

## **JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3**

PORT LUDLOW FIRE & RESCUE

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

**October 28, 2008**

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Commissioner Robert Pontius called the special Meeting of October 28, 2008 Board of Commissioners for Jefferson County Fire District No. 3, a.k.a. Port Ludlow Fire and Rescue, to order at 7:00 p.m. at Station 31 located at 7650 Oak Bay Road, Port Ludlow, Washington.

Commissioners present were Commissioner Robert Pontius, Commissioner Mike Porter, Commissioner David Wheeler, Commissioner Bill Hansen and Commissioner Gene Carmody. Administrative Staff present were Fire Chief Ed Wilkerson and Administrative Assistant Tanya Arey.

### **CALL FOR THE FLAG SALUTE:**

Pontius led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

### **CALL FOR APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Pontius called for approval of the agenda. **Motion:** Porter made a motion to approve the agenda as written. Hansen seconded. Motion carried.

Pontius stated that the Board of Commissioners would begin the meeting with an Executive Session for ten minutes to discuss the performance of a public employee. Pontius then stated that Arlene Obtinario would be given an opportunity to address the Board of Fire Commissioners', and then any public wishing to provide public comment would be allowed to do so. Following public comment the Board of Commissioners would have a discussion on the matter and then take action if called for.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Pontius called for a ten minute Executive Session at 7:03 P.M. Wilkerson remained with the Board in session.

### **CALL BACK TO ORDER**

Pontius called the Special Meeting back to order at 7:13 P.M. and stated that no action was taken in executive session.

Pontius asked Obtinario if she would like to address that Board and Obtinario stated that she supports the recommendation to eliminate the Position of Administrative Chief, but would like to continue employment here at Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue. She stated that she believed that her fourteen years as an employee of Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue show her value to the department and to the community.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Pontius then asked if there was anyone wishing to make public comment and opened the floor for same:

- Wayne Kier, former Fire Chief, spoke in support of Obtinario, and questioned if the Board had done due diligence in sharing an Assistant Chief/Training Officer with other districts in the county.
- Dave Gurnee, current volunteer, spoke in support of Obtinario.
- Norma Brewer, spoke in support of Obtinario.
- Leslie Love, spoke in support of Obtinario.
- Bill Eldridge, spoke to a negative experience in dealing with Obtinario.
- Raelene Rossart, current volunteer, spoke in support of Obtinario, and asked if Obtinario remained on administrative leave and if so, why.
- Sandra Flaherty, spoke in support of Obtinario, and asked the Board why Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue operates independently rather than cooperating with other districts.
- Lt. Wicus McGuffey, President of Local #3811, spoke in support of Obtinario personally and on behalf of the union.

Pontius stated that an attempt would be made to respond to questions raised by the public in writing.

Pontius closed public comment at 7:26 P.M.

#### **BOARD DISCUSSION**

Porter announced that this would be one of the hardest votes of his life, as he admires Obtinario.

Carmody stated that the expectations of the position of Administrative Chief were not being met for the last three years, and the department does not have the funds to sustain three Chief Officers.

Wheeler explained that Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue has needed an Assistant Chief since Kier left. He further stated that Obtinario may apply for any position that becomes available in the future if she meets the qualifications for the position.

Hansen noted that we needed an Assistant Chief when Wilkerson was hired. He became Chief due to Kier vacating the position and the District was left still needing an Assistant Chief. He then stated that while it is a difficult decision, the Administrative Chief role has not fulfilled the expectations of the Board.

Pontius stated that the Board has been looking to fill the Assistant Chief position since Kier was the Chief. He also stated that he has on a number of occasions had to tell both Kier and Wilkerson to go home, to avoid burnout. The Administrative Chief has not met the expectations.

**MOTION:** Carmody made a motion to cancel the Employment Agreement of Arlene Obtinario and instruct Wilkerson to give her the sixty day notice called for in her employment agreement. Hansen seconded. The Motion carried unanimously.

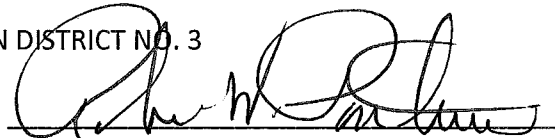
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Pontius called for adjournment at 7:35 P.M.

JEFFERSON COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 3

SIGNED:


BY:

  
Commissioner Robert Pontius, Chairman

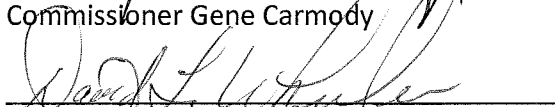
BY:

  
Commissioner Mike Porter, Vice Chairman

BY:

  
Commissioner Gene Carmody

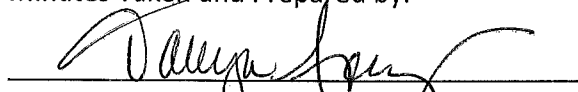
BY:

  
Commissioner David Wheeler

BY:

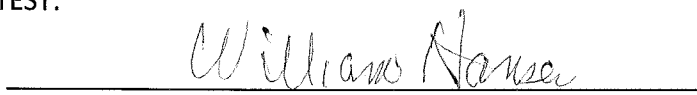
  
Commissioner William Hansen

Minutes Taken and Prepared by:

  
Tanya Arey, Administrative Assistant

ATTEST:

By:

  
William Hansen, Commissioner, District Secretary