

SAN FRANCISCO FIRE COMMISSION

**FIRE COMMISSION REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES**

Thursday, May 28, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

698 Second Street, Room 102

The audio recording has been uploaded to the FC Website at:

http://sanfrancisco.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=133&clip_id=22910

President Evans called the meeting to order at 4:09 PM.

1. ROLL CALL

Commission President	Andrea Evans	Present
Commission Vice President	Francee Covington	Present
Commissioner	Stephen Nakajo	Present
Commissioner	Michael Hardeman	Excused
Commissioner	Ken Cleaveland	Present
Chief of Department	Joanne Hayes-White	Present
Mark Gonzales	Deputy Chief – Operations	
Ray Guzman	Deputy Chief – Administration	
Jeff Myers	EMS	
Dale Carnes	Airport Division	
Ken Lombardi	Support Services	
Shane Francisco	Homeland Security	
Dan De Cossio	Bureau of Fire Prevention	
Raemona Williams	Division of Training	
Assistant Chiefs		
Kevin Taylor	Division 2	
Matthew McNaughton	Division 3	
Staff		
Jesusa Bushong	Department Personnel Officer	

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

David Hall thanked the Department for the internship program that it has in place with City College of San Francisco Fire Academy. He added that he was a member of the 12th City College of San Francisco Fire Academy Class. He also stated that subsequently he interned with the Department last spring at Station 17 in the Bayview. He thinks that this is a fantastic program, unique to the City.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES [Discussion and possible action]

Discussion and possible action to approve meeting minutes.

- a. Minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 23, 2015
- b. Minutes from the Special Meeting on May 14, 2015

Commissioner Cleaveland Moved to approve the Minutes. Vice President Covington Seconded. Motion to Adopt Minutes of Regular Meeting on April 23, 2015 and Special Meeting on May 14, 2015 was unanimous.

There was no public comment.

4. PRESENTATION FROM DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ON 2010/2014 ESER PROJECTS

Overview and update on ESER Projects

Chief Hayes-White introduced Mr. Charles Higuera and thanked DPW. She added that they have been an excellent partner for a long period, particularly as it relates to the Earthquake Safety and Emergency Response Bond program (ESER). She acknowledged the Department liaison, Deputy Chief Lombardi who works very closely with Mr. Higuera and Mr. Sam Chiu.

Attached is the Presentation from Mr. Charles Higuera of the Project Management Unit of Department of Public Works. <http://www.sf-fire.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=4000>

Mr. Higuera proceeded to give a brief recital on the accomplishments of the 2010/2014 ESER bond programs. He talked about the scope, the budget and the schedule for the projects and the work that is underway, accomplished and proposed which is all outlined in the attached presentation.

President Evans thanked Mr. Higuera for his presentation.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked for clarification on ESER Bond money versus General Fund money when it comes to items like repairing plumbing, electrical or roofing problems. Mr. Higuera confirmed that those types of repairs would have to come out of the Department's General Fund and Chief Hayes-White concurred. Mr. Higuera explained that ESER Bond funds are applied differently from how general fund money is utilized. He stated that the ESER Bond money has a completely different set of rules on how that money is spent and different accountability, entities and processes. There is a citizens' general obligation bond committee that oversees how the DPW manages bond funds.

Commissioner Cleaveland also inquired as to the rebuilding of Pier 22 ½. Mr. Higuera answered that Pier 22 ½ is literally falling into the bay and he hopes it lasts as long as they need it and they are still in the process of developing an approach. He added that they have no intention of renovating the existing pier as it is inadequate, they are going to go ahead and replace the facility, somewhere near the current Pier 22 ½.

Vice President Covington thanked Mr. Higuera for his presentation. She asked if the selection of the artist is underway for Station 5, and whether the artwork that will be displayed at Station 5 would be viewed by the public. Mr. Higuera replied that the artwork will be visible from the street. He also acknowledged that Station 5 is scheduled for a total tear down and will be rebuilt and the duration of construction will likely be two years. Vice President Covington asked what the cause of disagreement is from the neighbors near Station 16. Mr. Higuera answered that construction is disruptive, noisy, dusty and messy and the neighbors do not like that. He added that the City has an interest in ensuring that all of its first responder facilities are sufficient to the purpose for which they are intended, and Station 16 is not up to standard. He added that it can't be modified as is, so they are compelled to replace it and it has caused disruption to the neighborhood. The Neighbors have filed a complaint, the Board of Supervisors denied the appeal and the complaint is currently scheduled to be heard before the Board of Appeals in June. He added that they will be working very closely to ensure that the neighbors understand why, what, and how they are doing to best minimize the disruption to their particular lives. Vice President Covington was glad to hear they were responding with outreach to the neighbors.

