

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 8, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
698 Second Street, Room 102

The audio file has been uploaded onto the Fire Commission Website at.
http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=133&clip_id=21767

President Stephen Nakajo called the meeting to order at 4:05 PM.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commission Vice President	Andrea Evans	Excused
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Present
Commissioner	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White	Present
Mark Gonzales	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Ray Guzman	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Dale Carnes	Airport Division	
Jeff Myers	EMS	
Ken Lombardi	Support Services	
Shane Francisco	Homeland Security	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Kevin Burke	Division 2	
Tom Siragusa	Division 3	
Staff		
Clement Yeh -	EMS Medical Director	
Mark Corso	CFO	
Jesusa Bushong	HR	

2. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Petrelis commented on the SFGOV TV presentation at the 12/16/14 Fire Commission meeting and said he hopes the Commission will embrace moving the meetings to City Hall as it's more convenient for members of the public to attend.. He also commented that something needs to be done about fire trucks responding to medical emergencies. He thinks the Department can look at other ways of getting workers to medical emergency situations without sending a fire truck. There is no need for a fire truck, an ambulance and a fire commander to show up to medical emergencies and that it is expensive.

3. RESOLUTION 2014-02 [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action regarding proposed Resolution 2014-02, pertaining to the goals of Walk San Francisco's Vision Zero Plan

Continued at the call of the President. To be rescheduled for the January 22, 2015 meeting.

4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES *[Discussion and possible action]*

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- a. Minutes from Meeting on October 23, 2014
- b. Minutes from the Special Meeting on December 9, 2014
- c. Minutes from the Special Meeting on December 23, 2014

Commissioner Hardeman Moved to approve the Minutes. Commissioner Covington Seconded. Motion to Adopt Minutes of Meeting on October 23, 2015 as amended, Special Meeting on December 9, 2014 and Special Meeting on December 23, 2014 was unanimous.

5. FIRE COMMISSION ANNUAL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE 2015 *[Discussion and possible action]*

Discussion and possible action to adopt the 2015 Annual Statement of Purpose.

Commissioner Covington asked that her fellow Commissioners pay special attention to Item 5 of the Annual Statement of Purpose, that reads “to encourage and support the administration to develop as part of its overall strategic planning effective career development and promotion opportunities for the membership.”

Commissioner Covington Moved. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. Motion to Adopt the 2015 Annual Statement of Purpose was unanimous.

Public Comment:

Mr. Petrelis asked where the document was and stated it would have been great to have the document available before getting up to the microphone. He added that he hoped in the new year the Commission will consider getting more of the documents on the website before the meetings.

6. REPORT ON FY 2015-2016 CAPITAL BUDGET *[Discussion and possible action]*

Report from the Department’s Chief Financial Officer on the Department’s 2015-2016 Capital Budget.

Mark Corso, CFO of Department, presented for the commissions review for approval, the Department’s Capital Budget submission. He stated it’s separate from the overall budget submission and continued with the background of the process. Attached is a copy of the PowerPoint. <http://sf-fire.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=3809>

Mr. Corso went on to describe the issues concerning the Department. He stated that the Department has over 50 facilities that it must maintain and unlike other city departments, people actually live in the fire house facilities 24 hours a day, they sleep and eat there. He added that most of the facilities are old and need updating and repairs and it’s through the Capital Budget process that the Department submits it budget to address these issues. He went on to describe the individual facilities that are in need of attention. He talked about the 2010 ESER Bond, the FEMA Grant, the 2014 ESER Bond which is the next round of general obligation bond funding for ESER program and the 2016 Health Bond, which they are working on with Capital Planning with a variety of city agencies. The big portion from the Fire Department’s perspective is a new EMS facility. He also mentioned that there is a third ESER Bond scheduled for 2020, and although it’s a few years away, it’s part of the overall planning of the ESER program.

There was discussion concerning the Chief's official residence which serves as the secondary operation center in the event of a disaster. The electrical system at this facility needs to be upgraded. The windows leak and they're starting to rot, and the building needs to be weatherproofed. The kitchen has not been upgraded since the 1950s, and there are no exhaust fans in the bathrooms.

Commissioner Covington that for Chief's Official Residence to be in such disarray is a concern to her, and she thinks it would be a concern to most of the people in the city who are concerned with preservation of such significant stock of buildings that are historic in nature and asked if the Department has a non-profit arm such as a 501(c)(3). Chief Hayes-White answered that there used to be a group called the "Friends of the SFFD", but her understanding was that it was abandoned around the time the Sunshine Ordinance was passed and there have been no such nonprofits since that time.

Commissioner Covington Moved to approve. Commissioner Hardeman Seconded. Motion to approve the 2015-2016 Capital Budget was unanimous.

Public Comment:

Michael Petrelis requested that the presentations be put on the website, that there is a real need for everyone out in the community to see this information. He mentioned that he knew nothing about the Chief's Residence until this meeting and he thinks the public will be surprised to learn that the Capital Budget is calling for \$630,000 to be spent on maintaining and upgrading that site. He was also happy that Commissioner Covington is raising the issue about getting the meetings on TV.

Shon Buford thanked Support Services for identifying the needs and bringing the presentation and the workforce to be able to assist and identify some of these things where the Department can move forward. He added that he hopes that the Department would open up to the station captains when moving forward and allocating some of the money so they could help, let them know what the priorities are for the members. He added there are a lot of things that need to be done so he hopes that there is an increase in the ask for the maintenance fee.

7. CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT'S REPORT [Discussion]

REPORT FROM CHIEF OF DEPARTMENT

Report on current issues, activities and events within the Department, including Fiscal Year 2014-2015 budget.

Chief Hayes-White reported since the last Commission meeting on December 16, 2014. She stated that they are in the midst of coordinating a budget committee and Commissioner Cleaveland has volunteered to sit on that committee, as well as 12 members comprised of a variety of ranks that expressed interest in also sitting on the committee and she is open to including all twelve to get their ideas. She touched briefly on the EMS workgroup memo that was prepared by Kate Howard, the Mayor's Budget Director that describes the progress being made. She added that she's anticipating sometime next month beginning an academy class and hoping to have 20 people in the class. Right now she has about nine H-3 Level 1 candidates going through the process, thanks to the help of Deputy Chief Jeff Myers and Jesusa Bushong. She described the hiring process of the per diem H-8 classification.

Chief Hayes-White acknowledged how proud she was of the Division of Training and how they were able to graduate 52 of 54 candidates on December 19th, 2014 and she

looks forward to having another class in the August timeframe based off the new Continuous Testing process.

She talked about the reversal of the Court's decision in the Danner v. CCSF case where 15 plaintiffs, some active some retired in the Department challenged the H-20 examination, based on age discrimination. The judge that heard the case determined that substantial evidence did not exist to support the jury's verdict that the 2008 H-20 exam was not job related, and accordingly, the court granted CCSF's motion for judgment notwithstanding the verdict.

Chief Hayes-White thanked everyone that was involved with the New Year's Eve planning, it was a very busy night but it was a manageable safe night. She acknowledged all the hard work of the command staff as well as all the men and women out on the streets that night.

Chief Hayes-White concluded with the announcement of the new Senior Stationary Engineer that will be starting on January 12, 2015.

Commissioner Covington thanked the Chief and was happy that the 12 members who volunteered to be a part of the budgeting process, will be accommodated. She also complimented the Division of Training and enjoyed the graduation ceremony, and asked if they would be asking for a big academy class for the future. Chief Hayes-White confirmed that they will probably ask for 54 again in the budget.

President Nakajo asked for clarification on the candidates that were notified that they passed the test. Chief Hayes-White stated they will be put on a list, and once the list is certified, it becomes "rule of the list" which means that everyone on the eligible list is considered equal and reachable. She added that because there are so many well-qualified candidates, she gives equal value to secondary criteria including education, experience, work in either the fire or EMS field ahead of time, community involvement and that sort of criteria.. Chief Hayes-White explained the components of the test and the threshold score is 75. For the folks that did not pass, they must wait 6 months before they can take it again.

Commissioner Hardeman expressed delight on the news on the lieutenants' exam Court ruling and was encouraged and delighted after reading the judge's analyses. It really clearly stated how she made her decision.

Commissioner Cleaveland inquired regarding the "Friends of the SFFD" and if it was abandoned because of Sunshine Laws. Chief Hayes-White confirmed that was her belief also.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONS

Report on overall field operations, the Bureau of Fire Prevention & Investigation, Airport Division, Emergency Medical Services and the Division of Emergency Communications,

Chief Gonzales Operations Report covered December 10, 2014 to January 6, 2015. He informed the Commission that there were two greater alarms and a third alarm and the companies did a great job. His report is attached: <http://sf-fire.org/Modules/ShowDocument.aspx?documentID=3808>

Chief Gonzales touched on some of the projects and activities they are working on, including H-8 per diem, operational procedures and training requirements and how they are going to be implemented. He added that they want to make an educated decision on how many FET's they need, to get to the 80 percent and make the system sustainable. He talked about the spike in calls they recently had. He also talked about EMS operations

and that Assistant Deputy Chief Myers is conducting H-3 Level 1 entry level screening interviews. He added that they are working with Support Services and Capital Planning on the EMS business plan and space requirements for a new EMS facility for Station 49. He acknowledged that 12 of the 19 ambulances have been delivered.

Chief Gonzales stated five members of the Arson Task Force have successfully completed training in the use of DOJ CLETS Record Data Base, which data base provides a resource that enables fire investigators access to conduct thorough and complete investigations for all fire investigations.

President Nakajo asked for confirmation on the total number of H-8 and the H-3 hiring that is projected for February. Chief Gonzales thought it was at least 20, possibly 26. He went on to congratulate Chief Williams for the fine job with the last graduating class. Chief Gonzales acknowledged the hard work of Mike Braun of Central Shops that got the ambulances ready and in the system.

There was discussion in terms of the private ambulances and their arrangement with the SFFD.

Commissioner Hardeman asked about the 26 million ESER Bond and Chief Myers stated that as they started the project moving forward when 2010 ESER Bond passed to put a new firehouse where the fireboats are, the Warriors were going to form a joint venture with us and put a stadium there, but now the Warriors will be building their stadium near the PSB and the Department is back to their original project, which will cost more like 35 million dollars by the time it's done. He added that they will stay in the same location and anticipates building out the back of the current firehouse, which is a historic landmark and building a new addition to that out the back and a longer pier that would house the fireboats and leave the operation right where it is currently.

8. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the January 22, 2015 regular meeting.

- Resolution for Vision Zero
- Election of Officers
- Discussion only Draft Budget

9. COMMUNICATIONS [Discussion]

(December 17, 2014 – December 31, 2014)

1. Letter from Local 798 to the Commission dated 12/17/14
2. Letter from Local 798 to the Commission also dated 12/17/14

10. ADJOURNMENT

President Nakajo adjourned the meeting at approximately 5:48 PM.