

**VASHON ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

Minutes

**Date:** 02/27/2019

**Time:** 18:30

**Place:** 10019 SW Bank Rd, Penny Farcy Memorial Fire Training Center, Large Classroom

**REGULAR MEETING**

**Present:** Brigitte Schran-Brown, Chair  
Candy McCullough, Vice-Chair  
Camille Staczek, Commissioner  
Andy Johnson, Commissioner (arrive 18:32)  
Charles Krimmert, Fire Chief  
Robert Larsen, Assistant Fire Chief  
Jojo Weller, District Secretary

FF Ben Davidson, FF Brad John (arrive 18:55), Susan Reimer, Ron Smothermon

**Absent:** David Hoffman, Commissioner

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Amendments to Agenda**

- YourCall Letter and Package
- Rescue Swimmer

**Approval of 01/30/19 Minutes**

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I make a motion to approve the 01/30/19 minutes.”**

**MINUTES APPROVED, 3-0**

**Voucher Approval**

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I move that we approve the referenced vouchers as detailed in Administrative Memorandum 02.27.19-1.”**

**MEMORANDUM APPROVED, 3-0**

**Assistant Chief Larsen’s Report:**

- See Assistant Chief’s addendum
- Ref 2b- students are island residents
- Ref 2d- the District selected a contractor for the demolition and possibly one for concrete work

**Chief Krimmert’s Report:**

- see Chief’s addendum

- ref 2c- Commissioner Johnson mentions how impressed the medics on duty were with the crew's hard work and effort on their response to the calls during the snow storm
- ref 2f- waiting for chassis delivery
- ref 3a- Chair Schran-Brown asked why the glass was not tempered; AC Larsen assumes it wasn't a requirement 25 years ago
- ref 3a- Vice-Chair McCullough asked if the doors are inspected; the answer is yes, annually
- ref 5iii- Chief received an email from Director Elaine Ott-Rocheford suggesting landscape labor in lieu of money; Chief will respond to Elaine's email
- ref 6ai- Due to the emergency repair and a sole source position the District is preparing to authorize/request the replacement of the inoperative garage door.
- Ref 9c- Chief is also attending the KC Zone 3 Chief's meeting and Valley Communication in Kent on the 23<sup>rd</sup>

Motion by Commissioner Johnson:

**"I make a motion to approve the January financial report as presented."**

### **JANUARY FINANCIAL REPORT APPROVED, 4-0**

#### **New Business**

- YourCall Letter and Package
  - Handout of draft letter and draft executive package to be mailed to all three representatives.
  - From the legislative meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> January visit, two representatives, Representative Eileen Cody and Representative Joe Fitzgibbon, requested more information; they thought the program fascinating and interesting
  - Brief overview of the YourCall Program
    - created when the District started charging for transports
    - \$75 per year for Vashon residents and \$50 per year from Memorial Day to Labor Day, intended for summer vacationers to the island
    - language in the brochure includes that this program does not guarantee transports to the hospital due to low staffing/call volume
    - Intended to help the elderly and fixed income residents with their balance of their bill after insurance payments
    - Mirrored AirCare Program
    - The Chief later discovered that the AirCare Program has specific legislation created for them, RCW 48.01.280
    - An individual from our community took it to the State Insurance Commissioners who concluded that the program acted as insurance and ordered a ceased and desist
    - It was started in December 2017 and was shut down in May 2018
  - Chief hopes that by presenting this letter and program to our legislators they would consider creating legislation specifically for rural fire Districts
  - Chief would also like to recognize the letter included in the package from a member of the community regarding her parents on a fixed income
  - Chief is prepared to send this letter and package out tomorrow via post mail
  - Ron Smothermon asks if it's viable for the District to provide this program to the community and if the Chief has contacted AirLift NW to gain knowledge to overcome these hurdles