Vice President Covington asked about the replacement of tanks and generators. Mr. Higuera went on to explain the locations and replacement plans for underground storage tanks for fuel and safety purposes.

Vice President Covington stated that she would appreciate when it comes to work at Station 30, that they consider giving the Arson Unit the items that they have requested. Mr. Higuera stated he has been working through a number of those issues with Captain Darmanin.

Commissioner Nakajo thanked Mr. Higuera for this presentation. He added that he was impressed how well versed Mr. Higuera was in terms of all the details that he covered in his presentation. Commissioner Nakajo inquired about the timing of a potential 2020 ESER Bond in comparison to ESER 2010 and 2014

Mr. Higuera stated that they are preliminary dates. The City has a capital plan, which identifies all the infrastructure improvements, and it decides which of those falls within the context of the City's financial capability with general obligation bonds and which fall within the context of general fund financed work. Commissioner Nakajo confirmed that the 2010/2014 ESER Bonds were not just for the benefit of the Fire Department, it also benefited the police department and other public safety departments within the City. Mr. Higuera added that the needs of the Fire Department are considerable. Two bond measures have been passed and it's only begun to scratch the surface and it's within the discretion of the Department to increase the budget for Focus Scope funds. Commissioner Nakajo added that he is looking for advocacy of the Department and how that plays through a robust budget in terms of requests that can be made for operational improvements.

President Evans thanked Mr. Higuera for his presentation. She asked if work was still being done from the comprehensive evaluation that was conducted to determine what the needs were for the fire stations before ESER 2010 was approved and because 10 years have passed, will another update need to be conducted. Mr. Higuera answered yes, as far as it provides the initial context for what we understood of the condition of stations, but as we execute projects and get to know stations much more intimately than the initial survey allowed, we learned that either we did not know enough to inform our first opinion or we need to know more. We're going to reiterate that opinion from 2009 and continue to lean better insight into what the needs are, having done comparable projects at other locations.

President Evans asked how they plan on managing the scheduled closing of Station 16 and 5 at the same time. Chief Lombardi responded that although it's a unique situation and they have never built two firehouses at the same time, operationally they are still talking about that and if the Fire Department decides only to close one at a time, then they will push one of the those projects back. He added that they would never shut one of the companies down; they would just move the members to other firehouses. President Evans asked if the work currently being done on Station 49 was funded by ESER money. Chief Lombardi confirmed that it was not, it was coming out of the Department's general fund.

There was no public comment

5. 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 on issues since the last meeting of May 14, 2015. She was pleased to report that the Department has received some additional funding regarding the budget request. She announced that the two-year budget includes 35.7 million in new Fire Department enhancements. She added that the Department needs to be able to provide the service that we are accustomed to providing, particularly under challenging times with the growing population that we have. She acknowledged her appreciation of the support of the Commissioners on department issues, but specifically related to the budget. She also thanked the Budget Committee as well for their participation.

Chief Hayes-White acknowledged the partnership that they have with DPW, and specifically Assistant Deputy Chief Ken Lombardi for his efforts, under the direction of Chief Guzman for moving the Station 48 project along at record pace for the City. She also acknowledged the members of Station 48 who have been very patient during the project.

Chief Hayes-White also congratulated Rescue Captain Tony Dumont who was presented an EMS award at the ceremony held under the direction of the Department of Emergency Management during part of EMS week. She also congratulated the other recipients that received awards including former member Megan Corry who received the lifetime achievement award. She also acknowledged the 42 member EMT academy who all graduated on May 22, 2015.

Chief Hayes-White thanked President Evans for assisting her in the development of a strategic plan for the Department, and they have met with Union President Tom O'Connor regarding setting up a committee and rolling out a strategic plan sometime in 2016.

