VASHON ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes

Date: 04/11/2017
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Place: 10020 SW Bank Rd, EOC Room

REGULAR MEETING

Present: Camille Staczek, Chair
Brigitte Schran-Brown, Vice-Chair
David Hoffmann, Commissioner
Candy McCullough, Commissioner
Ron Turner, Commissioner
Charles H. Krimmert, Fire Chief
Assistant Chief Robert Larsen
Susan Wolf, Minute Taker

Guests: Mike Brown, Wes Paulsen, Matt McCann, Jojo Weller, Randy Tonkin.

Amendments to Agenda
The Chair adds a presentation by Commissioner Brown in conjunction with the Chief's report.
Motion by Commissioner Staczek:

"I move we take off the table: Station 56."

This is so the Board can discuss it. **MOTION PASSES 5-0**

Approval of 03/28/17 Minutes
Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

"I move we approve the minutes of 03/28/17."

Discussion: Susan removed the word "second" from the short report. No short report will be given on radio but will be on the mobile data terminals after May 1, unless it's a flagged address.

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

Voucher Approval
Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

"I move that we approve the referenced vouchers as detailed in Administrative Memorandum 04.11.2017-1."

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

Approval for ALS Equipment Transfer

- Michelle Plorde has been working with Chief Krimmert regarding the transition of ALS funds. Some $180,000 will be provided us; $165, 000 was left in ALS reserve fund; so a total of $345,000 will be transferred into our general fund. The total is a little short from projections because instead of eight medics, we gave them five (two retired, one transitioned

to a FF/EMT) so King County Medic One had to allocate more money for training. Mid-levy adjustments of $112,000 were also included; for a total of $482,000 overall.

Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

"I move we approve the transfer of funds as detailed in Administrative Memorandum No. 04.11.17-2."

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

February Financial Report

- Early in the year, because of one time annual payments or purchases, we appear to have exceeded our budget by 15%. We have received 23.8% of our annual income while expenditures are at 22.6%. The Chief anticipates it balancing out as the year advances.

Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

"I move we accept the February Financial Report."

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

Chiefs' Report

Chief Krimmert:

- Both he and A/C Larsen are working on a minimum staffing of part-time emergency responders. They are looking at hourly rates, shifts per month with five on each shift; 3 career and two part-time firefighters. They will also integrate our volunteer EMTs into this model.
- The Chief asked for either a Special Meeting or work session for the Board to develop a unified position of the Board's aspirations. He needs this in order to work for the Board.
- Two new employees who have been training through the consortium will be filling day shifts as part of their training on April 26, 28 and the 3rd of May. Chief Larsen was at the SKCFTC review and the recruits are doing very well.
- As of this morning, we had 428 calls for the year – the average last year was 442 at this time.
- While there's nothing specific about the fleet to inform the Board at this time, for Facilities there's a note about Station 56. In the process of doing inspections for the Option 3a which he'll discuss later, the platform supporting the 300 lb. air raid siren on the roof appears to be failing. That will be taken down right away. All the sirens on the other stations were removed previously.

Commissioner Brown's presentation:

- The Board consists of a diverse group from differing backgrounds which provides diverse thinking, checks and balances. The Board is tasked with working toward meeting our mission and vision statement of protecting this island, people, property, and being fiscally responsible. Commissioner Brown is afraid that fiscal responsibility has been confused with fiscal conservancy. Last October, Chief Larsen advised each member of the Board that our District is in serious financial trouble. Immediate action could not be taken at that time because the Board had to finalize the medic transition and hire new chiefs. Chief Larsen is the expert of the history of the District and a master of infrastructure. Chief Krimmert is an expert in business and dealing with solvency issues.
- She's not questioning prior chiefs or Boards, but in the last 25 years, call volumes have nearly tripled, 72% of our patients are senior citizens and we're just at the start of the baby boom curve; it's only going to get worse. We need to hire personnel. Volunteerism is down

all over the country because in today's age we have a time-starved culture. Part-time stipends could start to turn that around.

