



MINUTES

**Holly Springs Fire-Rescue District
Commission Board of Fire Control
Tuesday, August 3rd, 2010
7:30pm**

A public meeting of the Holly Springs Fire-Rescue District Commission Board of Fire Control was held on Tuesday, August 3rd, 2010 at 7:30 pm. in the Social Hall of the Holly Springs Fire Department administrative building. Chairperson Ryan Phillips presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

List Present or Absent

Commissioners

Chairman Ryan Phillips - Present
Vice-Chairman K. Roscoe Kyle Jr. – Present
Commissioner Hugh Jackson. – Present
Commissioner Kelly Waters - Present

Administration

Asst. Chief W. Brent Blackwell – Present
Secretary Bonnie Fulton – Present
Captain Russell Hart - Present

Visitors

Attorney Ryan Langley

In compliance with the Freedom of Information Act, notices of this meeting were posted on district website, posted on public information board, & mailed to the local media or other interested parties that formally requested such copies.

Prior to the prayer, Commissioner Jackson announced to the gathering at large that Lee Jeffcoat had been hospitalized this evening, but as yet, no one knew why and to please keep him in our prayers. Invocation was rendered and the beginning prayer was led by Commissioner Hugh Jackson.

At this time, due to time constraints for Ryan Langley, Commissioner Phillips made a motion that the board go into executive session. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Board moved to executive session at 7:35pm.

Commissioner Phillips made a motion to move the board out of executive session and back into the general meeting at 9:10. Motion was seconded by Commissioner Waters. Vote unanimous. Motion Carried.

Agenda items were addressed out of order as indicated.

1. APPROVAL OF July 23rd, 2010 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Phillips asked Secretary Fulton to please read the minutes from the July 23rd meeting. Once read, Commissioner Kyle moved to approve the July 23rd, 2010 meeting minutes as read. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Phillips. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.

2. Unfinished Business

The following unfinished business was addressed and actions listed:

- **Update on status of CPA quotes**

Lee, Broom, and McVee – quoted \$7K for the annual audit, \$5K for the review statement
Joe Hedrick – quoted - \$5K for the annual audit, \$2.5K for the review statement
Roger Duncan – quoted \$6-8K for the annual audit, \$3K for the review statement

Commissioner Phillips asked if they had fire department experience. Commissioner Waters responded Yes. Commissioner Phillips also asked what a review statement was and Commissioner Waters replied it was for the six month period left from last year

Commissioner Phillips asked if any of these gave us a paper quote and Commissioner Waters replied that Lee, Broom and McVee had.

Commissioner Phillips also asked if any of these CPA's had provided the kind of experience and length of experience that they had been involved with fire departments. Commissioner Waters replied No. Commissioner Phillips requested a kind of resume from these offices that would indicate in detail their experience with fire departments. Commissioner Waters responded that she would ask.

Commissioner Phillips asked Commissioner Jackson if he knew how much the department had paid in the past for the audits. Commissioner Jackson responded that he thought the department had paid \$2500.00. Commissioner Phillips had thought it had been \$6000.00.

- **Update on status of attorney quotes**

Commissioner Waters reported that without more specific information about what was needed, they could not give us a quote.

Before we move forward, Commissioner Jackson reported that he had several people asking him questions regarding the rollback of the millage rate. He went to someone he felt was an expert and received the following explanation. 2008 was a rollback year, but due to a deficit in 2007, we requested no rollback and it was approved. By law, the millage will stay at 18% until 2012. It cannot be altered. If this is true, then Commissioner Jackson feels that our current budget is flawed. Commissioner Phillips stated that Commissioner Jackson had just voted on minutes that discussed that very thing. Commissioner Phillips also asked if Commissioner Jackson could bring proof of this fact to the next meeting. Commissioner Jackson replied that he would see what he could do.