- Chief believes it is valuable as one of the conditions to sign up for the program is to have insurance; most of the compensation would be from insurance providers, whatever the insurance doesn't cover this program covers it
    - Chief has not contacted AirLift NW
  - The Chief and Vice-Chair McCullough mentions that Representative Eileen Cody was fascinated and very interested in the program
  - Vice-Chair McCullough supports Chief in his efforts and thinks his approach is solid and sound
  - Chief read an article that the federal government is reducing the constraints on Medicare and Medicaid transports so that patients can go to other medical facilities and not just to a hospital which will be reducing the overall bill
  - The commissioners agreed to review the draft letter and draft executive packet by the end of the week and will let Chief know if they have any advice on additions or changes. Chief will hold mailing the packet until Saturday.
- Coffee with the Commissioners
  - It was suggested that the commissioners open the room for the public to come in and discuss whatever topic they wish with two commissioners and/or more; biannual or quarterly
  - no formal agenda
  - Chief suggests a public meeting instead of two commissioners and that no decisions will be made
  - Vice-Chair McCullough would like the meetings focused on public input; it would be about listening to the public and their ideas
  - The Chief invited the commissioners to the State of the District meeting on 25 March; the board can be at sanctioned events as long as they do not discuss business
  - Chair Schran-Brown would like the board to bring ideas to the next board meeting of how the meetings would be structured and how often it should be held
  - Chief comments that labor meetings are happening more between the Chief and the union; the local has, on a regular basis, been contributing to the improvement of the District
  - Chief suggests that the board get in contact with the Chambers; they have Tuesdays coffee with the public; the Chief had gone to one to start a conversation with chambers on the engagement of the community van as a Care Car non-emergent, wellness checkup in the community; volunteer EMTs and/or social workers would use their vans which would relieve the pressure off the District and serve the community; he says that this is very very preliminary and his intent was to just start the conversation
  - Vice-Chair McCullough suggests that the local and District work together on this idea
- Rescue Swimmers
  - Commissioner Johnson has seen this program work in other Districts, primarily in South King, and has been very effective. His opinion that the island is surrounded by water and it makes sense for the community. He questions if this is a frequent alarm how often the department responds to this type of call. He's been on two calls with South King that responded to rescue in the water. This is inherently a risky endeavor but there are inherent risks walking through the door of any call and not knowing what is on the other side whether it be an aid call or fire. The way to deal with that

risk is with training. The consortium has a training program with the International Associated Rescue Divers.

- Commissioner Staczek agrees that this sounds like a good idea. Our community involves kids on crew teams, kayakers, paddle boarders, sailing, boating, etc.
- Chair Schran-Brown mentions that the concern was raised when Chief Lipe and AC George were at the department. Mike Brown, Chair Schran-Brown's husband, belongs to the geo hazard group at UW and they presented the hazards of a landslide on the island in which houses and cars would end up sliding into the water. The past administration approved the applications for the grant of the gator, paddle board and for three rescue swimmers.
- Chief has concerns for the program.
  - He asked about cost analysis. Was there a report done?
  - There should be a formal risk assessment report done for the Board.
  - The risk of the need versus the cost of the service needs to be outweighed.
  - The District doesn't train for the following special skill sets as there's no call volume for it: confined space, high angle rescue and trench rescue. He believes water rescue does not have the call volume to support the training and costs. He would like to go further and say that there's no call volume to support justifying the boat in service and that is why it is 27 years old and no replacement schedule for it. In addition, the District is moving to three engines down from five as the call volume does not support more than that. It is the bare minimum to make this a functional fire District.
  - If the island experienced a large-scale landslide that would overwhelm our skill set the last thing the District should do is get in the water. The District would begin command, localize, setup and wait for resources if it's not a regional event which would take an hour. If it's a regional event, then the District is even more tapped on resources.
  - The consortium does have the training available with a disclaimer that the training is not valid in Puget Sound.
- Chief is not opposed to this program; the constraint is the financial justification. He will look at the data and risk assessment.
- Vice-Chair McCullough suggests that the labor management do some of the work.
  - The Chief will gather financial data
  - The Union will do the risk analysis and what it takes to have this program
- Ron Smothermon asks what the protocol is for the coast guard; AC Larsen replies that they are notified the same time as the department and their availability is spotty; they respond from Belfair

## **Old Business**

- Interlocal Agreement Between Vashon Island Fire and Rescue and Vashon Parks District per RCW 52.30.020
  - stalemate meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup>; no proposal on the table
  - based on the Parks meeting last night per Elaine's email they are willing to maintain the landscape on District's properties which cost the district \$750 a month and double the amount with mowing
  - Vice-Chair McCullough was at the Park's meeting last night and from what she gathered the Parks is looking at the scope of the work
  - Commissioner Staczek asks what the progress is with the King County interlocal agreement; Chief is waiting for a response from the District's legal counsel

