

MINUTES
General Employee Injury Review Board
Thursday, March 22nd, 2012
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, PWA
Tiffani Burk – HR

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of February 23rd, 2012

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

3. Old Business

A. Donald Alston-SWC (1/3/12)

Mr. Alston was present. PW Safety & Risk Officer Carl Dentler and Safety Rep Ray Quiroga were also present. Mr. Alston said he didn't know what happened, it didn't start hurting until like 1:30 in the morning. His knee started throbbing. He is back to work now and his knee is fine. He said he must have stepped off of the truck wrong. He is on a semi-automated truck. Ray said he is on a residential truck. Mr. Alston said the doctor didn't x-ray his leg or do anything, he gave him muscle relaxers. He is released and back to full duty.

Motion was made by Dentler with second by Brown to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points

AYES: All, NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. Ismael Garcia-SWC (12/22/11)

Mr. Garcia was present. PW Safety & Risk Officer Carl Dentler was also present. Mr. Garcia said just progressively his neck started hurting. He said he thought he was sleeping wrong or twisting wrong. Over the months it has gotten worse. He went to his own doctor because he didn't want to file workman's comp. He informed the foremen that he was going to his own doctor but if something was wrong then he would file workman's comp. If he can just take a pill and keep working then he will, but if something is wrong then he wants to file. He had a MRI and the doctor said it was a pinched nerve between his 6th and 7th disk, it still hurts. He is working with it now; he doesn't have to turn his neck to far because all he uses is the side mirrors of his truck. The pain is not getting any better. He never took any days off. Candy said she contacted the doctor because she would like him to be seen by our doctor. She would like him to sign a release so she could get the records. Mr. Garcia said he asked them to just give him some pills to help him with the pain. He takes a pill at

night to help him rest and not toss and turn. He says he has pain throughout the day but it is tolerable. The bouncing in the truck does bother him. The doctor did not tell him not to go back to work. He said he told the doctor if it was not an emergency could he just give him some pills and let him go back to work. He is supposed to go see a specialist in OKC on the 28th of March. He is in the rear load garbage truck. He was on the Reeve truck for 2 months and it was easier on his neck. Carl said the regular trucks don't give you the cushion in the seats and it does jolt you when you hit a bump. The Reeve truck's air ride seats are gentler. Mr. Garcia said Dr. Brittingham said he could have surgery or time off with medication and rehabilitation. He said he is not trying to get money from the City; he just wants to go back to work. Carl asked him if he knew anything that would have caused the situation to begin with. He said he doesn't know of anything. He thought he was sleeping wrong. He got a new mattress and it didn't help.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Dentler to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points

AYES: All, NAYS: None, Motion carried.

4. New Business

A. Leo Berndsen-WWC (3/6/12)

Mr. Berndsen was present. PW Safety & Risk Officer Carl Dentler was also present. Mr. Berndsen said he went to the location that day, got out of the truck, popped the manhole lid and took it off. Got the guide pipe set up, started pushing rods, when he got to 7 rods; he had a sharp pain in his back. He had to go lean against the truck because anytime he moved or did anything it would take his breath away. It is still sore. He is back on full duty. He took about a week off. Certain movements will hurt. He said you have to manually push each rod. Carl said it is a tough job and it is dangerous. Mr. Berndsen said he doesn't remember seeing any videos on how to push and pull the rods. It was on the job training. He said there are times that they have had to push 90 to 100 rods down a line. He said he has been doing this job about 2 years. Carl asked him does he have any ideas how to make this a safer or easier job. Mr. Berndsen said his opinion is that they go do preventative maintenance and that preventative maintenance with the rod truck is useless. If the line is fine and they are pushing rods through it, it is doing nothing but damaging the line. The rod truck is necessary if you have a flush truck that could only go so far up the line. We have 3 rod trucks. Carl said he is wondering if we are not using the wrong piece of equipment for this job. Mr. Berndsen said the flush truck does twice as good as the rods. He said the doctor said it was a lumbar strain. Candy said he will be sore for a while because those normally take 6 to 8 weeks to heal. Mr. Berndsen said it aches but he can get by with it. He doesn't get in a hurry. Don asked him if he is still pushing rods and he said yes he was. The Board wants it noted that they are going to be following up with the division about the procedures for the preventative maintenance using these rod trucks.

Motion was made by Dentler with second by Schaefer to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points

AYES: All, NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. Richard Brown-Sewer Construction (3/8/12)

Mr. Brown was present. PW Safety & Risk Officer Carl Dentler was also present. Mr. Brown said he was down in the manhole getting ready for piping. He fills the bucket with debris and lifts the bucket over his head and they dump the bucket and go back and get more debris. The first time he felt a twinge in his shoulder, and then when he was done he lifted the 40 lb jack hammer over his head and he felt a pop in his shoulder. Carl asked if the manhole was shallow. He said yes it was about chest high. He said he had a helper above him. Ha asked him about using a rope. He said even if he used the rope he would still guide it up over his head. He is

on light duty. He goes to OKC tomorrow for a consult. He is in the office answering phones and doing paperwork and he goes out to take pictures because his weight limit is 5 lbs. He said he has been here 11 years and has not had any problems prior to this. Candy asked him, they don't use the rope unless they are in a manhole over their head. He said yes. If someone can reach down to grab the bucket without using a rope then that is what they do. Ha asked him if he used the rope then the weight would not have been on him, he would just have to guide it so all the pressure would not be on your shoulders. If you used the rope it would not have been as much pressure right? He said yes it could have been. Carl asked if they use the tri-pod over the holes to run the rope through when they are pulling it up. Mr. Brown said on the deeper ones yes.

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.

Consider any other injuries reported: None

Communication/Discussion:

Don asked about all the papers that he is getting for these meetings. What should he do with them after the meetings? He was told he could shred them. If the item is tabled then they should keep that injury paperwork for the next meeting but all other paperwork can be shredded.

Motion by Dentler with second by Brown to adjourn meeting at 10:25 am.