- In 25 years, costs of uniforms and supplies have skyrocketed. The value of our tax levies have gone down. No revenues have been increased for this District in 25 years, fully one-third the life of VIFR. We have been fiscally conservative as possible, but now to the detriment of the District being able to fulfill its mission and vision statements. We can and have tried money saving methods, i.e. when we try to consolidate positions, it actually gets more expensive because inexperienced people have to contract work out. In 1995 and 2005 the Board looked into recommendations for revenues and for keeping up stations, but the recommendations were not followed up. Just like some vehicles cost more to repair than to replace.
- Chief Krimmert is looking at big picture. He is making serious recommendations and Commissioner Brown asked that we not table discussions. If we lack understanding, ask questions before or during the meeting but do not postpone the discussion and drag on decision making – we do not have the luxury of postponing action.
- In recent years we have averaged about 30 Zone One Call Backs a year; we had approximately 50 in the first two months of this year.
- Commissioner Brown gave an illustration of what happens when government agencies attempt to continue without enough resources with which to accomplish the work. Eli Creekmore was a three-year old who was a ward of the state and in foster/protective care. Workers could no longer work such large caseloads and asked for more help. The agency needed more money. The child was kicked to death while in protective custody and the mother sued the Department and won. The Department was found criminally negligent because they didn't handle a problem they knew they had. Commissioner Brown has had training from a Mid-EMT level attorney on how to minimize the risk of lawsuits. When something goes wrong these five points are looked at: What did the EMT do and the entire system at the time of the call? Was the call dispatched timely and was the response in a timely manner in comparison to comparable districts, traffic, distance, etc.? Was sufficient staff available and was the response to the standard of care? Is their equipment safe and up-to-date? Was the treatment standard care? Was the transport safe and comparable?
- The most comparable King County Fire District to us is Duvall (#45). Duvall has $10 million in reserves; VIFR has $1.1 million in reserves. Commissioner Brown is concerned when all four aid cars are transporting at once or when we have seven Zone One Callbacks in one weekend.
- The purchase of the Bennedsen Residence was to house a Resident (volunteer) crew to decrease response times to the south end of the island. While a good idea, it did not improve our response time, instead the average response from the Bennedsen House to roll out at the Burton Station was 4-7 minutes. By that time, the responders from Station 55 were at the (Burton) intersection.
- She read the WSRB inspection report and found it not quite accurate because it read as if people are responding from our out-lying stations. If we put fans and open doors at Station 56, it is not OSHA or WISHA compliant. Firefighters get cancer at many times the rate of the average citizen.
- Commissioner Brown stated in conclusion, the District can no longer "tighten its belt." She asked the Board listen to our experts and their recommendations. Let's not table discussions, let's stay here and come to the conclusions sequentially. The financial gap gets bigger as time goes on. Shad added that not only do we need to close this gap by increasing our income, but ultimately we need at least a two year operating budget in reserves to be fiscally

responsible. We need to move forward not backward. She added that we can not put our crews' lives or health at risk – that saving a handful of insurance dollars does not trump our crews' safety. *(A copy of Commissioner Brown's white board discussion is attached to this report.)*

Chief Krimmert:

- The chief states while he's far from an expert; he's passionate – which was a motivating factor in taking on his job description to protect the island. We need to take steps, get things fixed right away, which will result in closing the gap over time. Right now we're "deep in poop" and we have to step on it to get out. He's considering our insurance rating, surplusing stations, the part-time Firefighters to get away from the cyclic volunteerism.
- Millennials are focused on technical careers. The firefighter number is quite horrifying. In our program of 22 volunteers only eight are firefighters, five are FF/EMTs, and five EMTs. We can create a family tradition through the Explorer program. Part-time firefighters can fill that slot, which we can fund it through transport fees – another revenue avenue and increase our budget by 5%.
- We can build a fleet replacement fund. Due to a sale of the surplused E551, we received the first $500 contribution toward a fleet fund.
- We can build a capital expenditure fund for facilities. We have ALS funds since we ended that program and there is substantial value in the Bennedsen House. The chief humbly requests we consider surplusing it and using those funds. We need to paint up/fix up, spend approximately $20,000 and should get $600,000 from the sale, a 50% since its purchase. To the question of when we would sell it, the chief replied we'd sell as soon as we get it ready. When asked how long it would take, A/C Larsen explained the exterior has an oil based stain and therefore need warm weather to paint: June/July, depending on the weather. By spending $20,000 on the house, we should see an increase in value of $50-100,000. It was scheduled to be painted last year.
- One Friday two weeks ago, we had two additional volunteers on staff – the exception, not the rule. Besides not really improving response time, volunteers have difficulty receiving Active 9-1-1 on their phones at the Bennedsen House and there are no tones. Radio signals are also intermittent.

Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

"I make a motion to prepare the Bennedsen house for sale, get a realtor to give us a value and make it ready."

MOTION PASSES, 4-1

- Realtors are, at the moment, begging people to sell their houses. Most are selling within one-two days, over listed price. Beds are at a premium at Station 55. The chief is looking at a program with two career and two volunteers on shift with two medics. The Board was reminded that a Surplus Resolution was believed to be needed to sell the house.
- Comment from the Board was that (prior) Board members were aware of what was happening, but the medic transition consumed two years. While they made strides to get strategic planning underway, it didn't come to fruition. They discussed raising the lid and coming up with alternative revenue sources. Commissioner McCullough noticed a $300,000 contingency fund for facilities and a $300,000 fund annually for facilities and equipment, which year by year was whittled away. She asked questions and was told there were current needs that required those funds but expenditures used were within the budget. Last year there was nothing in those funds.

- Now that we have new SCBAs, they cost $5,000 - $10,000 each and last for 15 years, are we saving future replacement? The chief suggests white papers, so that the Board understands and can unify their decisions. The next step is to educate the community. In addition to funding, we have quite happily protected the community and they don't understand the ramification of what it takes to have us show up for 9-1-1 calls.
- Second, the chief doesn't believe we can go for the entire $1.50 levy. If we do, we'll start with a series of opponents and be in contention with the parks district. We have figured out if we come up with a $1.30 (levy lid lift) it might pass, but a $1.50 will fail. Transport fees were approved by previous boards and we should reapprove.
- The Board asks if we need a motion to charge for transports, but the chiefs asked for more time. They are pursuing actual costs, staffing, mileage, and assessed value for apparatus maintenance. Also realize that half of those invoiced will not pay. They are pursuing it to provide income.
- Commissioner McCullough reported that nationally, fire districts are supporting hospitals and hospital districts. They bill their services back to hospitals and insurance companies through an in-home medic program. EMTs visit patient homes at the request of hospitals in a "care car" – two staff in a command vehicle. This might be another avenue of revenue and it's happening in this area.
- We are one of a handful (of fire districts) that do not charge for transports. The chiefs are researching what other districts charge, the ferry factor, etc. Those patients who our staff transfers to ambulances at the dock are being charged.

Motion by Commissioner Turner:

"We've already passed this motion (to charge for transports) four times. Let's do this."

Motion amended by Commissioner McCullough:

"I'd like to make a friendly amendment to the previous motion: you chiefs check out the possibilities, get details, to give you time to bring it back to us before putting the plan into place."

Discussion: Billing would be by a third party, which the chiefs are also checking out.

MOTION PASSES as amended, 5-0

New Business

Resolution 17-362 Claims Agent

Secretary Wolf explains that with the hiring of Chief Krimmert, we need a resolution naming him as claims agent. The format is different from other resolutions because we need to file it with the King County Recorder.

Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

"I move we approve Resolution 17-362 as presented."

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

Old Business

SOP 1004 – Purchasing

Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

"I move we approve SOP 1004 for Purchasing."

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

SOP 1021 – Expense Reimbursement

Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

"I move we approve SOP 1021 Expense Reimbursement."

Discussion: the changes to the policy were to lower mileage to the IRS 2017 rate and increase meals by $3 a day for per diem.

MOTION PASSES, 5-0

District Overviews

- Chief Krimmert requests that his staffing report be presented on the 25th of this month. He will put that report together with the facilities and fleet. His intention is to have all reports done by the last meeting June so the Board has July to make a decision and can file by August.

