

BRIGETTE K. SMITH
Executive Secretary



STATE OF WASHINGTON

BOARD FOR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS & RESERVE OFFICERS

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February 16, 2007

The 205th regular meeting of the Board for Volunteer Firefighters and Reserve Officers was convened at 9:00 A.M. in Suite #112 in the James R. Larson Forum Building by Chair Richard Kistler with Board Member Ronald Ayres, Board Member Ken Boad, Assistant Attorney General Jerome Westby, Chief Stan Loertscher (Mason Co. FPD #13), Chief Jake Doty (East Pierce Fire and Rescue), Executive Secretary Brigitte Smith, Confidential Secretary Irene Keiffer, Benefit Specialist Julie Ikenberry, and Office Assistant Sandi Williams present.

The Board reviewed the January 19, 2007 minutes. It was moved by Ayres, seconded by Boad and carried that the minutes be approved as written.

The agenda was reviewed and Chairman Kistler asked that item #3 be moved to item #1. It was moved by Kistler, seconded by Ayres, and carried that the agenda be approved with the change.

FIRST HEARING OF THE PUBLIC

Chief Stan Loertscher, Mason Co. FPD #13, asked if the Board was going to discuss whether to increase the reimbursement for new volunteer physicals. Chair Kistler stated that it was on the agenda and the Board would be discussing it.

OLD BUSINESS

Assistant Attorney General Jerry Westby presented the Board with the settlement agreement in the Clifford Webley case. All issues in his case have now been resolved.

Chair Kistler took the opportunity to thank Jerry on behalf of the Board. Since this was the last time Jerry would speak before the Board before his retirement, the chair and other members wanted him to know how appreciated he was. Chair Kistler pointed out that he has been on the Board for 12 years and Jerry has always been the staff attorney in that time. Because of all of his years of hard work and dedication to the Board, Chair Kistler presented Jerry with an engraved crystal clock from the Board.

Confidential Secretary Irene Keiffer updated the Board on the status of the Grays Harbor #5 investigation. She provided copies of a letter of facts, findings, and recommendations. After reading the letter, the Board directed Secretary Keiffer to mail the letter to Grays Harbor #5.

Secretary Smith updated the Board on current legislation. She stated that the vocational rehabilitation bill was back on track. Billy and Kim Scarpete came from Whatcom County to testify, as did David Williams from Lewiston, ID (he has recently re-located to that area). Their testimony was excellent and definitely appreciated by the Commissioner's Association. The legislation to increase the Board to five members is still waiting for a hearing in the Senate, and the bill to allow buy-backs prior to the year joined is also waiting for a hearing. The legislation to add a COLA to the LODD benefit was still in the works, but has not passed out of both houses yet.

Secretary Smith informed the Board that she had not received any new comments regarding the standards since the last meeting. She did provide the Board with a letter that was received from the



Mason County Commissioner's Association that discussed that they were going to recommend that all departments in the county adopt a county wide standard that members would have to attend 25% of all drills in their department and 10% of all of their station's calls. The Board thought that implementing a county wide standard was a good idea and were anxious to see if all departments adopted the standard.

Secretary Smith updated the Board on what has happened so far with the Fire Service Leadership Forum Focus Group. Mike Brown, Executive Director for the Fire Chief's Association, shared his first draft of the group's recommendations with Secretary Smith and asked that she distribute it to the Board for their initial thoughts. After review, the members stated that the information would be helpful, and they would certainly look forward to the final draft. However, they were surprised because they thought there would be more of a resolution than what they saw in the draft. The draft appeared to be an informational letter about the standards, but they expected that more direction and a model standard would have been written.

Secretary Smith provided the Board with an informal email from Chris Jaspersen, Office of the State Actuary. In it, he stated that he felt the fund could probably handle an increase in the reimbursement of new volunteer physicals. However, that did not take into account any of the legislation that could pass this session. The sum total of all of the changes could affect the Board's ability to seek legislation to lower the retirement age next year, should it decide to do so. There was some discussion amongst the Board as to how much the Board should increase the reimbursement and whether now was the right time to do so. There was a suggestion from the guests that the Board could even consider reimbursing a percentage of the cost of a physical to encourage departments to seek a more detailed and in depth physical. Chairman Kistler thought that was a good idea, but could be problematic from an Actuarial standpoint. Secretary Smith stated that her staff could track the prices that departments are paying for physicals until the next Board meeting and that may help in setting a cost. After more discussion, the Board decided that this was an issue that they wanted to continue to look at, but any decision should be withheld until after this legislative session to see what other financial impacts take place. The Board asked Secretary Smith to make sure that it is placed on the agenda for the June meeting.

