

MINUTES
 General Employee Injury Review Board
 Friday, August 29th, 2014
 Public Meeting Room
 New City Hall
 1:30 pm

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bennett at 1:35 pm.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Tim Bennett, Chairman
 Britt Hubbard, Vice Safety Rep
 Candy Brown, Safety & Risk Officer

Members Absent: *Don Schaefer, Safety Rep and *Rusty Whisenhunt, PW Safety Officer

Others Present: Lindsey Tate, Safety Rep
 Leon McGahee, Safety Rep
 James Bearbow, Safety Rep
 Bobby Finley, Safety Rep
 Jeffery Mowry, Safety Rep
 Glenn Hinton, Safety Rep
 Frank Davis, Safety Rep
 Sue Smith – HR

Excused*

Unexcused**

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of July 24, 2014

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

AYES: Bennett and Brown NAYS: None ABSTAIN: Hubbard, Motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. Keegan Spencer- Police Tech (7/13/14) Tabled

Mr. Spencer was not present. Safety Rep Lindsay Tate was present.

Tate said Spencer is sick and will not be here. She said that Spencer is a jailer and that he did everything

right. A man was tearing up his mattress in the cell. Spencer waited behind his desk till someone else came because you don't go in there by yourself. The man attacked both officers and Spencer's right pinky finger was injured.

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

4. New Business:

A. Jason Norwood-Park Maintenance (4/4/14)

Mr. Norwood was present. Safety Rep Leon McGahee was present.

Mr. Norwood said he was mowing at Herman Park and it was dusty and the wind was blowing and it always gets very dusty. He said he had his glasses on and he felt something go into his eye but later it felt better. When he went back to the shop he noticed his eye was puffy and red. He washed his eyes out and felt something in his eye. His supervisor told him to go to the emergency room. They ended up pulling a small piece of rock from his eye and gave me some cream for it. Brown asked if he just went to the emergency room and no follow up with a doctor. Norwood said no.

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

B. Robert Yarbrough-Streets (8/8/14)

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

Yarbrough said he was in the back of his patch truck to clean it out and there is no place to stand except the top auger bar. He said he was standing on in and had his cleaning tool in one hand and he just slipped and injured his hand on the side of the truck above the box. He said he went to Center for Occupational Health and the doctor put his hand in a brace for a week and that was it. Hubbard asked him if it happened at the end of the day. Yarbrough said yes. Bearbow said there is a button in the back of the truck where the auger is and where the asphalt dispenses from the back. Hubbard asked if there was an auger he stood on. Yarbrough said yes and that he has to stand on it to clean the truck. He said that is the only thing to stand or the asphalt will burn through his boots. Yarbrough said he cleans his truck every other day so the mechanics don't have to.

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

C. Steven Adams-Water Distribution (7/16/14)

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

Adams said he was installing a valve and he was the only one down in the hole. He said it had been raining and his gloves got all wet and muddy. Adams said he pulled off his gloves and threw them on the bank. He said when he slid the sleeve of the pipe off; his thumb got caught in it and cut his thumb.

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

D. Cody Johnson-Equipment Maintenance (7/29/14)

Mr. Johnson was not present. Safety Rep Jeffery Mowry was present.

Mowry said that Johnson was off today. Brown said he wasn't doing anything, just walking. Mowry said Johnson was just walking to the sweeper truck. No one else was in it. Dust got in his eyes. He flushed them out. Hubbard asked if Equipment Maintenance has a wash station for eyes. Mowry said yes. Mowry said Dennis Bothell told Johnson to go and get his eyes checked. Mowry said Johnson went to work the next day and didn't say anything about his eyes.

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

E. Clint Blevins - SSC (7/10/14)

Mr. Blevins was present. Safety Rep Britt Hubbard was also present.

Blevins stated that he was setting up the manhole blowers and taking the generator and manhole blower over to the manhole and had it in our truck bucket of our loader. He said that when he lifted the generator, his foot got caught on a dirt clod which stopped him but the generator kept coming and he fell backwards and caught his fingers and pulled them back. Bennett asked if he broke them and Blevins said no that he pulled some tendons. Bennett asked if it was just Blevins who fell and he said yes. Blevins said he had surgery on his hand a few years ago so this injury put more stress on his fingers. Brown asked how heavy the generator was. Blevins said it wasn't too heavy and that it is on wheels with a handle. Blevins said about 150 pounds but you are rolling it and not lifting it. He said his hand hurt that day and then that night he iced it for several days and it was fine and he worked all week. But then the following week he jumped on a CAT to do some back filling and when he grabbed the door he popped his hand on the frame and that made it worse. It took two weeks for the swelling to go down that time. He said his hand feels better now.