Station 56

- The chief proposes "Option 3a" to re-purpose Station 56. He would take Tender 55, which does not require exhaust extraction (because it is built into the vehicle), and rename it to Tender 56 and place it in Station 56. Then he would take Tender 56 and rename it Tender 55 and place it here at Station 55. We would then move Tender 551 to Station 58.
- There is a diminishing volunteer corps that responds to that station. Last year T56 responded 11 times, E56 responded 7 times and while the aid car responded 112 times, mostly it was to come to Station 55 for backup. The foundation of the building is approaching 70 years. There's a seismic concern and it's a health concern for exhaust. It's difficult to justify the money for an extraction system install and the building has outlived its usefulness. It needs a new roof and paint; there's a lot of deferred maintenance. We can use two-thirds of it for storage. Most volunteers responding from the station last year were Support using tenders.
- Discussion concerned Engine 56, which is "on its last legs," but could be used in reserve status. The aid car from Station 58 has been at Station 55. Brigitte Brown pulls shifts, Mike Kirk pulls mostly day shifts, and Rick Brown also works shifts. The engine would be the third due. When two aid cars are in service, we need another aid car here.
- Discussion around the Plymovent extraction system: how some volunteers have left the doors open, of the nine volunteers in Station 56 vicinity most come to Station 55 or respond to the scene with a kit in their private vehicles (POV) because manpower is more critical than apparatus. Chief Larsen is the only engine driver in that vicinity. There was concern the station was not OSHA or WISHA compliant; others felt because of the age of the station it was "grandfathered" and an extraction system was not mandatory. Exposure and limits were discussed. There was concern that since we've acknowledged we have a problem, we have to value our firefighters' health and understand that has a price.
- *Comment from Firefighter/EMT Randy Tonkin* (union president) who stated that firefighters have a cancer rate 68% higher than the average and he has been breathing diesel fumes his whole life. There are line-of-duty deaths from diesel exhaust exposure. He stated that he hooks up the plymovent hose every time. He stated the worse particulate occurs when you start (the apparatus) up. He stated that we could get rid of all the diesel apparatus, but his concern was that the Board is attempting to put Band-Aids on this issue. He recommended the Board follow the chiefs' recommendations.

- The Board suggested they would like volunteers to have input on this issue.
- *Comment from Wes Paulsen* was that it does not impact voluntarism to drive extra 2.8 miles. When he lived here, he'd drive to Station 58 to get a tender.
- *Comment from Jojo Weller* was that when she was working in Recruitment and Retention, volunteers never asked, "Where do I respond from?" The volunteers serve here.
- *Comment from Commissioner McCullough* was that she would like to hear from more volunteers.
- *Both Wes Paulsen and Matt McCann commented* that Mike Kirk who lives by the Burton Station on Old Mill, responds POV with a kit. Rick Brown, same thing. Commissioner McCullough wanted ~~statements~~ engagement sur from the volunteer staff that respond from Station 56 ~~to be presented to Board~~ sur. Chief Krimmert committed to contacting all the volunteers within a five mile radius of the Burton station and present their comments to the Board. He asked if these individuals within five road miles of the station are in favor of the relocation, may he make the change and advise these volunteers?
- The chief stated we're at a half a million dollar deficit budget and to exhaust extract all three bays if it is $60,000 to put in an extraction system, the building is not worth it. Chief Larsen is getting bids to confirm. We're not tearing down the building, we're repurposing it. If we get a flurry of volunteers who want to respond from that station, we can re-look at it. There's no cost advantage with a limited amount of responders.
- The volunteers present thanked the Board for allowing volunteer comments and the Board recognizes that there is an issue with the particulates and would like to prevent exposure.

Motion by Commissioner Brown:

"Is it appropriate for me to make a motion that we repurpose Station 56 as recommended by Chief Krimmert based on if the three volunteers who respond to that station are in favor of the relocation?"

- All volunteers of a five mile will be solicited for their opinion, specifically if they are in favor of moving the aid car to Station 55; also relocating the engine, which is scheduled for replacement.

MOTION PASSES 4-1

General Comments

- Brigitte asked if another Board member would be willing to meet with the VashonBePrepared at their next meeting on the 19th of April here at 4 p.m. None will be available, but the chief will check his calendar.

