

MINUTES
 General Employee Injury Review Board
 Thursday, June 27th, 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: Rusty Whisenhunt, Public Works Safety Officer*

Others Present: James Bearbow, Safety Rep
 Chew Allen, Safety Rep
 Darrin Hall, Safety Rep
 Terry Sellers, Safety Rep
 Tiffani Burk – HR

Excused*

Unexcused**

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of May 23rd, 2013

Motion to approve minutes by Schaefer with a second by Vu.

AYES: All NAYS: None Motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. Robin Dale-Streets (3/28/13) Appeal

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

Mr. Dale said he didn't agree with the ruling. He said he didn't think it was a preventable accident, it was just an accident. He used the pin puller the way he was shown. Ha asked him if he has a hard hat and are required to use it. He said yes he does. He only is required to use it if it is overhead danger or heavy equipment or machinery that is going overhead. He said it wouldn't have helped while he was pulling pins. The hard hat would have come off just like his ball cap came off. Don asked if this happened on a Thursday, why did it not get reported until Monday. Mr. Dale said because he didn't think anything serious happened but on the weekend he started getting sick and throwing up. He said he let them know that he hit his head pretty hard. Don asked do you use the pin puller pushing down or pulling down. He says he has been shown to push or pull. He said he has never been shown exactly

how you are supposed to use it. James asked him to describe how it looks and how you use it. Mr. Dale described the pin puller and showed the Board how to use it. He said he thinks he was pulling down on it. The curb was higher. They had to lower the road but the curb had to stay as high as the grass. Ha asked him if his head was ok now. Mr. Dale said yes it was fine now.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Brown to uphold the initial ruling as Preventable with one (1) point assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. Janna Townsend-WWC (4/4/13) Appeal

Ms. Townsend was present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was also present.

Ms. Townsend said she just wanted to tell her side of the story. The chain was stuck between the boards of the trailer. Scott was trying to pry it apart and she was trying to pull the chain back and her hand slipped and she hit the trailer with her wrist. She pointed out what they were doing on the pictures. She said they had tried everything to get it out. She said it was all the way between the boards. The chain was kind of turned in between the boards. Scott was using a pry bar.

Motion was made by Brown with second by Schaefer to uphold the initial ruling as Preventable with two (2) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

C. Matthew Camping-WWC (4/26/13) Appeal

Mr. Camping was present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was also present.

Mr. Camping said he is concerned. Since the last meeting he found out that the same thing had happened before his injury on the same trailer. He assumed it happened before his time. He has worked for the City for 4 years. He said his concern is the slats on the part that he fell through. On the other part of the trailer there are bars underneath it to prevent you from falling through. He doesn't know if it is a design flaw but the middle part has nothing to prevent someone from accidentally falling through. He said he had all his safety gear on and was following everything to be safe. He said his suggestion would be to add vertical slats underneath the horizontal bars on the middle decking. He got onto the trailer from the side. Don said why this happened on Friday and reported on a Monday, and then you went to the doctor on Wednesday. Mr. Camping said his principal told Ray on Friday that he fell through the trailer and got hurt but was going to go home and ice it. He didn't hear anything break or snap. He didn't think it was severe. On Monday he called Ray and told him he was hurting and Ray told him to get a doctor's note. Don showed him the statement from Ray and asked him to read it. Mr. Camping said he doesn't remember the phone conversation taking place the way Ray put in his statement. He said this was solely an accident.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Brown to uphold the initial ruling as Preventable with two (2) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

D. Chris Alford-WWC (5/2/13) Appeal

Mr. Alford was present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was also present.

Mr. Alford said the reason he appealed is because he feels that he shouldn't get points for something that he was trained that way. He said they don't have tag outs. In the 28 years, he has only had 1 other injury. He said he is very careful and aware of what he does. In the future, whether we have tag outs