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

F. Michael Porter-Engineering (8/2/14) Unknown

Mr. Porter was present. Safety Rep Glenn Hinton was also present.

Porter said the he uses GPS now and you are familiar with the equipment and he pulls the data receiver and that weighs about six pounds. He said since 2009 when the City first got it and the years of using it and the shortage we have had in personnel the last couple of years and he has lost all of his help. He has had to do all of it and the repetition of carrying the thing day after day that it is almost like carpal tunnel of his shoulder. Bennett asked him what is wrong with his shoulder. Porter said it is just the nagging pain. Porter said it wasn't his shoulder but the pectoral muscle. He said if he bends over it feels like an ice pick going through it. He said if he coughs he has to put pressure on it to keep it from moving. Bennett asked Porter when he first started noticing this. Porter said several weeks ago. He said after talking with Rusty and Glenn they advised him to file an on the job injury. Bennett asked if he had seen a doctor and Porter said he went to the Center for Occupational Health. Porter said the doctor told him that he pulled a muscle but he said a pulled muscle doesn't hurt for this long. Porter said when he drives he can feel his arm getting weaker and numb. He had it x-rayed and there appears to be no tear. Brown asked if the doctor did an MRI. Porter said no. He said he went to a chiropractor and when he worked on him it touched some nerves and hurt. Porter feels it is just years of carrying the equipment around

every day and using the same motion. Hubbard asked how many TOPOs Porter was doing a day. Porter said when he had help it was about 1000. We are using RTK and total station. Bennett said a lot of times it is a one man operation. Porter said yes. Brown asked if Porter was released from the doctor's care. Porter said yes. Porter said he has not seen any other doctor. Brown said that Porter can have a second opinion. Porter said yes he would like a second opinion.

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

G. Robert Lopez-WWTP (11/20/13)

Mr. Lopez was present. Safety Rep Frank Davis was also present.

Davis said that Lopez doesn't remember very much of the injury but the board can ask him some questions about it. Brown asked what Lopez remembered of that day. Lopez said he remembered waking up in the hospital. Brown asked if he remembered what led up to the injury. Lopez said he remembered there was a leak in the basement and went down in the basement to try and fix that or to look at it first. Then he said he went to get rain gear because he didn't want to get the sludge on him and the rain gear is all they had. Brown asked if there was already sludge when he went down there. Lopez said there was a little puddle. Lopez said then he remembered waking up in the hospital a couple of months later. Bennett asked if he saw the leak. Lopez said he was making his rounds to check the plant. Lopez said an hour later or so you go and make a check of the plant. Lopez said as he was walking through one building he looked down through the grates and he notices a little puddle on the floor and noticed where it was coming out and then got out of there to put on the rain gear because he didn't want to get any sludge on him. Hubbard asked with their safety equipment did they carry gas detectors. Lopez said they have a meter when they are working in the press building. Hubbard asked if it is mounted in that room. Brown said it was a hand held. Lopez said he thinks he lost the meter when he fell. Hubbard asked if he had it with him. Lopez said yes but it wasn't going off when he first went down there. Lopez said you are always supposed to wear the meter when you go into the press building. Hubbard asked Lopez if he still works in that area and if anything has changed while working and if he wears a meter. Lopez said he knows they have a meter in the press building but he hasn't worked at the press building since the injury and that he doesn't remember how to do that stuff. Bennett asked if Lopez has gone back to work. Lopez said at first it was 4 hours and now it is 6 hours and the doctor said he could go back to work for 6 hours a day. Brown had a question if there is visible sludge then do you not have a policy that if there is visible sludge then at that point then it is no longer a confined space. Hubbard asked if his work space now is a confined area. Lopez said that it is still a confined area and he just started operating the plant today and mainly takes samples. Bennett asked if he was told to go down to the leak. Lopez said no that he saw the leak and tried to fix it. Brown said so there was no communication with your supervisor or anything and you took the initiative yourself to go fix it. Lopez said yes. Lopez said he thought there was just two people at the plant on that day but he heard there were a lot of people. Hubbard asked if Lopez remembers calling for help. Lopez said he kind of remembers John standing above him and telling him to get out of there.

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

5. Consider any other injuries reported: None
6. Communication/Discussion: None
7. Adjournment:
Motion by Bennett with second by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 pm.