

MINUTES
General Employee Injury Review Board
Thursday, January 24th, 2013
City Council Conference Room
Wayne Gilley City Hall
9:30 am

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Vu at 9:30 am.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Ha Vu, Chairperson
Candy Brown, Safety & Risk Manager
Don Schaefer, Safety Rep

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Carl Dentler, Public Works Safety Officer
Paul Caldwell, Safety Rep
Bobby Finley, Safety Rep
Lindsay Tate, Safety Rep
Tiffani Burk – HR

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of December 20th, 2012

Motion to approve minutes by Schaefer with a second by Dentler. AYES: All NAYS: None Motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. Edwin Marx-SWC (11/28/12) Tabled

Mr. Marx was present. Safety Rep Paul Caldwell was also present. Dennis Jensen and Richard Baxter were also present but their testimony was not needed. Mr. Marx said he was changing a tire and turned his back the wrong way. He did not report it because he thought he was young and the weekend was coming and he would just rest it and it would be alright. He finally had enough and had to go to the doctor. He said he did everything right and he knows how to change a tire. He has been down there for a long time. This was a tire on a garbage truck. It was the outside tire. He said he has a couple of bulging discs in his back but it actually has moved from his lower back. Now it affects his sciatic nerve. He had a MRI but that was before the injury moved. He has to have another MRI next week. It probably will result in surgery; he has to see the neurologist. Don asked if the tire was stuck. He said no, it was not stuck. He was trying to help his friends. He didn't really tell anyone. But he did say I hurt my back and you guys have to finish. He said he was using the jack tool. Ha asked if this is a one man job or a two man job. Paul said it can be a one man job. Edwin said he had 2 other guys with him but they were just standing there not helping him. The tire was not stuck. He said he used the tool to take the tire off and then he moved the tire and that is when he hurt his back. He was away from the hub

with the tire. Ha asked about the tire. Carl said it weighs about 100 or 150 lbs. Edwin said he started to roll it and that is when he hurt his back. He said he should have reported it as soon as it happened.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Dentler to rule this as Preventable with two (2) points assessed.

AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. W. Rusty Whisenhunt-Eng (11/15/12) Tabled

Mr. Whisenhunt was present. Terry Graven was also present. Mr. Whisenhunt announced that he is the new Safety Rep for Engineering and Mr. Graven is his back up. Mr. Whisenhunt said the inspectors called him down to 2nd street; they had a question on a project. He went there and got out of the truck. He showed pictures of the project. The curb gutter and the sidewalk were removed. The contractor was removing and covering gutters. He stepped down off the pavement 6 inches and then went to a step up 12 inches onto the asphalt. When he stepped up his knee popped. It was all compacted up to the asphalt. He is going through physical therapy, it is still popping. He did have surgery. He said he was off 10 days for the surgery. He said he had not had problems with his knee before that. The MRI said he tore his meniscus. He said he did not trip over anything. Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Dentler to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

C. Dale Watts-Streets (10/25/12) Tabled

Mr. Watts was present. Jesse Henry and Ramon Ortega were also present. Mr. Watts said we were working on a project on Ft. Sill Blvd. They were breaking out a section in the street. There was some big rebar in it. He got down in there with the saw and was cutting it. There was still a piece left and he got wacked in the leg. Candy said she contacted Water Distribution and asked who was in the hole with Mr. Watts. They said that they did not have anyone from their department in that area. Dale said he was not lying, there was someone else there.

Jesse Henry said Ramon was digging in the hole, Dale Watts got in there and cut some rebar and Ramon was moving the stinger and hit some rebar and it hit Dale in the shin. Don asked if it was normal for a guy to be in the ditch with the backhoe at the same time. Jesse said they do it sometimes but they are not supposed to. He said in that small of an area he should not have been in there. Don said are they aware of that. Jesse said yes, they are. They have been around it for years and they know what can happen. Don asked if the backhoe driver could see Mr. Watts. Jesse said yes, Ramon was on one end of the hole and Dale was on the other end of the hole. Carl asked if Dale got in while Ramon still had the stinger in the hole or did Ramon put the stinger in while Dale was still in the hole. Jesse said Ramon was breaking it the whole time and Dale got it the hole with it. Jesse said with that close quarters, Dale should not have been in there. Candy asked if there was someone in there with him from the water dept. Jesse said he didn't know that guy's name but yes there was someone there with them. The water department was working down a little ways from them and he came down to help.

Ramon Ortega said he was breaking out with the stinger and there was some thick rebar in there. Every time Dale jumped in to cut the rebar he usually moved the stinger. When he went back to hammering Dale jumped in and the rebar came loose and hit Dale on the side of the leg. He said nobody is supposed to go in the hole while he is operating. He tells the guys this all the time. He said they know this.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Brown to rule this as Preventable with two (2) points assessed.

AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

4. New Business

A. Michael King-Streets (12/12/12)

Mr. King was present. Mr. King said it was 9:30 in the morning on 43rd street. We came to the job site and the house adjacent to where they were working had left the sprinklers on through the night. It was below freezing and all the water had iced up. He stepped out of the truck onto the ice and slipped and fell on his left arm, shoulder and elbow. He didn't really feel any pain. He told his foreman that he just had a little tingling. About 2:00 in the morning he woke up in excruciating pain. The next morning he told the foreman he was injured. He went to Occupational Health. His shoulder and elbow is injured. He was off of work a couple of days but now he is released to light duty. He is scheduled to go to an Orthopedic Doctor. He said he didn't notice the ice. There were a lot of slips that day. Motion was made by Dentler with second by Schaefer to rule this as Preventable with one (1) point assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. Charles D. Yarbrough-WD (11/5/12)

Mr. Yarbrough was present. Safety Rep Bobby Finley was also present. Mr. Yarbrough said he was turning a water main valve. Sometimes they are stuck open and when it popped loose it jarred something in his shoulder. It was not a big valve. Carl asked if they use the automated power operators to help open the valves. Bobby said they only use it on the big valves. If you use it on a small valve it will end up breaking the valve. Mr. Yarbrough said he was able to break it loose by himself. Bobby said sometimes there is rust on them and they get jammed. Even if you use two people you get the same result. Carl said there are small automated ones and they are torque sensitive, they will only put so much pressure. Bobby said they don't have those. The Board recommends that they put those in their budget. Mr. Yarbrough said he went to the doctor that day. The only time that he missed work was the day he went to specialist in the city. He said his shoulder is feeling better; he is doing therapy in the evenings. It is his left shoulder and he is right handed. Motion was made by Dentler/Finley with second by Brown to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

C. Wesley Floyd-Parks & Rec (12/12/12)

Mr. Floyd was not present. He is no longer a City employee. Mr. Floyd was in the back of the truck making room for more tree limbs. When he went to get off of the truck he lost his footing and fell off the back of the truck. Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Vu to rule this as Preventable with two (2) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

D. Terry Sellers-Police Tech (12/25/12)

Mr. Sellers was present. Safety Rep Lindsay Tate was also present. Mr. Sellers said he was called in because an inmate flooded the jail. He had to go look at everything and he had to look for the leak. When he looked up at the pipe a drop of sewer water fell in his eye. The next day he told Troy about it and he went to the ER. His eye is fine now. Motion was made by Tate with second by Schaefer to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

Consider any other injuries reported: None

Communication/Discussion:

Adjournment:

Motion by Brown with second by Vu to adjourn meeting at 11:00 am.