For the Good of the Order

- A/C Larsen Bob and Chief met with members of VashonBePrepared and they are preparing for a drill on June 11.
- Commissioner Brown stated she would defer to the chief, but Ayla Lewis of Happy Brain has offered to come back at no charge. It would involve finding a place to have it and providing coffee and lunch. We do have a classroom and courthouse available to meet in.

- Secretary Wolf mentioned that after the Bennedsen House was purchased on Commissioner Turner's suggestion which she believed it was a good suggestion because the property is an asset; Chief Lipe mentioned to her that he wouldn't have recommended that we purchase the house. When she asked him why not, he replied that he would have recommended that we tear the Burton station down, sell the Tahlequah property, because as view property it was likely highly valuable, and build a new station on the south end on the west side.
- The Board sets a date for a retreat to develop directions for the chief. By May 13, the chief will have presented to the Board his findings on the District's staffing, facilities and fleet, but should have information on call volume and financials earlier. The retreat will be scheduled for Sunday, April 23 at 2 in the afternoon here.

ACTION ITEM: Secretary Wolf to send out an agenda and schedule the retreat.

Documents Signed

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

2:00 p.m SW

The Board Retreat will be held Sunday, April 23 in the EOC room at Station 55 at ~~9:00 a.m.~~

The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, 04/25/17 at 6:30 p.m. at 10020 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, EOC Room

Approved this 25 day of April, 2017.

Camille Staczek
Camille Staczek, Chair

Susan Wolf
Susan Wolf, Minute Taker

OFFICE OF THE FIRE CHIEF

Chief's Report
for the
Fire Commissioners' Meeting
of
11 April 2017

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

1. **Overarching Operational Topics**:
    a. An alternate option/direction for Burton Station 56 has been proposed for consideration and action…
    b. In response to our minimum staffing numbers AC Larsen and I are working on the creation of a part-time emergency responders program for volunteers…
        i. Aspirational the program will establish hourly pay rates and shifting/month so as to implement a minimum staffing of five…
    c. I would like to request that the Board establish a special meeting/work session that it can present to AC Larsen and me its unified positions and goals for the District through 2017 and into 2018 if not longer…
        i. I am now three months into the job and have not been presented with a set of Board goals or criteria to strive for…

2. **Overarching Training Topics**:
    a. Ladder 55 pump and aerial training is on-going and we are continuing to work to complete overall apparatus training as timely as possible…
    b. Recruits Lenz and McMillian will be on shift days of 19 and 26 April & 3 May as a component of their EMT training…

3. **Service/Call Volumes**:
    a. As of 07:30, shift change today, the District has responded to 420 calls…
        i. Based on last year's call volume averaging would have us at some 447 calls by this date. The actual count for this date last year was 442…

4. **Staff/Personnel**:
    a. AC Larsen visited the SKCFTC Academy (03 Apr 17) for a review of our recruits, both are doing well…
        i. As a reminder they graduate on May 15, 2017…

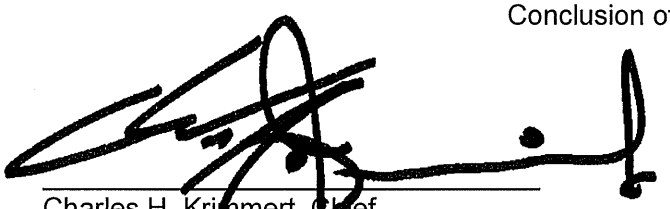
5. **Fleet**:
    a. Nothing specific to report at this time…

6. **Facilities**:
    a. Burton Station 56 Option 3a has been presented to you for your information and support. Operationally we are prepared to move on it and will unless you wish to take exception at this time…
    b. It appears that the platform holding up Station 56's fire siren is failing; we are investigating and will probably remove the siren from the building…

7. **Financials**:
    a. The 'Spent to Date' summary of 2017's first quarter has been presented to you all within your packages…
    b. It appears that the final financials for the ALS transition have established themselves and the total funds being left or transferred to us are $482,265…

8. **Miscellaneous/Noteworthy Topic(s)**:
    a. Nothing specific to report at this time…

Conclusion of Report



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