

MINUTES
 General Employee Injury Review Board
 Thursday, December 26th, 2013
 Public Meeting Room #3
 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: James Bearbow, Safety Rep
 Frank Davis, Safety Rep
 Leon McGahee, Safety Rep
 Tiffani Burk – HR

Excused*

Unexcused**

2. Minutes

A. Approval of minutes of October 24th, 2013

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

AYES: Schaefer & Brown NAYS: None Abstain: Bennett Motion carried.

3. Old Business

A. Leo Berndsen-WWC (9/23/13)

Mr. Berndsen was not present. Mr. Berndsen is no longer a City of Lawton employee.

Mr. Berndsen was raising the hood of a one ton dump truck to check the fluids when he felt a sharp pain in his upper right shoulder.

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.

4. New Business

A. Coty White-WWM (11/13/13)

Mr. White was present. Mr. White said he had a back spasm. He had been doing some heavy work the day before. He said they are short handed and it has been pretty hard not having temps or laborers. He said it just went out on him. He said he is fine now and back to work. Don asked him how heavy the metal shields are. Mr. White said they are pretty heavy. He was not quite sure how much they weigh. He said his back started to spasm the next morning after doing the heavy lifting work and it was cold weather. The report stated that Mr. White had been taking metal shields off of the JD 75 track hoe, assisting a crew with removal of a utility pole brace and pushing a wheel barrow full of rock up a steep driveway prior to his back spasm.

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.

B. Michael Walker-Sewer Rehab (10/21/13)

Mr. Walker was present. Mr. Walker said they were tying in a sewer line. They had to cut a cap to put on top of it. He was down in the man hole and the other guy was handing him the cap and it slipped out of his hand. Mr. Walker didn't catch it and it hit him in the lip. He said it was about 8 feet deep. He said when you cut the plastic pipe it leaves a residue on it kind of like saw dust. With the leather gloves and the dust, it makes it slick and that is why it slipped out of his hand. He said he didn't miss any work. 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.

C. German Arango-Water Distribution (10/28/13)

Mr. Arango was present. Mr. Arango said he was trying to turn a valve that was 6 or 7 feet deep. There was a lot of pressure behind. When he tried to turn it, it slipped which caused him to twist his knee. Tim asked if you were able to see. Mr. Arango said even with flash lights it was hard to see. He tried to live with the pain and then 2 days later it started getting worse.

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.

D. Judy McConnell-Water Distribution (10/28/13) Accumulative

Ms. McConnell was present. Ms. McConnell said she started having pain in her wrist. She started trying to do things differently at work to help but it just started getting worse and worse. After a period of 3 or 4 months she decided to go ahead and file a claim. She was thinking hopefully that they could do something before it gets so bad that it requires surgery. They put her in a cloth brace and it helped. They said the nerve was just pinched. The doctor said she could wear it when she felt like she needed it. They are not going to do surgery. She said she does a lot of computer work using the mouse. But she also does a lot of hand writing. That seems to aggravate it. She said she is never resting her hands on the edge of the desk. She has a regular keyboard. She has the gel pad to rest her wrist on and the mouse

pad. Rusty asked if there is something at her job to help make it better. She said she does start using her left hand if it starts hurting. She said she does try to be more aware of keeping her wrist straight. Tim asked her if there was anything about her work station that she would change. She said no, she said she has taken the safety classes and learned how to make her station safe.

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.