Secretary Smith informed the Board that she had talked some with the Fire Marshal's Office regarding their use of Survey Monkey. They said that it seemed to work pretty well and they thought they had a better response than they would have had they used paper surveys. She mentioned that one security measure could be a potential problem. To help ensure that multiple votes are not sent in by one person, the program uses cookies to make sure that only one vote comes from each computer. The concern with this is two-fold. There is nothing to prevent anyone from voting multiple times from different computers and firefighters would not be able to use their department's computers to vote because only the first person's vote would count and any other firefighters voting later from the same computer would be locked out. Secretary Smith stated that she planned on talking more with the IT Tech that actually used the program, but he was out of the office at training for another week. Once he returned, Secretary Smith would talk with him. The Board suggested that we could have the person taking the survey identify themselves as a chief, a commissioner, a firefighter, or a reserve officer. They could also state whether they were a part-paid or all volunteer department. Then the Board could analyze the data more closely. After much discussion, it was decided that Secretary Smith would use the trial version to create an electronic version of our annual customer satisfaction survey. Some members would get the paper version, and some would get directions to the website. That will give the Board and the staff a chance to judge the effectiveness and ease of use before committing to a larger survey.

The Board discussed the magnitude of the Grays Harbor #5 investigation and how hard Secretary Keiffer worked on it. They directed Secretary Smith to write a letter of commendation for Secretary Keiffer's personnel file.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board asked Secretary Smith if the Board had retained a private detective yet. Secretary Smith stated that the Board had not, but that the funds were available should one be needed. To date, the staff had not seen a need for one, but that may change in the future. If so, General Administration has some master contracts with private detectives that the Board could use.

Chair Kistler asked the members if the Board could move the June meeting due to a schedule conflict. It was moved by Kistler, seconded by Ayres, and carried that the June Board Meeting date be set for June 22nd.

The Board reviewed Secretary Smith's leave and pay records.

The Board reviewed and approved (Ayres moved, Boad seconded) the administrative expenditure vouchers numbered 1439-1453 and various travel vouchers.

There was a motion by Boad, seconded by Ayres, and carried that the retirement pensions and lump-sum settlements listed below be approved effective on the listed dates:

		<u>Effective Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Anderson, Judy R	Franklin CO #3	03/04/07	5656.63 Lump
Belknap, William C	King CO #45	10/25/06	66.50 @ age 65
Brannan, Elizabeth L	Lewis CO #8	01/01/07	300.00 @ age 71
Brown, Raymond E	Lewis CO #2	02/01/07	300.00 @ age 67
Burgdorf, Fredrick	Mason CO #5	01/04/07	J 138.86 @ age 65
Crandell, Irene	Klickitat CO #8	12/13/06	120.00 @ age 65
Davis, Mike G	Kent Fire Dept	12/09/06	J 190.66 @ age 62
Drew, Susan W	City of Westport	08/28/06	2320.75 Lump
Droter, Richard	Spokane CO #13	11/02/06	1540.27 Lump
Druffel, Richard J	Whitman CO #12	01/01/07	300.00 @ age 65
Farrelly, Michael	Spokane CO #12	01/01/07	240.00 @ age 65
Footh, John	Wahkiakum CO #3	01/01/07	280.00 @ age 65
Freel, Ed L	Omak Fire Dept	09/11/04	J 191.52 @ age 63
Gasho, Sandra L	Skagit CO #8	11/30/06	180.00 @ age 60
Gooley, James E	Lincoln CO #6	02/01/07	210.00 @ age 65
Hazen, Robert D	Lewis CO #3	05/01/07	228.00 @ age 62
Highberg, Walter K	Spokane CO #9	03/01/07	300.00 @ age 67
Jenn, Theodore R	Town Coulee Dam	11/01/07	J 108.61 @ age 60
Jones, Jerry L	Klickitat CO #3	12/21/06	257.60 @ age 64
Latimer, William	Lewis CO #6	02/27/07	228.00 @ age 62
Magnett, Leo	Skagit CO #7	12/11/06	3960.70 Lump
Malecki, James A	Grant CO #7	01/01/07	J 171.36 @ age 61
Malone, Daniel D	Douglas CO #7	12/25/06	136.80 @ age 62
McDowell, Thomas R	N Country EMS	01/01/07	J 258.60 @ age 65
McLanahan, Gerry R	City of Moses Lk	08/31/06	1 59.60 @ age 62
Meekins, George	Skagit CO #17	01/01/07	3577.89 Lump
Petersen, Katherine E	Lewis CO #1	01/30/07	228.00 @ age 62
Randall, Richard A	Klickitat CO #5	02/07/07	J 202.69 @ age 62
Ricks, John R	Thurston CO #11	01/08/07	212.80 @ age 62
Schrock, James	Town of Hartline	05/09/02	J 56.56 @ age 65
Sedlacek, Robet J	City of Newport	12/02/06	J 62.03 @ age 65
Spence, Richard D	Okanogan CO #2	12/31/06	3875.51 Lump
Van Hollebeke, Arnold	Franklin CO #2	12/21/07	J 135.77 @ age 65

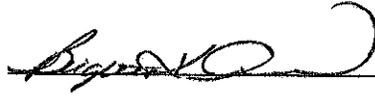
Wilson, Dale E
Wittmann, inger

City-Elec City
Island CO #2

02/20/07 J
01/01/07

191.52 @ age 62
67.62 @ age 63

There was a motion by Boad, seconded by Ayres, and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:00 a.m.



Brigette K. Smith, Executive Secretary