



MINUTES

**Holly Springs Fire-Rescue District
Commission Board of Fire Control
Tuesday, May 1st, 2012
7:00pm**

A public meeting of the Holly Springs Fire-Rescue District Commission Board of Fire Control was held on Tuesday, May 1st, 2012 at 7:00 pm. in the Clara W. Edwards Community Center of the Holly Springs Fire Department administrative building. Chairperson Lee Jeffcoat presided. The following members were present or absent as indicated:

List Present or Absent

Commissioners

Chairman Lee Jeffcoat - Present
Vice-Chairman Robby Golightly – Present
Commissioner Jerry Jackson. – Present
Commissioner Roger Hall – Present
Commissioner Scott Yarborough - Present

Administration

Chief Brent Blackwell – Present
Secretary Bonnie Fulton – Present
Accountant Ken Everham - Present

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.

Invocation was rendered and the beginning prayer was led by Mrs. Clara Edwards.

Agenda items were addressed out of order as indicated

1. APPROVAL OF MARCH AND APRIL 2012 MEETING MINUTES

Commissioner Jeffcoat asked to hold off on approving the minutes as not all the Commissioners had a chance to read them.

2. DISTRICT OPERATIONS REPORTS

Financials : Brief presentation by Mr. Everham with reports presented to Commissioners via email.

Chief's Report : Fain Hawk to start roof repairs this week. Committee set up by Fireman to head up organizing Fourth of July Event. Jeremy Dunning heading up committee. Normal cost is approximately \$2500. Currently accepting donations and seeking sponsors.

3. OLD BUSINESS

ByLaw Revision – 2nd Reading: Discussed removing Emergency Section. Also discussed section on Board duties during Chief's absence. Chain of command should be followed.

2012-2013 Budget Reading – 2nd Reading: Captain Melton went line by line explaining everything. Board asked for community feedback.

Unknown citizen (lady with white hair) – Thanked department for all they do.

Brenda Ledford – Thanked the department for all they do.

Larry Fowler – He has no complaints with the department except the amount of spending they do. He believes the department wastes money.

Several comments made at the same time, unable to identify who or what was said.

Kenny Clark – Asked if department did a millage increase, how much would the cost be on a \$100K home? Response from Commissioners – approx. \$100

Larry Fowler – Rumors aren't helping in the community. Asked if any of the Commissioners had their physicals paid for by the department. Response – Yes, Commissioner Jeffcoat had his physical done so he could run calls.

Terry Ledford – Asked how old the deficit was that was in the budget. Response – Current deficit is one year old, however, we have always run a deficit.

Mary Lu Elias – Asked what other options there were to reduce the budget. Response – We have made some changes but there is currently no reserve. We need to find a way to get a reserve.

Mr. Bradley – Department needs to control spending and reduce the deficit.

Commissioner Yarborough – There have been lots of cuts made including to payroll. Firefighters have agreed to a cut in pay without any complaint.

Commissioner Hall – Thinks we should look at cutting staff on weekends during the winter when weekend calls diminish.

Terry Ledford – There was a reserve contingency started in 2008. What happened to it? Previous board combined all accounts into one, effectively discontinuing reserve.

Sherry Tate – Asked who would have control of the reserve. Response – all 5 members of the board.

Clara Edwards – Respects the entire board and thinks the community should pray for them.

Kenny Clark – Asked if the department had a line of credit. Response – No.

Commissioner Yarborough – Does the community know of a way or suggest a way for the department to raise money? Response – No Comment

Scott Tate – Asked if a reserve would help the budget. Response – No

UNKNOWN – Next year we complete a loan and that will free up some money.

Commissioner Hall – commented on the fact that there is money that will be coming in (late taxes, etc) but we can't include that in the budget as we don't know how much of it is in fact coming in.

Sandra McMakin – Asked if the department had to pay the legal fees from last year. Response – yes. Commissioner Hall stated that whatever decisions this board makes will have to be upheld by next board, therefore, whatever decisions the previous board made will have to be upheld by this board. We do have to pay the legal fees. We are under a contractual obligation.

