jensen **SECONDED** the motion. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.
- Commissioner Jensen **MOVED** to approve the bills and payroll. Vice-Chair Jarman **SECONDED** the motion. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS: None.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **PRESENTATION FROM MIKE TAYLOR, COMMERCIAL LOAN OFFICER WITH WHIDBEY ISLAND BANK** – Chair Albert Olson said the proposed plan is to ask the voters for a 6-year lid lift to replace the Roche Harbor Station, complete Little Mountain Station and purchase one or two engines for a cost of about \$1.5 million to \$2 million. The District could then acquire a loan to make the improvements and then with increased lid lift pay off the loan. Mike Taylor gave the current interest rates as: 3.8 % for a 3-year loan, 4.15% for a 5-year loan, 4.47% for a 7-year loan, and 4.74% for a 10-year loan. Taylor estimated that the interest rate for a 6-year loan would be about 4.35%. There is also the possibility that the District could get two 3-year loans. Chair Olson estimated that the District would need a 15% to 18% lid lift to cover the loan or loans, which is about an additional 20 cents per \$1,000 valuation. Chair Olson

said there are disadvantages to bonds, the alternative to getting a loan. Selling bonds is expensive and generally bonds must be spent within a year.

Vice-Chair Jarman had a suggestion that if a group would like to build a Roche Harbor Station meeting the specifications of the Fire District, the Sheriff's Office and EMS, it could then be turned over to the San Juan Island Firefighters' Association. The Association could then rent it back to the three entities. Jarman said this model has worked successfully elsewhere. He said the benefits are that the building would be about 40 to 47% less costly to build because a private entity would not be required to pay prevailing wages and that the District would not have to come up with the initial cash to build it. Jarman said the key to the success of this model is that a strong Association is needed to operate it. Olson said the disadvantages would be that the District would be paying monthly rent and that the building would not be exempt from property taxes if it weren't owned by the District.

- **ROCHE HARBOR FIRE PROTECTION** – David Gibbs, Bob Ward and Brent Snow on behalf of the Roche Harbor residents inquired about how to improve fire protection and minimize home insurance premiums. Chair Olson said it would be ideal to lower the rating in the area from an 8 to a 6. Gibbs said the residents would like to know what the best way to invest their money is – fire flow lines, a manned station, an improved station, an added tender, etc. The residents will need to determine what level of service they want and what are they willing to pay for that service. The commissioners decided to invite a representative from the State Insurance Rating Bureau to discuss what would specifically be needed to lower the rating.

FIRE CHIEF/ STAFF REPORTS:

The Chief gave a report on the budget statement, the financial condition statement, the monthly fire calls and the fire marshal's office. The new C-2 is nearly completed with lights and sirens.

COMMISSIONER COMMENTS/REPORTS: No further comments.

BVFF/LOSAP COMMITTEE – The BVFF board approved the accident report for a firefighter injury from the Saltwater Lane structure fire. A firefighter cut his right hand on broken glass and got a tetanus shot for it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **The next regular meeting will be at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 11, 2008.** At 4:40 p.m., Vice-Chair Jarman **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Jensen **SECONDED** the motion. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Chair Albert Olson

Carolyn Hudson, Secretary