

# **LEHIGH ACRES FIRE CONTROL AND RESCUE DISTRICT**

## **COMMISSION MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**March 20, 2008**

The March 20, 2008 meeting of the Lehigh Acres Fire Control and Rescue District Board of Commissioners was opened at 7:30 PM by President Berndt. Present were Commissioners Berndt, Adams, Guzman, Barrett and Hemingway. Chief Don Adams, Assistant Chief Jeff Haugh, Assistant Chief Solon Duncan, Public Information Officer Patrick Comer, Administrative Assistant Susan Platas and Secretary Brannon Johnson. Attorney Richard Pringle was also in attendance.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Commissioner Berndt asked Chief Adams to give the invocation.

Commissioner Berndt asked if there were any additions, corrections or deletions to the agenda.

Chief Adams would like to add to New Business:

- East County Water Administration Building

Attorney Pringle would like to add to Unfinished Business:

- Chief Adams Contract

#### **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Commissioner Adams second. Motion Passed.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA:**

- Minutes of Previous Meeting
- Treasurers Report: Commissioner Hemingway had a question which will be answered after the meeting and brought before the board next month.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as is presented. Commissioner Barrett second. Motion Passed.

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:**

### **CHIEF ADAMS:**

- Chief Adams stated that the District has obtained an outside investigator to conduct an informal inquiry concerning allegations that one of our employees used uncivil or boisterous language during the care of a patient.
- Chief Adams stated that the District is conducting Cultural Diversity Classes. All personnel will be attending the classes in person or watching a DVD of the presenter.

### **DVP 6 and 19:**

- **DVP 6:** None
- **DVP 19:** None

### **ATTORNEY RICHARD PRINGLE:**

- Attorney Pringle stated that he has concerns with Verizon's lease agreement. He stated he would be speaking to a representative from Verizon in reference to a legitimate rent value and that he would like to propose to Verizon to place language in their lease agreement to allow other agencies to be able to use this tower. He will give his recommendation at the next meeting.
- Attorney Pringle explained that the rental lease agreement has been completed and will be talked about during Unfinished Business.
- Attorney Pringle stated that the ADPI contract has been finalized and will be presented during New Business.
- Attorney Pringle explained that in reference to Chief Adams' contract, action was taken at the last meeting that superseded October's meeting. He gave three different options to the board that could be done to clear the \$2000.00 difference. He stated the Board could leave Chief Adams' contract alone, make a motion to go back to the October Meeting or keep the motion from last month's meeting.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to sign and adopt Chief Adam's salary from the special October 16, 2007 meeting of \$136,000 per year. Commissioner Barrett second. All in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS: NONE**

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS: NONE**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **East County Water Administration Building:**

Dave Lindsey, Manager of ECW, gave a presentation of the administration building they are planning on constructing. They are planning for future growth and would like to lease space for 4-5 years to the fire district. He explained how they will have generators, fuel pumps and how there will be a place for first responders' families to stay if needed during an emergency. This building will be for Emergency Operations and would withstand 150 mph winds.

Commissioner Guzman was not in favor of leasing and/or buying land due to the hard times right now. He stated that using the current stations for administration saves taxpayers money and he is in favor of keeping things status quo at this time. All Commissioners agreed.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- **Rental/Lease Agreements or Contracts:**

Attorney Pringle prepared Resolution #08-03-01 for the Board's review to authorize Chief Adams to enter into contracts and lease agreements. There was much discussion with the Board.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to add the amount to paragraph 2 of section 2, \$30,000 and paragraph 3, 10,000. Commissioner Hemingway second. All in favor

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to adopt Resolution # 08-03-01 as amended. Commissioner Hemingway second. All in favor.

- **ADPI Contract:**

ADPI negotiated with the District and has agreed to a contract with Attorney Pringles' approval. Attorney Pringle explained that the contract needs to be signed by the Chairman and was not motioned at the previous meeting.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to authorize the implementation of the contract with ADPI and authorize the Chairman of the Board to sign the contract. Commissioner Barrett second. All in favor.

- **Meeting Location and Time:**

Chief Adams spoke of using Veteran’s Park Community Room or the Library for Commission Meetings. He stated that Veteran’s Park Community Room would be free of charge. Commissioner Guzman was good with having meetings on “A” or “C” shift and 4:00 PM was considered. Commissioner Hemingway was fine but would like for the meetings to start at 5:00 PM or 5:30 PM for the working community to be able to attend. Attorney Pringle stated that by law some budget meetings have to be in session in the evening. There was much discussion.

Commissioner Guzman made a motion to change the regular monthly meeting to Veteran’s Park Community Room at 4:00 PM, if available. Commissioner Adams second. Motion Passed 4-1, Commissioner Berndt is opposed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Motor Vehicle Fees:**

Chief Adams explained that a lot of motor vehicle accidents are from citizens from other areas and not our citizens. He explained how it is costing our taxpayers a lot of money. He did research on charging fees for our engine’s responding and proposed three Levels to recover some of our taxpayer’s costs.

Level I: 1st response	\$435.00	Minor vehicle accident
Level II:	\$650.00	Administering Aid; Motor Vehicle Accident
Level III:	\$1800.00	Major accident

There was much discussion with the Board.

Commissioner Guzman liked this idea and thinks we should keep doing the research on this issue. Commissioners were in agreement. Attorney Pringle explained that an ordinance would need to be in place. There was much discussion. Commissioner Berndt stated that he would like for Chief Adams to continue the research.

- **Insurance Committee:**

Commissioner Hemingway would like to get permission to review insurance policies to make sure we are sufficiently covered. Commissioner Guzman stated that Commissioner Hemingway could review the policies and if anything is found, meet with Chief Adams.

- **District 6 Contract:**

Chief Adams would like the Board to approve a 10% pay increase above the employee’s base pay when he/she “moves up” or works out of job classification. He would like this pay to be fair across the board. Commissioner Berndt stated he would like to go into an executive meeting. Chief Adams would like to open Article 7 and Article 14, because it would directly affect Article 14.

Commissioner Guzman motioned to open contract District 6, Article 7, Section 2 and all of Article 14 for the purpose of fixing and to alleviate the problem with move-up or out of classification. Commissioner Barrett second. All in favor.

There was discussion among the Board to announce the negotiating team. They agreed that the team would consist of Chief Adams, Labor Counsel, General Counsel, Assistant Chief Haugh and Assistant Chief Duncan.

Commissioner Guzman motioned to use the same team as previous for District 6. Commissioner Hemingway second. All in favor.

- **Employee Handbook (Smoking Section and Vacation):**

Commissioner Hemingway would like to reconsider the smoking law.

There was discussion with the Board and they did not want to reconsider.

Commissioner Hemingway motioned that the item that states “as of April 1, 2008 the District will not hire anyone who is a known smoker”, be reconsidered. Motion dies for lack of second.

Chief Adams stated that there was a typographical error in the Vacation area of the Employee Handbook.

The Employee Handbook Vacation area should read as follows:

21 through 25 years of service:      22 hours per month

26 years of service to separation:      28 hours per month

Commissioner Hemingway motioned to amend the Employee Handbook to accept the Chief’s recommendation. Commissioner Barrett second. All in favor.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS (On Agenda Items): None**

**COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

Guzman: Thanked the public for coming out

Adams: Thanked the public for coming out and would like to be placed on the agenda for next month in reference to Station #105’s bay floor

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMENTS: None**

Commissioner Barrett made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Adams second. All in favor.

**MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:26**