

MINUTES
 General Employee Injury Review Board
 Monday, November 30, 2015
 Public Meeting Room #3
 City Hall
 9:30 a.m.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bennett at 9:30 am.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Tim Bennett, Chairman
 Don Schaefer, Vice Safety Rep
 Candy Brown, Safety & Risk Officer

Members Absent: None

Others Present:

Rusty Whisenhunt, PW Safety Rep
 Jeffery Mowry, Safety Rep
 Chew Allen, Safety Rep
 Bobby Finley, Safety Rep
 James Bearbow, Safety Rep
 Elton Rogers, At Large Safety Rep
 Jamie Smith- HR

Excused*

Unexcused**

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of September 24, 2015.

Motion to approve minutes by Tim Bennett with a second by Don Schaefer.

AYES: Bennett, Schaefer, Brown NAYS: None Motion carried.

Board members reviewed 2016 Annual Notice of Meeting and did not have any adjustments to the schedule.

3. Old Business:

A. Brandon Mohr- Tabled –WWM (8/5/15)
 Mr. Mohr was present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was also present.

Mr. Mohr said that his division was short staffed and they were moving 4 inch trash pumps from the front yard to the back yard at 45th and Ridgecrest. He had to use a dolly to push the pump because it was too heavy and there was no one available to help move it. While pushing the dolly from the front yard to the back yard, the front tire fell into a hole and caused him to jam his right elbow. Rusty Whisenhunt asked if he could see the hole and Mr. Mohr answered that the hole was hidden and covered by grass. Whisenhunt said that since hole was hidden and covered by grass he feels that this incident was non-preventable.

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

B. James Pierce - Appeal –WD (8/18/15)

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

Mr. Piece said that he was checking fire hydrant and looked to see what valve wrench they needed. He stepped up onto sidewalk with valve wrench and caught the curb with his foot causing him to trip and hit his right side of face with wrench. Brown asked if there was a hole or if he just missed the step and Mr. Pierce stated that he just caught the curb with his foot and that it was a normal height curb. Whisenhunt asked how the weather was and Mr. Pierce stated that it was not wet outside. Bennett asked how the traffic was that day and Pierce said that it was normal for downtown. Brown stated that this incident was not a blatant disregard of safety procedures, but could have been prevented by Pierce being more aware of where he was stepping.

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

4. New Business:

A. James Pierce - WD (9/16/15)

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

Mr. Pierce said that he was digging up a trench at the light post on Sheridan and Cache road and it was a very windy day. He was in backhoe and was wearing his personal glasses when the wind blew particles into his eye. Whisenhunt asked if the backhoe had front or side glass and Pierce said it had front glass. Whisenhunt said that it is not required that employees wear city issued eyewear while operating a backhoe. Schaefer stated that he also worked at that site during that time and can attest to it being very windy with a lot of dirt flying around.

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

B. Michael Miller – WD (10/14/15)

Mr. Miller was not present. Safety Rep Bobby Finley was present.

Bennett said that by reading the Employee Accident Report it is unclear if Mr. Miller came to a stop before turning left on 17th and Park. Brown clarified that Miller came to a stop 1st and then once he began moving forward a compact car cut him off not using it's blinker causing Miller to slam on the breaks of his backhoe. Brown also said that there was no police report done because there was no collision. The injury to Miller's neck was sustained due to him slamming on his breaks to avoid a collision. Whisenhunt stated that since the compact car was not using a blinker the employee could not have prevented this incident. Schaefer agreed that the incident was non-preventable and that the injury was only sustained due to Miller's attempt to avoid a collision.

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.

C. Richard Norwood – WWC (10/20/15)
Norwood was not present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was present.

Whisenhunt stated that this incident went in front of the Vehicle Accident Review Board and was ruled as non-preventable. Brown explained that only one board is allowed to assign an employee points for the same incident.

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

D. Mason Holbert – WWM (9/24/15)
Mr. Holbert was present. Safety Rep Chew Allen was also present.

Allen said that Holbert was stuck in mud for a fairly long time causing him to sustain a leg injury. Holbert said that they were doing dig ups to locate a sewer main while working in muddy, sewer water. He moved off rock and into the mud when his left leg got stuck up to his thigh area and he spent about 20 to 30 minutes trying to work his leg out of the mud. Whisenhunt asked what work schedule he was on at the time and Holbert answered that he works Monday through Friday. Bennett asked Holbert about his conversation with Ray Armstrong. Holbert said that he told Armstrong that his leg was bothering him because of being stuck. Brown asked if he notified Armstrong immediately after or if some time had passed. Holbert said it was almost a month after the incident occurred because he did not know that he could get treatment for his injury because his prior jobs always made employees work through injuries. Schaefer questioned if Holbert told Armstrong that it was a personal injury or a work related injury. Holbert said that he never said it was a personal injury and told Armstrong that it was hurting him ever since he was stuck in the mud. Brown pointed out that there were multiple witnesses. Holbert agreed that there were witnesses to him getting stuck in mud and trying to get out. Brown explained to Holbert that as soon as an injury occurs it needs to be reported, even if he does not seek medical treatment. Holbert said he understands that now. Whisenhunt stated that getting stuck in the mud is common for his type of work and that it was non-preventable.

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

E. Richard Brown – SSC (9/22/15)
Mr. Brown was not present for ruling. PW Safety Rep Rusty Whisenhunt was present.

Whisenhunt said that Brown was working in easement and stepped in a hidden hole which caused the left ankle injury. Whisenhunt said that the hole was covered with grass and therefore was an unforeseeable hazard and should be ruled non-preventable.

