

GRAYS HARBOR FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT # 2

Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

Central Park Fire Station

25 January 2011

7:00PM

The Special Commissioners meeting of Grays Harbor Fire Protection District #2 was called to order by Chairman Paul Dean. Meeting opened at 7:00PM. Present was Commissioner Hensley & Hubbard. Also present: District Secretary Teri Scherer, Fire Chief Dan Prater, Tony Broten, Tom Epperson, Rich Easterly, Gale Churchill, Tom Gruhn, Larry Willis, Wade Snow, Michael Kinsey, Frank Scherer, Leslie Kahler, Stacy Kahler, Kathy Beeman, Stephen Beeman, Eric Barge, Beka Gardner, Brad Shumate, James Sande, Jerry Thompson and Cheryl Thompson

Talks began long before this Board came together; back as far as 1986 GHFD#2 and the City of Montesano have discussed working together and/or mergers. Talks have always fell through for one reason or another. One and a half years ago discussions started up again between GHFD#2 and Montesano, this time talking Regional Fire Authority. That Board consisted of Dale Hensley, Nic Dunjic and Paul Dean.

The Planning Committee consists of three members of Montesano City Council (Hutchings, Klinger & Powell) and GHFD#2 three Commissioners (Hensley, Dean & Hubbard). This Planning Committee; along with the two Districts Chief's (Walkington & Prater) took place every month for one and one half years. Committees were formed, finances were discussed and a Plan came together. The Plan was adopted 21 October 2010 and sent to the Lawyer, Joe Quinn for legal counsel and review. On 11 November 2011 it was received back from Joe Quinn and with approval of the Planning Committee sent to each entity for their approval and acceptance of the Plan.

GHFD#2 held two public forums to hear what the public had to say and answer questions (81 citizens attended) and Montesano Fire held one public forum (5 citizens attended).

1. REGIONAL FIRE AUTHORITY

This meeting is to accept or reject the Regional Fire Authority Plan.

Commissioner Dean discussed the RFA Plan. He discussed the public response he heard at the Forums. The Plan lacks clear business and financial accountability. People feel the concept is good and probably needed one day. GHFD#2 is strong and the public is happy with the service.

Commissioner Hensley stated he also agrees the business plan has many holes. The deployment plan is not fair and equal. The way we respond is not the same as the way Monte Fire responds. The surplus of equipment is unnecessary. We do need to continue to work with Montesano Fire. Who is the RFA benefitting? I feel only a few Montesano residents.

Commissioner Hensley recommends we stop this process now; we need to work on our Lid Lift and EMS Levy.

Commissioner Hubbard said "yes" I asked a lot of questions, the Committees did not have a lot of answers or the answers were not adequate especially pertaining to finances. The concept is good but the timing is not right. If we continue with the RFA we are sending mixed messages to our citizens. It is important to work on the Lid Lift and the EMS Levy.

