

MINUTES
 General Employee Injury Review Board
 Thursday, May 22nd, 2014
 Public Meeting Room
 New City Hall
 9:30 am

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bennett at 9:35 am.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Tim Bennett, Chairman
 Don Schaefer, Safety Rep
 Candy Brown, Safety & Risk Officer
 Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Works Safety Officer

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Marlon Johnson, Safety Rep
 Frank Davis, Safety Rep
 Bobby Finley, Safety Rep
 James Bearbow, Safety Rep
 Stephen Sellman, Safety Rep
 Michael Manco, WWTP
 Tiffani Burk – HR

Excused*

Unexcused**

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of March 27th, 2014

Motion to approve minutes by Bennett with a second by Brown.

AYES: All NAYS: None Motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. Michael Sass-WTP (2/7/14) Tabled

Mr. Sass was not present.

The report stated that the original injury happened while lifting heavy equipment off of a barge at Lake Lawtonka on 9/17/2008. His right shoulder was injured. No medical treatment was sought at that time.

It has never healed and the pain has increased over time. He has loss of mobility and range of motion. Rusty Whisenhunt said he was not doing anything that was not normal. He was doing his normal job. Motion was made by Bennett with second by Whisenhunt to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

4. New Business

A. John Ward-WWTP (11/20/13)

Mr. Ward was present. Safety Rep Frank Davis and WWTP Supervisor Michael Manco were also present. Don said Mr. Lopez went down to stop a leak on a plate? Mr. Ward said actually he could not see where the leak was. But Mr. Lopez went down to isolate the pipes to stop the leak coming from the blend tanks. By the time he saw him going towards the stairs, he was already two steps down so he stood up above him and watched him. Mr. Lopez closed the valve to the north blend tank, made his way over to the valve of the south blend tank. By the time he got over to the south blend tank the sludge was above that valve. There is another valve going to the pump above that, as soon as he put his hands on that he went limp. He said I yelled into the radio that I needed an ambulance hoping the other guy that was at work at the time that had a radio would hear it. That guy was at the landfill at the time. Then I went down there to get him. Don Schaefer asked him if there is PPE near that area for going into that environment. Mr. Ward said the way that basement was, there is not PPE in the plant for that. Frank Davis said the City's policy before the incident: it was just a confined space. There is a difference between confined space and permitted confined space. Until the product (sludge) came into that space it was not permitted. Once the product was introduced into the space it became permitted. The city has a policy that we don't wear breathing apparatus instead we make the environment suitable to enter by introducing air. Candy Brown asked do you guys wear any type of meter that detects air quality. Frank said it is required when you are in a permitted area but that was not a permitted area at that time. Mr. Ward said we have 2 meters for operators in the plant but all they read is H2S. They don't read methane or any of the other possible gases that were down there. He didn't have one on. He doesn't know if Mr. Lopez had one on or not. Michael Manco said Mr. Lopez did have one on because it was with his clothes in a bag afterward. Mr. Ward said he realized Mr. Lopez was not breathing or he was breathing shallow so he drug him over to the stairs, got about half way up the stairs and he himself felt about to pass out so he crawled the rest of the way up the stairs, stuck his head out the door and got a couple of fresh breaths. Then he started yelling at Mr. Lopez like he was his drill sergeant because he is a former soldier. Mr. Lopez looked at him and was able to make his way up the stairs. Then he drug him outside to the fresh air. There was a discussion about the Department of Labor policy. The policy has been changed since the accident but there was a policy prior to the incident. The city also has a policy but it is not department specific. Rusty Whisenhunt asked Mr. Ward if he had been to confined space entry training prior to this. Mr. Ward said no, he had requested training twice under the old supervisor and was told he didn't need it. Rusty asked what type of DEQ license does Mr. Ward have. Mr. Ward said he has a C wastewater. Rusty said part of the DEQ license requirement has confined space entry as part of that training. He asked him how long has he worked at the plant. Mr. Ward said this October will be 3 years. Rusty asked him if he had been shown the safety policy book. Mr. Ward said no the only SOP book he has seen is in the operations section of Admin. Frank explained which book he was talking about. Mr. Ward said the only SOP that he was shown from the time he was hired is the operations SOP and the first page is a memorandum from Rolando Crespo stating that it all was under revision and basically none of it was correct and it hadn't been updated since then. He provided a copy of it. Mr. Ward said put the policy aside, he doesn't feel he had a choice. He was going down there, one of his co-

workers was dying and that is why he went down there. Frank said Mr. Ward actually prevented a fatality. Michael Manco made a brief statement and gave some history about the procedures at the plant. He said the normal procedure was to try to stop the leak.