Chief Hayes-White announced the retirement of Assistant Deputy Chief Michie Wong whose last day will be June 5, 2015 and Dan De Cossio has taken over in interim Fire Marshal, while they find a permanent replacement.

Chief Hayes-White stated that regarding the H-2 process, she was happy to hear from the Mayor's Office that they will be getting a second academy class in January, and that will be in addition to a second class in 2017 and 2018.

Commissioner Cleaveland expressed the importance of knowledge of fire safety codes when selecting the next fire marshal. He stressed how critical it is for the fire marshal really know the codes well and he hopes those qualification are on the top of the list when the selection is made.

Vice President Covington asked the Chief about the survey the H-2 candidates are required to take, and how was she going to sort through it. Chief Hayes-White explained the results from the survey would probably be in a Excel format, and similar to what she had done in the past, is she will take a look at the list, go through the secondary criteria and select enough individuals to put 65 to 70 individuals through backgrounds. Of those folks that pass the background portion, she will take a look at ranking, in order to be able to select 40 to attend the next academy class.

Vice President Covington asked how the plans for the Department's 150 anniversary are coming along. Chief Hayes-White stated they are in the initial stages and she has met with David Ebarle who works for the Department of Emergency Management and is a member of the Guardians of the City. She added that she intends to designate a committee of an assortment of people from the Department, as well as some philanthropic types from outside the Department. Vice President Covington confirmed that that the target date for the roll out of the strategic plan is fall of 2016 with a committee consisting of approximately 12 to 15 members.

President Evans thanked the Chief for sitting down with Tom O'Connor to get the ball rolling on the strategic plan. She added that she was more optimistic that it can be done sooner, maybe Spring of 2016. She welcomed Captain De Cossio and thanked him for stepping in and helping while Chief Wong retires. President Evans expressed how fortunate she was to be able to attend one of the surf rescue demonstrations at Ocean Beach and she thought it was amazing. She also mentioned how delighted she and Commissioner Nakajo were to attend the graduation ceremony last week. She acknowledged that the vigorous interviews that Chief Myers put them through really helped.

Vice President Covington commented on how excited she was that 42 went into the academy and 42 graduated. She also wished to express her appreciation to her fellow Commissioners, Chief of the Department, Command Staff, members of the Department, and the Board of Supervisors who really pushed to get those enhancements through on the budget.

REPORT FROM ADMINISTRATION

Report on the Administrative Divisions, Fleet and Facility status, Finance and Support Services within the Department.

Chief Guzman gave his administrative report for the Month of May. He started by acknowledging Chief Lombardi, Captain Barbero, Acting Lieutenant Keven Kramer and Facilities Engineer Avo Sarkissian for the project taking place at Treasure Island with the replacement of Station 48 as well as all the ESER projects that are ongoing. He touched on the replacement of pump station number one that has begun at Fire Headquarters, and he anticipates that project lasting about a year. He added that 4.5 SCBA's have been installed on all of the ambulances and the members have been mask fitted and trained on the SCBA's. He stated that Arson Investigation has moved into the new Public Safety Building, Station 30 and they are reconfiguring Station 49.

Chief Guzman stated that the Division of Training graduated 32 fire reserves from the 26-week training program. He thanked President Evans for attending the graduation.

Chief Guzman touched on the update on the fireboat that is expected to be delivered next year.

Commissioner Cleaveland asked for an update on the reconfiguration of Station 49. Chief Guzman explained that they are adding a shower facility, more locker rooms and utilizing the extra space they now have since Arson has moved out. He added that they are still looking at other real estate to possibly relocate Station 49, but it is still up in the air. Commissioner Cleaveland also asked what impact the Department is expecting from the Superbowl. Chief Guzman answered that the Superbowl game itself won't impact the Department, it's the 8 days before the event that will impact the Department and Chief Francisco is working on a safety plan and the Department is working on securing a budget to staff the event.

Vice President Covington thanked Chief Guzman for this excellent update on the fireboat.

6. AGENDA FOR NEXT FIRE COMMISSION MEETING [Discussion]

Discussion regarding agenda for the June 11, 2015 regular meeting.

- Update on Bureau of Communications?
- Update from SFGOV TV folks?

There was no public comment.

7. ADJOURNMENT

President Evans adjourned the meeting at 5:49 PM.