3. Committee Reports and Department Reports

- N/A

4. New Business

- **Changing SOPS's to SOG's** – Commissioner Kyle motioned that this be removed from the agenda for the time being, to give A/C Blackwell time to discuss with the officers. Commissioner Waters seconded. Vote was unanimous, Motion carried.
- **Changing responsibilities of the Board and Chair Person** – Commissioner Kyle made a motion to postpone this item. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- **Executive Session to discuss Chief, Book Keeper, budget, & personnel** – already done.
- **Vote on Chief's severance package** – Commissioner Kyle made a motion to accept the package with the noted changes. Commissioner Waters seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried. Commissioner Kyle made a motion to make Commissioner Phillips responsible for signing the document with the attorneys. Commissioner Jackson seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- **Vote on bookkeeper** – Commissioner Phillips made a motion to hire Kenneth Everham as an interim book keeper to get the process started. Several community members raised questions concerning the lack of public information in terms of quotes submitted for this position. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Kyle. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- **Vote on budget** – Commissioner Phillips made a motion to remove this item at this time until we have further information. Commissioner Waters seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- **Vote on Personnel** – Commissioner Phillips made a motion to put Assistant Chief Blackwell in as Interim Chief for a period of 90 days. Commissioner Waters seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion carried.
- **Vote on changing responsibilities of the Board and Chair Person** – already postponed
- **Vote on changing SOP's** – already postponed.

5. Finance Reports

- N/A

6. Citizens Agenda – scheduled to speak

- **Cindy Yarborough**
Ms. Yarborough asked if any decisions had been made about fundraising. For example, had they reconsidered the Picture Drive? Commissioner Phillips explained that if the Picture Drive was restructured in such a way that the board was more comfortable with it, they would be happy to re-instate it. They would be happy to look at a proposal that they could vote on.

Ms. Yarborough then asked if the board would consider re-instating the insurance billing. Commissioner Phillips responded that if a presentation was made that could clarify some of the questions the commissioners had, they would consider re-instating it.

- **Susan Thomas** – read a statement asking the commissioners to resign. None of the commissioners wished to do so. Mrs. Thomas also stated that if the commissioners refused to resign then the people of Holly Springs would hold them, as well as the delegation that appointed them, personally responsible for the health and well being of our community.
- **Terry Ledford** – Mr. Ledford asked the commissioners what Interim Chief Blackwell received in the way of a pay increase. Commissioner Phillips responded that as this is just an interim position and nothing has as yet been finalized, that this is something we need not discuss. Mr. Ledford then asked if an Interim Assistant Chief had been appointed. Commissioner Phillips responded that the issue had not yet been discussed.

Mr. Ledford then asked what the cost of the bookkeeper was. Commissioner Phillips responded that he would be paid \$21.50/hour. He further explained that the Commissioners are having trouble finding anyone with fire dept experience. Mr. Everham is the only person they have heard from with fire dept experience and that was why he was chosen for an interim period. Mr. Ledford asked how the commissioners had heard from him. Commissioner Phillips stated that Mr. Everham already works for the N. Spartanburg fire dept and he contacted them. Many citizens vocalized the fact that they felt like this was a conflict of interest.

- **Frank Thomas** – read a statement concerning Commissioner Waters personal property tax status. Mr. Thomas questioned why Commissioner Waters only had to pay \$47.00 in property taxes. Commissioner Waters responded that she did not set the taxes. Mr. Thomas then asked if she did not feel that she should question why her taxes were so low. Commissioner Waters again stated that she had nothing to do with setting her taxes. Mr. Thomas then asked that ethically and morally that she should have questioned more about her taxes, since she is a licensed real estate agent. Commissioner Waters tried to explain that her husband is on disability. Mr Thomas replied that Ken Clark, who is blind and is on disability, pays a lot more in taxes than Commissioner Waters does. At this point, Commissioner Phillips stated to Mr. Thomas that Commissioner Waters had already answered his question. Mr. Thomas responded that she had not.

7. **Adjournment & Closing**

Chairperson Phillips adjourned the meeting at 9:45pm. Citizens and Firefighters asked if they were allowed to ask questions as is the norm with these meetings. There was no response from the Commissioners.