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

F. Mike Walker – SSC (10/16/15)
Mr. Walker was present. PW Safety Rep Rusty Whisenhunt was also present.

Whisenhunt explained that you have to stack trench boxes and line the top portion up with the bottom section. The day of the incident was very windy which caused the box to move. Walker said that he was setting the top of the trench box down when it started turning and shoved his arm back between the box and the manhole which bent his right wrist back. The board had no other questions for Walker. Whisenhunt explained to the board that they are going to address this procedural issue by using dolly ropes in the future, but during the incident there was nothing that could have been done to prevent the injury.

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

G. Larry Richards – SWC (9/9/15)
Mr. Richards was not present. PW Safety Rep Rusty Whisenhunt was present.

Brown stated that this is a cumulative arm injury reported on 9/9/15 caused from steering truck and moving carts. Brown said that Richards was unsure himself whether or not this was personal or work related, however it was ruled as work related by doctor. Whisenhunt asked if Richards is commercial or residential and it was determined that he is residential by the employee accident statement. Schaefer stated that it is not uncommon for there to be cumulative injuries reported by the SWC division because of the nature of their positions. Whisenhunt stated that this was non-preventable based on the assessment of this cumulative injury being work related and with not having any one action to evaluate.

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

H. Kasey Pitts – Traffic Control (10/13/15)
Mr. Pitts was present. Safety Rep James Bearbow was also present.

Schaefer stated that he was also notified of this incident and mentioned that the grinding wheel was not a good wheel and there was no guard on it. Brown said that she verified with the division that the wheel was ordered that way. The angle grinder was issued to Pitts in that condition without the guard. Pitts said that he was building a box and needed a grinder so he got one out of the tool crib and once he started to use it the blade broke into pieces striking his left hand. Whisenhunt asked why he was not wearing gloves and Pitts answered that he has always been taught not to wear loose fitting clothing or gloves and their gloves are loose. Whisenhunt said that he needed to be wearing leather gloves and Pitts said he was taught in school and other jobs to consider gloves as loose fitting and to not wear them. Whisenhunt asked Pitts if he was taught to use a grinder without a guard and Pitts said that it should not have been in the tool crib and that he has been told by his superintendent to do the best with what is available. Bennett recapped the incident to Pitts to make sure that the board was not missing any information. Brown asked if the division has a standard operating procedure while using grinders and Bearbow said just that they wear standard PPE. Brown stated that she believes the tool should have not been in service, but Pitts proceeded to use it knowing that there was no guard and that it was unsafe. Bearbow agreed that the grinder should have been removed from service. Brown and Schaefer discussed ruling the incident as preventable with a reduction of one point from the normal two points assigned for preventable incidents since the grinder should not have been in service.

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

I. Richard Taylor – Streets (10/15/15)

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

Taylor explained that he was cutting asphalt with an asphalt blade when the blade shattered and hit his arm. Bennett asked how long he had been using the saw and Taylor said for about 15 minutes. Schaefer said that those blades should not be shattering. Brown asked how old the equipment was and Taylor said fairly new and that he had only been using it for about 2 months. Whisenhunt asked if it was a dry or wet blade and Taylor answered that they are dry only blades. Bearbow said that when blade shattered it knocked the guard off and hit his left wrist. Bennett said that this incident was caused because of equipment failure and no fault of the employee.

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

J. Clyde Bowers – Equip Maint (11/12/15)

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

Whisenhunt said that the accident report looks as if Bowers and Robinson were testing equipment to see if it would break rocks. Brown said that he was attempting to carry rock and lost his footing causing it to fall on him. Mowry stated that the rock was large and they were adjusting cable on pavement breaker and that Clyde began to try and move the large rock towards breaker when he lost his footing and rock fell on him. Rick Robinson had to help move the rock off of him. Mowry also stated that the rock looked

more like a piece of pavement or asphalt. Brown asked how much it appeared to weigh and Mowry estimated around 600 to 800 pounds. The board members agreed that Bowers should have used something to move the rock and should have not tried to move something that large on his own. Whisenhunt stated that even though Bowers is fairly new, all employees have to sign off on their job description when hired and the description states the maximum amount of weight the employee should lift. Whisenhunt said he believes that no job description exceeds 100 pounds.

Motion was made by Whisenhunt with second by Schaefer to rule this as Chargeable with three (3) points assessed. AYES: All NAYS: None, Motion carried.

K. Sue Smith – HR (9/21/15)

Ms. Smith was present. Safety Rep Elton Rogers was also present.

Smith explained that she oversees the 4th floor filing room and that since it was time for the city auction she needed to clean out some filing cabinets to have them moved. She said she called equipment maintenance to see if they could assist with moving and they said they could not so she called building maintenance and they said they could help her but would have to come right then. She said that since she still had files in a couple of the cabinets she had to quickly move the files out of the cabinets. She states that when she came back down to the 2nd floor she started experiencing pain in her hip. Whisenhunt asked how many files she was moving at a time and she answered about a handful. Whisenhunt asked about how much each handful weighed and she answered around 15 to 20 pounds. Bennett stated that he understands that she only had a limited amount of time to move the files which caused her to work quickly. Schaefer said that he feels this was caused due to her job responsibilities of moving files in the filing cabinets and was non-preventable.

Motion was made by Schaefer with second by Rogers 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 Bennett with second by Schaefer to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 a.m.