or not he will make sure that the keys are out of the truck or the keys are turned off. He said he doesn't believe he should get points for something that his seniors had trained him to do. He said he follows orders and does what he is told. That has always been the procedure. They probably replace those hoses about twice a year. He said they always have had the truck running. Don explained the different categories for these injuries. Candy asked Mr. Alford if he believed that this injury was preventable in any way. Was there something that could have been done differently to prevent this injury? Mr. Alford said at this point and time, yes it could have been prevented. If the truck had been shut off or the keys would have been removed. For 28 years they have been doing it that way. He said from this point forward whether he is in charge or just included in the job, he will make sure that the keys are off and out of the truck. He doesn't want to see anyone go through what he went through. He said that is why they call it an accident because accidents happen. Don asked if they have SOP on this or is there a manual on this truck that tells you how to change the hoses. Chew said he has never seen a manual. Mr. Alford said they don't have the manuals, the auto mechanics have them. Mr. Alford said his Supervisor was there just 5 minutes before the injury. Candy asked why would you not turn the motor off, out of convenience? Mr. Alford said that is what we were told to do. Don asked if the truck was running when the Supervisor was there. Mr. Alford said yes. He said the truck has to be running for the hydraulics to work. Don said but it does not have to be running when you get that in the position to connect the hose. Mr. Alford said no, it doesn't. Mr. Alford said the Supervisor was there before they put the hose on. At the time of the accident, he was upstairs. Don asked how many other people were there when this actually happened. Mr. Alford said three. Don asked on the totem pole where do you stand. Mr. Alford said he and Scott are Principal Equipment Operators, Richard Norwood is a Lift Station Mechanic and Janna is an Operator. He said him and Scott are equal. He said he has pretty much dedicated his life to the City.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Brown to uphold the initial ruling as Preventable but change the points to one (1) point assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

4. New Business

A. Scott Johnston-WWC (5/9/13)

Mr. Johnston was not present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was present.

Mr. Johnston was running a sewer line, his hands starting going numb. He said it has been going on for a while now but he didn't say anything.

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

B. Jose Ambriz-Streets (6/13/13)

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

Mr. Ambriz said he and his partner were putting forms together. He started to nail the forms and hit his index finger with the hammer.

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

C. Erlene Maroon-Police Tech (1/25/13)

Mrs. Maroon was present. Safety Rep Terry Sellers was also present.

Mrs. Maroon said she is the archivist with the police department. The Connex is behind the building and it is where the documents are filed. She is the person that goes and retrieves the documents and puts them back. The shelves are 4 tall and each box is heavy and they are stacked 2 at a time. At any time you might have to take out 4 boxes to get to the one you want. There are ladders. She said she knows how to pick up with her legs and not her arms. This day they were reorganizing. She was using inmates for the heavy stuff. It was a very heavy lifting day. She doesn't know what specific box hurt her. All she knows that at the end of the day she was hurting. She wanted to do this on her own. She did not want to turn this in on workers comp. She went for a month with it hurting. She had been treating with her own doctor. Her supervisor told her she could not come back on light duty if she does the surgery on her own so that is why she is turning it in on workers comp. Ha asked her how often does she go in there and pull boxes. She said on a daily basis. Mondays there are normally more to pull.

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

D. Ronnie Collins-Police Tech (5/16/13)

Mr. Collins was present. Safety Rep Terry Sellers was also present.

Mr. Collins said he was at work and it was a busy day and he was carrying some bags from the change out room to the property room. He opened the door and his knee just buckled. He said he is back at work now. Terry said the bags are paper sacks; they put their clothes in them and put the inmates name on it. Candy asked him if he had trouble with his knee before. He said he tore his ACL in 2006. The doctor said this was a knee strain.

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

E. John Paul Cutty-Emergency Communications (5/14/13)

No action was taken-Item pulled from the agenda.

F. Christina Santiago-Emergency Communications (5/14/13)

Ms. Santiago was not present. Safety Rep Terry Sellers was present.

Terry Sellers said Ms. Santiago had been typing on console 5002 and her hand started turning red & itching until it was swollen. It happened a few days prior also. The console had been sprayed with alcohol at shift change and then she cleaned it again. She went to the hospital and they said it was an allergic reaction to something. Mr. Sellers said she has not worked on that console since.

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

G. Richard Werstein-Inspection Services (5/15/13)

Mr. Werstein was present. Safety Rep Darrin Hall was also present.

Mr. Werstein said he was sitting at a stoplight and boom he was hit from behind. Don asked him if he was wearing his seatbelt. Mr. Werstein said yes he was. He was sitting at the intersection of 38th & Lee Blvd waiting for the traffic light to turn green. He hurt his neck.

Motion was made by Hall with second by Schaefer 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:

7. Adjournment:

Motion by Vu with second by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 11:45 am.