

MINUTES
General Employee Injury Review Board
Thursday, October 25th, 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, Public Works Safety Officer
Frank Davis, Safety Rep
Tiffani Burk – HR

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of September 27th, 2012

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

3. Old Business

A. Laverne Aitson-SWC (8/30/12) Tabled

Mr. Aitson was present. Mr. Aitson said it was August 30th and they were in Country Club addition off of 49th. Mr. Owens went to dump his can on his side of the truck and it did not have a safety bar on it, the can fell in and he went over to pull the can out for him. It was full of grass. He was twisting it to get the grass out. His neck popped. He called the driver and told him what happened. Then he called his foreman and called Katie. The doctor gave him steroid shots in his neck. He goes back to the doctor on the 9th. He has 2 pinched nerves. Don asked, if the can falls in the truck, is it the normal procedure to reach in and pull it out. Carl and Mr. Aitson both yes it was. Carl said this is a rear load truck. There was no problem with the truck; there was a problem with the can.

Motion was made by Dentler with second by Vu to rule this as non-preventable with zero (0) points assessed.
AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

B. Jimmy Thompson-Streets (4/23/12) Appeal

Mr. Thompson was present. Mr. Thompson said he was taking a water tank out of a loader bucket and putting in the back of a one ton truck. He said he had done this numerous times. We did follow all the procedures for lifting. He said they got up next to it and counted to three, and then they lifted it up. He felt a pain in his shoulder. He said he didn't think anything of it. He went to see his doctor the next day for something else and he made him do different tests. He had him push his hands out and he felt a bad pain go through his shoulder and that is when he found out that he tore something in his shoulder. He said we have been trained on how to lift off the loader bucket. He said he followed the procedure that they teach you at occupational health. Carl asked him to explain what kind of a tank this was. Mr. Thompson said this tank goes on the back of a front end loader. It mounts on the very back of it. It is the tank for the water supply for the milling machine. Candy asked how much does the tank weigh empty. He said it weighs 100 lbs to 150 lbs. You don't have room to get 2 people on both sides. It is pretty much a 2 man job. If the tank is lying on the ground it probably comes to his waist. It is about 6 or 7 feet long, 4 feet wide and about 2 1/2 to 3 feet high. It holds 250 gallons. Ha asked if this was the normal way to unload this tank. He said it pretty much has to be done this way. This is part of his job; he is pretty much the only person to run the milling machine. Mr. Thompson explained why they could not use more than 2 people to get the tank out of the bucket. He said this is probably the safest way to do it. He was never advised to get more people to help. This is something that they have done over and over again. He said he followed procedure and this is what he has to do to get the job done.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Dentler to change the initial ruling from 1 point to non-preventable with zero (0) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

The Board believes that the department needs to find a better way to unload the tank. Carl said there is several months that they won't be using the milling machine and maybe they will have time to figure out a better way.

4. New Business

A. Sir Allen-WWC (9/26/12)

Mr. Allen was present. Mr. Allen said he was on one end of the easement by himself and the other two guys were on the other side with the rod motor. He had to go from the road almost 300 feet with the camera. It is a 2 piece camera and you have to hold it up at an angle. He strained a muscle in his back. There was no one there to help him. He said the camera is about 50 lbs. It is a total of about 4 feet long. There used to be more people to help carry the camera and now there is just one person. This is a very expensive camera. It is kind of awkward to carry. You can cradle it when it is clean but once it has been through the sewer then you don't want to cradle it. He said he needs a new 1 piece camera that is easier to carry. His back is better now.

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.

B. David Simmons-WWC (9/23/12)

Mr. Simmons was present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was also present. Mr. Simmons said while running a PM, pulling hose down an easement he felt a sharp pain in his back. He went to see a doctor and he said he pulled a muscle. He was on the flush truck, pulling hose. They were going to the manhole. This is his main job. Chew said he is basically night call on the weekends. It is just him and another guy. Basically they are on their own. He is back to work. The doctor said it just needs time to heal and do stretches and if it starts to hurt put some ice on it. Ha asked if there was training on this. Chew said they have looked for training videos on how to push and pull rods or hoses but they haven't found any. Don asked if the hose is full of water. Mr. Simmons said at first it is empty then when you turn it on, it will be full of water. Mr. Simmons said the hose he uses is a ½ inch. The bigger flush trucks have a 2" hose. Some easements you might have to pull it 200 or 300 feet. The doctor put him on light duty and he missed three days because they didn't have any light duty work for him to do. 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. Anthony Crawford-WWTP (9/24/12)

Mr. Crawford was not present. Safety Rep Frank Davis was present. Mr. Davis said Mr. Crawford was coming up the south side of the Admin building and it was at night. He stepped up on the curb and his knee twisted and he pulled something. It wasn't wet or slick, it was just dark. There are street lights. There is no damage to the curb. When you walk into this building you have to step up on the curb. There is not a handicap ramp. There are trees along one side of the parking lot. There is a bush close to the building. There are shadows. Mr. Davis said he thought Anthony was off work 2 to 3 days. Motion was made by Dentler with no second to rule as Non-Preventable. Motion was made by Schaefer with a second by Dentler to table this injury. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion Carried
The Board agreed that they need to take a trip to the WWTP at night to view the area and surroundings where the injury occurred.

Consider any other injuries reported: None

Communication/Discussion:

The Board requested to cancel the November meeting. It is scheduled for Thanksgiving Day. The Board also agreed to reschedule the December meeting and have it on December 20th.

Adjournment: Motion by Brown with second by Vu to adjourn meeting at 10:45 am.