## General Comments

- Commissioner Staczek thanks Chief for all his efforts and work on all the tasks that land on him
- Ron Smothermon asked for more information regarding the article in the Beachcomber about bonds. Is the District asking for a bond?
  - Chief mentions he had an interview with VoV and they were discussing bonds; a very preliminary conversation on large scale bonds for facilities; the District would have to have land and property before the bond
  - Chief and Jojo will be attending a bond presentation in Seattle on Wednesday 06 March
- FF Davidson thanks the department for loaning the stair machine for the annual push for the stair climb event; the union will follow the fundraising event with a thank you to the community and report how much money was raised (\$1,512); there were a few people who confused this fundraiser as being for the District; the union will be more diligent next year in publicizing this fundraiser to let the community know that the money is for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and those involved are off duty and raising money in their own time

## For the Good of the Order

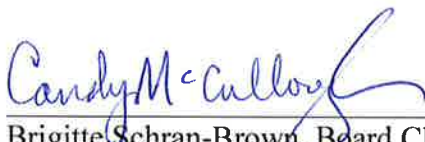
- The management staff at SawBones has given the District a life size skeleton as a thank you for the department's efforts for fighting their fire incident; all their members signed a thank you message on the skeleton
- Vice-Chair McCullough thanks the audience for coming to the meeting

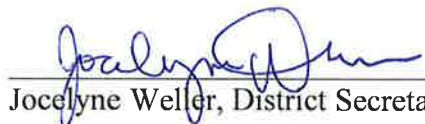
## Documents Signed

Adjourned at 20:08

*The next Regular Meeting will be on Wednesday 27 March 2019, at 18:30 at 10019 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, Penny Farcy Training Center, Large Classroom*

Approved this 27<sup>th</sup> day of March 2019

  
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Brigitte Schran-Brown, Board Chair  
Co. chair Candy McCullough

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jocelyne Weller, District Secretary



**Assistant Chief's Report**  
for the  
**Fire Commissioners' Meeting**  
of  
**27 February 27, 2019**

As a brief overview of the District, focusing on highlights since the board's last regularly scheduled meeting, please accept the following information:

**1. Overarching Operational Topics:**

- a. We currently have 10 personnel in the Part Time Program but are unfortunately losing one next month and are advertising for more.

**2. Overarching Training Topics:**

- a. Academy 19-01 is in week 9 with a total of 6 recruits with 4 from VIFR, 1 from Central Kitsap and 1 self- pay. Graduation is scheduled for May 18 at the theatre. All have passed the mid-term exam. This weekend the class will be at the State Academy for live fire training and search and rescue. At this point Central Kitsap is planning to budget for a total of 10 recruits this year. South Kitsap and Bainbridge Island are interested in placing recruits in 19-02 as well.
- b. We are currently starting a Support Academy for 2019 and have 3 students enrolled.
- c. The current EMT Academy of four is completing their training now with a new group of two starting tonight.
- d. We are moving ahead with preparations for replacing the search and rescue prop with construction scheduled to begin on April 1<sup>st</sup> and with completion by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

**3. Service/Call Volumes:**

- a. As of 07:30, shift change today, the District has responded to 215 calls this year... a pace that suggests a possible yearend total of 1568..... Last year at this time we had responded to 257 calls. So far this year we have had 31 occasions of multiple calls. Last year we had 248 occasions of having multiple calls for service.

**4. Miscellaneous/Noteworthy Topic(s):**

**5. Conclusion of Report**

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Robert Larsen, Assistant Chief of Operations  
**Vashon Island Fire & Rescue**  
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**Chief's Report**  
for the  
**Fire Commissioners' Meeting**  
of  
**27 February 2019**

Please accept the following brief overview of the District; the focus is on noteworthy topics since the Board's last regularly scheduled meeting:

**1. Staff/Personnel:**

- a. February 2<sup>nd</sup> the District's annual awards dinner was held. As you are aware from my communications of the 5<sup>th</sup> numerous awards and honors were bestowed on members of the District, the most significant being a chrome headed axe in recognition of former Captain Mark Larsen's 37+ years of services and his retirement. . .
- b. On February 5<sup>th</sup> a member of our staff expressed their concerns for both their, the crews and our patients for the District's position of not using studded snow tires and for problems we are regularly addressing for the aging suppression fleet. I of course am awaiting input from the Safety Committee, however, of the two issues:
  - i. The District's current practice is to use all weather tires which also incorporate features for snow conditions. Chains are to be used at the direction of the District and/or the discretion of the Duty Officers. Studded snow tires are no longer in use or under consideration by the District or for that matter, to the best on my knowledge, any district or authority in the region. . .
  - ii. The second concern was a tank water level indicator on the pump panel; the gage has been recalibrated and to the best of my knowledge is fully functional and operational. . .
- c. The new "Coffee with the Crew" program allowing HR Specialist Ehlers to meet with each company has been rolled out and it is my understanding that meaningful dialogs in support of both the District and our personnel are happening. . .

**2. Fleet Status:**

- a. We experienced a series of problems with various apparatus during the storms of earlier this month. Flat tires, locked up break, some chain issues however the problems only proved troublesome and did not impact our efforts. All minor problems they are being or have been addressed. . .
- b. The only accident or vehicle damage I am aware of for the storm was to my car, I broke my radio antenna off the roof on some snow burdened, low hanging tree branches. . .
- c. Brush 55 proved to be quite the workhorse during the storms and strengthened the idea of a new/third brush truck being adding to the fleet. . .

- d. Unfortunately E-05 (E56) continues to have a "Check Engine" Light problems and we are in contact with the manufacturer and are working to address the problem. We are working to avoid off-island repairs as we are 'down an engine'. The truck is still operational and in service at this time...
- e. A previously existing problem, previously corrected, the tank water level indicator has again been recalibrated E55 (E-06) and again appears to be operational and fully functional...
- f. I have nothing to report on with regards to the new engine (E-07)...
- g. The Administration was considering the idea/cost of converting a retired Aid Car (Likely A-01 in 2021, per the replacement schedule, or A-02.) into an Incident Command Vehicle for events of significant size and/or duration. Preliminary Rough Order of Magnitude Costs were \$60,000 to \$70,000. As such the project is on hold at this time...
- h. The Administration is considering the idea/cost of a "Hose Truck"; stocking a pickup truck with substantial lengths of various diameter hose (and other essential equipment (+/-)) so as to be able to deploy supply and attack line down/at long driveways inaccessible to our engines and/or tender fleets...

### 3. Buildings & Grounds Status:

- a. During the first of the series of winter storms we experienced a complete failure of one of Station 55's bay doors. A temporary closure wall is in place and we are addressing the repair and/or replacement of the door as soon as possible...
- b. We are continuing to prepare to update the Search & Rescue prop. Plans are coming together and it is still our intent to start the upgrade on April 1<sup>st</sup>...
- c. Regarding Station 57, having delayed action last month for further edits to the South End Community Club letter, it is my understand that the Board plans to authorize and execute the letter tonight; advising the club of the District's efforts and considerations as well as its plans for moving forward...

### 4. Finance Report:

- a. We are pleased to present the first accountability against the 2019 budget. We have only presented the simpler summary sheet for your review and approval at this time. It is very early in the year of course so forecasting is difficult, however, in broad terms:
  - i. Overall revenues were at 0.897%, 7.436% under the months benchmark...
  - ii. Overall expenses were 9.064%, just short of ¾ of a percent over the month's 8.333% benchmark...
  - iii. For payment against unanticipated portable radio purchases last year our annual budget for equipment is already at 53.192% of total; this may impact other planned purchases or cost within this category for the remained of the year...
- b. It has come to our attention that a financial arrangement/agreement made in 2014 was never honored and completed lost track of. Net Motion, software used for the MDT's in various elements of the fleet, is licensed for us through the Burien Fire District. In address of the matter we owe Burien Fire some \$9,336 for costs and services rendered since 2014 and to make us current through the end of September of this year. Costs thereafter will be \$900 annually...