Robert Scott – Could the ISO rating get worse? Response – Yes, if manpower gets cut too much. Mr. Scott would rather pay more taxes than have ISO get worse.

Mary Lu Elias – Asked when our next ISO review is. Chief said it could be anytime, we don't know.

Bob Hargett – recommended a \$500 incentive to bring budget in line.

Jane Price – Feels this situation is clearly too emotional. At every level of government it's tax and spend. She is opposed.

Cindy Yarborough – No one has come up with an answer or solution from the community. Bickering needs to stop.

Terry Ledford – Will support the department and an increase in taxes so the community will be protected.

Larry Tate – worked in IL in 1963 and made good money. For those with money a tax increase is great.

Vicky Finley – Wants community safety more than worrying about money.

Robert Scott – Gave example of 1st Response w/EMS 25 minutes away – feels the tax increase is worth it.

Vicky Finley-gave another example of 1st Response

Jane Price – Concern is for the community, the impact of the millage rate on the community, economy has caused too many issues, suggests a line item visit to cut.

Commissioner Golightly – Proposes returning to a millage rate of 18mils like the community had voted for. It would be tight but we could make it.

Commissioner Yarborough – has no issue returning to 18mils, the problem is being sure that the money is spent responsibly.

Sherry Tate – thinks we should only look at 18mils if we are going to put it in reserve. Put it in reserve next year and use it the 1st year.

Cindy Yarborough - Asked what wasteful spending was?

Sherry Tate – Responded that it would take too long to go through.

Ken Everham – Made suggestions that include Charging EMS a usage fee, deferring a loan payment, or enacting Act 388 (would clear the deficit in 1 year).

Board Response – EMS has had budget cuts as well, making a usage fee unlikely.

Ken Everham – Read a paragraph from Act 388 outlining what could be done.

Terry Ledford – If we had a major catastrophe (a truck broke down), do we have the money to cover it? Response - No

Bobby Lee Golightly – It's time to decide and vote

Commissioner Jeffcoat – Wasteful spending is a matter of personal opinion. The board needs to talk to as many people as possible and get feedback. Missed calls or hurt staff are unacceptable.

****10 MINUTE BREAK ****

4. NEW BUSINESS - None

5. CITIZENS AGENDA

Kelly Waters – In regards to Pope Ziegler bills, the attorneys were legally hired as referenced to minutes and contracts given to board earlier this evening. Bills total \$21,300. Kelly referenced a phone call she says she made to Mr. Everham (who had already left) explaining to him where all this information was available. He was supposed to notify Commissioner Jeffcoat. Also given to board – Copy of Public Notice about budget – and the law about budget adoption including what is not in the budget. FYI only.

Highlighted – FOIA regarding Section 34.80, listed infractions and 2 possible violations, clear inconsistencies about notifications, the board is duty bound to be accountable to its constituents. Mrs. Waters is notifying all this as a word of caution.

Scott Tate – Asked Commissioner Jeffcoat if Commissioner called Chief David Ross at Gowensville FD on April 14th and if so was Scott Tate mentioned? Commissioner Jeffcoat responded that Mr. Tate may have been referenced. Then Scott asked if there was a conference call later with Commissioners Hall, Jackson and Jeffcoat concerning Mr. Tate? Also asked if there were calls made about Mr. Tate to take disciplinary action? And later was Commissioner Hall called? There have been several things implied, but no names mentioned.

At this time, Commissioner Hall stated that David Ross and 2 from Holly Springs (Roger Hall and Jerry Jackson appointed) should discuss this issue and work it out.

Scott Tate stated that if anyone has something to say to him, they should say it to him, not his Chief.

Mr. Bradley – in regards to FOIA, Caution – straighten things out.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- 7. ADJOURNMENT & CLOSING** Commissioner Jackson made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Golightly 2nd. Vote unanimous, Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:02.