E. Thomas Lewis-Water Distribution (11/11/13)

Mr. Lewis was present. Mr. Lewis said he loaded up a pipe on a flat bed trailer. He went to step off the back of the trailer; he had his water waders on. When he stepped off, he guessed he hit a rock or a mud clod or something and he rolled his right ankle. He then fell to the ground and rolled over. Next thing he knew the guys were picking him up. Candy asked him if he stepped off the trailer or jumped off. Mr. Lewis said the back of the trailer angles down and he walked down it and hopped off like he normally does. He hit something and his ankle twisted underneath him. He didn't want to go to the doctor at first. After the swelling went down it was still hurting so he went to the doctor. Rusty said in your statement that you signed; you said you jumped off the side of the trailer. Mr. Lewis said no, he didn't jump off the side of the trailer; he jumped off the back of it. Don said on the first line on the injury report, it says you jumped off the trailer. Mr. Lewis said it is just a word term. He said actually what he told Judy when she was filling out the report was that he hopped off of the trailer. He said he came off the back end where they fold the ramps down. Rusty said your statement says you jumped off the side of the trailer. He said he didn't tell Judy that, he said he just told her that he hopped off the trailer. He said he didn't tell her specifically whether it was the back or the front. He said he just told her he hopped off the side of the trailer. Rusty advised him in the future makes sure that the statement says what really happened. Mr. Lewis said he didn't think it was going to be a big deal. He thought he would ice it and heat it and he would go about his business. He thought it might take a day or two and let the swelling go down and then keep on pumping. He said he was cleared to go back to work. They gave him a brace to wear. It slowed him down a bit but other than that he said he keeps on doing what he is supposed to do. He said he has another doctor appointment in January. Tim asked him in hind sight is there anything that you would do differently. Mr. Lewis said honestly move a little slower he guessed. He thinks if he had his regular boots on then it would not have rolled on him. He had his water waders on and you don't get brace support. He said sometimes you are moving fast and you can't think about it every time. He said he tries to be as cautious as he can. He said it was bad conditions, mud, rocks and dirt everywhere. A big hole and he had his water waders on. He can't change the water waders every time he gets in and out of the hole. 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.

F. Lonnie Lugo-Streets (10/30/13)

Mr. Lugo was not present. Safety Rep James Bearbow was present.

Mr. Lugo was in an alley picking up some debris, it was wet that day. He exited the loader, came around and helped load some debris. When he was getting back in the loader, his hand slipped off the rail and he started to fall backwards. He was able to hold on with his right hand but twisted around 360 degrees. He was able to work the rest of the day but after work it started getting sore and tightened up.

He strained his right armpit and pectoral area. Rusty had a question about the 3 point stance. Mr. Bearbow said Mr. Lugo told him that he was using the 3 point stance but when he went to lift himself up, his left hand slipped off and he swung around and his left foot slipped off also. The rail was wet. He was wearing gloves and they were wet also.

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

G. David Ellis-WWTP (10/29/13)

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

Mr. Ellis said they were tarping a truck at night. They were told by the previous shift operator not to worry about tarping the truck. But the guy he works with wanted to tarp the truck. Mr. Ellis said he thought they shouldn't be tarping the truck at night. Mr. Ellis is a new employee and has less than 6 months with the City. The other guy was training him. He went along with the other guy to tarp the truck. He didn't think anything would go wrong even though it was dark and they couldn't see very well. As they got to the end to the trailer, it stopped (got stuck) and he kept pressure against the pole and the pole slipped out from under the corner of the tarp. When it did, his hand and the pole went forward and hit the corner edge of the trailer and sliced his hand. Rusty asked if he had gloves available to wear. Mr. Ellis said he had gloves in his locker but he didn't think that anything could happen therefore he didn't go get them. He had to get 4 stitches.

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

H. Earl Sappington-Park Maintenance (11/11/13)

Mr. Sappington was present. Safety Rep Leon McGahee was also present.

Mr. Sappington said they were at the park. They took the slide out because it had been vandalized. The platform was high and kids could fall off of it so they were going to cover the hole with plywood. They took $\frac{3}{4}$ inch plywood and cut it on the sight. The other guy welded some bars up on the top. Mr. Sappington was then holding the plywood up so the other guy could drill from the other side. Mr. Sappington said they could not see each other. They got the first hole drilled and started to drill the other hole. He felt the drill catch his arm and he told him to stop. The other guy was not going at full speed so he was able to stop and it just broke the skin. They went to the shop and he didn't think it looked bad but since it broke the skin the Supervisor took him and got it cleaned up and a tetanus shot. He then went back to work. Don asked how big the board was. Mr. Sappington said it probably was about 6 1/2 feet by 3 1/2 feet. The other guy had already drilled the holes in the bars. He was drilling through the holes in the bars into the plywood. Tim asked if there was anything that he would do different. Mr. Sappington said yes, next time he would not hold the board with his hands he would brace it up with something else.

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.

A recommendation was made by the Board to send a memo to this division.

A follow up needs to be made to the division whether both parties were talked to about the safety of the act that they were performing.

5. Consider any other injuries reported:
None
6. Communication/Discussion:
Don asked that we put on the Safety Committee Agenda: Department safety training meetings.
7. Adjournment:
Motion by Schaefer with second by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 11:12 am.