### 5. Contractual Engagements:

- a. Regarding the District's on-going efforts to establish its compliance with the RCW requiring interlocal agreements for services:
  - i. *Cemetery District*: I am behind in finalizing an agreement for presentation to you for your review, approval, collective signatures and execution. Both Districts are in agreement and I shall get you the contract shortly...
  - ii. *Water District (#19)*: I am behind in finalizing an agreement for presentation to you for your review, approval, collective signatures and execution. Both Districts are in agreement and I shall get you the contract shortly...



- iii. *Vashon Parks District*: As you were all in attendance of the Special/Joint Parks & Fire Boards Public Meeting of the 19<sup>th</sup> there is little I need to advise you of on this topic. However, it has since been suggested to me that the Parks District has put all of their efforts to resolve this matter on hold pending their efforts to change their status; working to become a Metro Park in lieu of a Parks & Recreation District so as to move their position on the Junior Taxing District Prorating Worksheet from Level 1 to Level 4...
- iv. *King County*: There is nothing new to report with regards to our conversations and/or efforts with the County at this time...
- b. Regarding other open contractual efforts:
  - i. *Sprint*: Sprint has asked us to authorize equipment upgrades however we advised them that we wish to hold on such improvements pending the resolution of our long outstanding efforts to complete the lease re-negotiations... We continue to await news regarding the extension of their existing agreement at the newly requested rent. The current lease expires 01 May 2022...
  - ii. *Muckleshoot Indian Tribe*: We have made no progress with regards to an agreement...
  - iii. *King County Metro Comfort Station*: I spoke to Ms. Alyson of King County Metro (06 Feb 19) regarding the status of the County's desire to build a rest stop – comfort station on the southeast corner of Station 58's property. They offered us \$1,400 for a permanent easement to a 50' by 20' portion of the property. For our on-going discussions with the County I did not accept this offer but suggested that a temporary easement might be workable. A draft agreement/offer is being prepared by County's Real Estate Group/Team...
    - 1. *Courthouse*: We have established a path forward for the courthouse. We have resolved the Operational Expenses credit reimbursement, Local Services has begun renting the Courtroom every Tuesday and the Sheriffs begin paying rent next month...

## 6. Business Engagements:

- a. In the course of the month we have engaged in the following agreements and/or purchases via soliciting quotes or use of our Venders' & Small Project Venders' Lists:
  - i. *Station 55 Apparatus Bay Door*: We are preparing to authorize/request that the current bay door manufacturer (Specialty Doors) make emergency repairs and/or panel replacements to the inoperative 'garage door'. This is an unscheduled or planned for effort as well as an emergency sole source repair/purchase so as to secure the Apparatus Room as timely as possible...
  - ii. *Search & Rescue Prop Demolition & Earthwork*: We have reviewed all of the quotes received for the work and selected (Roggenbuck Construction) for the demolition and removal of the existing Search & Rescue prop. Included in the quote is rough grading, and earthworks in preparation of a new slab for the replacement prop...
- b. Additionally we are in the early stages of investigation with regards to:
  - i. *Training Center New Furniture*: We are preparing to authorize the purchase of new chairs and tables for the Training Center. I am reviewing various products and quotes at this time to insure process is correctly followed and we secure the desired products. It is my intent to make this order before our next Board Meeting...
  - ii. *Search & Rescue Prop*: Have secured the first contract to start the work we are beginning to secure additional quotes for work in support of our in-house efforts...

## 7. Community Engagements:

- a. Albeit a bit late, I attend the Chamber of Commerce's First Tuesday coffee and engaged with those present on District & Island matters...
- b. I have begun conversations with the island group Friends of the Maury Parks regarding our fire suppression services and plans regarding the various park properties across Maury Island. I have offered to meet with this group in the near future...

**8. Strategic Planning:**

- a. We continue to see the critical need for this report and have started its outline. We are behind schedule, allowing pressing daily tasks, issues and requirements delay our turning our attention to this matter...

**9. Miscellaneous & Noteworthy Topic(s):**

- a. On behalf of the District I would like to again thank lead Chair Schran-Brown and everyone involved in making the annual awards and recognition dinner happen I know it to have been very well received and enjoyed...
- b. Attended King County Fire Chiefs' Meeting in Seattle on the 20<sup>th</sup>...
- c. Attended a Consortium Administration Meeting in Kent on the 21<sup>st</sup>...

Conclusion of Report



Charles H. Krimmert, Fire Chief

**Vashon Island Fire & Rescue**

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