Motion was made by Whisenhunt with second by Schaefer to rule this as Preventable with one (1) point assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. Edmond Booker-Water Distribution (3/2/14)

Ms. Booker was not present. Safety Rep Bobby Finley was present.

Mr. Finley said they had been out all night fixing a water main break. They had been in water all night. The weather was below freezing. Mr. Booker was wearing gloves while he worked but they were wet and cold. He got frost bite. All of the tips of his fingers were injured but only the right index finger remained affected.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Bennett to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

C. James Pierce-Water Distribution (3/28/14)

Mr. Pierce was present. Safety Rep Bobby Finley was also present.

Mr. Pierce said they were moving fire hydrants with a harness when he lost his footing and fell. He twisted his back. He was on gravel.

Motion was made by Finley with second by Brown to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

D. Arthur Griffin-Sewer Construction (2/10/14)

Mr. Griffin was present. Safety Rep Marlon Johnson was present.

Mr. Griffin said he was working at a construction site and there was a lot of loose rock and dirt. He was walking back and forth down the easement. He stumbled and twisted his knee. It tore his meniscus in a couple of places. He was icing it at home but that wasn't working. It kept swelling up. He went and had a steroid shot on his own and that didn't do any good so he then went to the city's doctor and had surgery. He is currently going through therapy.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Bennett to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

E. Robert Williams-Sewer Rehab (4/21/14)

Mr. Williams was not present. Safety Rep Marlon Johnson was present.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Bennett to table this injury.

AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

F. Curtis Andrews- Streets (4/11/14)

Mr. Andrews was present. Safety Rep James Bearbow was also present.

Mr. Andrews said he was nailing a form spike with a sledge hammer and he missed and smashed his finger between the pin and the sledge hammer handle. He said he had just started hitting it. James Bearbow said he actually smashed the finger on the same hand that was using the sledge hammer. Mr. Andrews said the finger was caught between the handle of the hammer and the spike.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Bennett to rule this as Preventable with one (1) point assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

James Bearbow said he will suggest that their department get some videos on how to use tools properly.

G. Terry Justus-SWC (4/21/14)

Mr. Justus was not present. Safety Rep Marlon Johnson was present.

Mr. Johnson said according to Mr. Justus, he was getting in the truck and his foot slipped off the step and his knee popped. He said he twisted his left knee. The report stated that he was getting out of the truck.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Bennett to rule this as Preventable with two (2) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

H. Casey Caddell-SEWTP (4/1/14)

Mr. Caddell was present. Safety Rep Marlon Johnson was also present.

Mr. Caddell said they had just finished installing a chemical pump. They were cleaning up and there was a big box. It was sitting at the top of the stairs. He picked up the empty box and started to walk down the stairs and lost it. The stairs are made of fiberglass and they don't move. He doesn't know if he missed a step or what. He tripped and twisted his ankle.

Motion was made by Brown with second by Bennett to rule this as Preventable with two (2) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

I. Linda Wellhouse-Auditing (4/15/14)

Mrs. Wellhouse was present. Safety Rep Stephen Sellman was also present.

Mrs. Wellhouse said she was going up the stairs and lost her footing and fell. She said she had about six pieces of paper in her hand. It was the east stairs of City Hall. She hurt her right hand. Nothing was broken, she just had bruises.

Motion was made by Bennett with second by Sellman to rule this as Non-Preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

5. Consider any other injuries reported: None
6. Communication/Discussion: None
7. Adjournment:
Motion by Schaefer with second by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am.