

# VASHON ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS

## Minutes

**Date:** 09/25/2019

**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, Position 02  
Robert Larsen, Assistant Chief of Operations  
Jojo Weller, District Secretary

**Absent:** Charles Krimmert, Fire Chief, Commissioner Dave Hoffman, Position 05, and  
Commissioner Andy Johnson, Position 01

#### Pledge of Allegiance

#### Amendments to Agenda

- Move point #7, Chief's Report, before point #6, New Business
- Add Budget Timeline under New Business
- WFOA Proxy Votes
  - Commissioners to sign the proxy for their votes to count

#### Approval of 08/28/19 Minutes

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**"I make a motion to approve the 08/28/19 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 09.25.19-1."**

**MEMORANDUM APPROVED 3-0**

#### AC Larsen's Report:

- see AC's addendum
- ref #2b- Commissioner Staczek asked if the recruits have to go on a specific amount of calls to complete their training; AC Larsen replies that the training can go on longer or shorter depending on the types of calls they go to and what the recruits learn from each call.
- ref #2c- Board Chair Schran-Brown asks if she is allowed to take pictures during the smoke trainings; Per AC Larsen, yes she can and recommends that she coordinate this with BC Coll.

- ref #2d:
  - The cutoff date will be sometime in mid-November. If there are less than six applicants then the academy date will move to June.
  - Vice-Chair McCullough asks where the live fire training will be held since the state academy is in a remodeling phase. AC Larsen replies the live fire training will still be held at the North Bend facility as the District is still able to coordinate these trainings with the state.
- ref #2g- having the binders on a digital format makes it easier to disperse information to the recruits and for administration to track trainings.
- ref #2i- the majority of the crew have trained on this boat. This has been the boat that was brought over for training twice this year.

**Chief Krimmert’s Report (overview given by AC Larsen):**

- see Chief’s addendum
- ref #4a- Board Chair Schran-Brown asks about the collection for transport fees. Are people paying their bills? AC Larsen responds that most people are paying their bills. The budget line item is at 70.835%.
- ref #4bii- AC Larsen mentions that about eight hours ago an aid car was pulled out of service. It quit running on Ambaum Way while transporting a patient. It started back up again and died at Highline Hospital. It did that twice more on the way back to the station.
- ref #9c:
  - Weller mentions that the donated flowers left at the memorial were removed a week later after a ceremonial raising of the flag by FF Davidson, Instructor Puz, FF Helms and the Explorer group.
  - AC Larsen adds that two nights ago there was vandalism done to the helmet. The leather patch on the helmet was ripped off into pieces. He is contacting an artist on island who can hopefully repair the patch. There was minor damage done to the helmet itself.

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I make a motion to approve the August financial report as presented.”**

**AUGUST FINANCIAL APPROVED, 3-0**

**New Business**

- Budget Timeline- Weller would like to make a note that two Special meetings will be added in October and November for the budget process. In response from the Board October 16 will have to be rescheduled as three commissioners will be out of town.
- WFCFA Proxy Vote- Chair Schran-Brown signed form; Commissioner Staczek will be attending the meeting with Vice-Chair McCullough.

**Old Business**

- Chief Jim Walkowski Update
  - There are a couple more interviews which Vice-Chair McCullough is recommending Chief Walkowski to do over the phone.
  - Vice-Chair McCullough suggests that when Chief Walkowski is ready to share his findings that it is done with the Board first through executive session if appropriate and then share the information with the District. Vice-Chair McCullough will also ask Chief Walkowski if the Chief, HR and/or District Secretary should attend. Chair

Schran-Brown agrees this sounds reasonable but would like Vice-Chair McCullough to ask Chief Walkowski if this is suitable. Commissioner Staczek also agrees.

- Rescue Swimmer Program
  - Commissioner Staczek sent a letter out via email to the Chief, Board and staff. She is concerned that if the policy is written as stating two rescue swimmers on every call the program is going to fail due to the fact that there are not enough rescue swimmers available for every call. She would like the policy to state 'two rescue swimmers on call whenever possible'.
  - Vice-Chair McCullough reminds the Board that the vote was for two swimmers and both Chiefs are in the process of writing the policy. The Chiefs will recommend what they think is appropriate. Vice-Chair McCullough would also like to add that it was inappropriate for Commissioner Staczek to send the letter out to the staff during a time when the District is trying to improve its communication to create a positive communication culture. Vice-Chair McCullough disagrees with some phrasings used. She feels that by sending this letter out it to the staff it undermines the Chief's and her decisions. This letter would've been better received if it were presented before the Board made its decision. During the time the Board and Chiefs were gathering information on the rescue swimmers program.
  - Commissioner Staczek did not see it as undermining and that was not the intent of the message but a way to share standard practices from other departments she discovered while doing some research.
  - Per Vice-Chair McCullough, this letter would've been appropriate to present when the Board was asking for data and before the Board made its decision. During that period of time the Board and Chiefs were gathering information on a rescue swimmer program. She stands by her decision that having two rescue swimmers responding is safer for the members.
  - Board Chair Schran-Brown agrees with Commissioner Staczek and she did not perceive the email as undermining anyone but saw it as sharing information.

### **General Comments**

- Vice-Chair McCullough comments that the NAFEO Conference was excellent and suggests that the other commissioners should attend next year.
  - No handouts from the conference however they were willing to share the PowerPoint presentations. She will forward these to the Board when she gets them.
  - George Dunkel is a consultant to different district agencies. He spoke about the life cycle of a Fire Chief.
  - Bill Web director of CFSI, Congressional Fire Service Institute, who negotiates with legislators for fire and emergency services, gave information and updates on what's going on in DC and how the group can help be more impactful.
  - Chief Dale Lyman, from Greeley Fire Department in Colorado, talked about a huge increase in their non-emergent 911 calls. An increase by 161% while their population only increased by 33%. His collaborative efforts with the union allowed him to hire a mental health provider and nurse practitioner. They dispatch the appropriate resource and allow them to get the patients to the right place. With this new practice the department's call volume went down 38%. It helped their District manage non-emergent and emergent calls. Commissioner Staczek mentions that Shoreline has a similar program.
  - Retired Chief Ken Riddle, President of Nevada Fire Chief Association, explained revenue options from federal fund, Transport (ET3) Program, to pay for telehealth,

home, alternative transportation destinations, etc. and other ambulance supplemental payment programs. Pierce County makes use of this.

- Chair Schran-Brown will clear her schedule and attend next year's conference.

## **For the Good of the Order**

### **Documents Signed**

Adjourned at 19:33 break before Executive Session

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Executive Session was held pursuant to RCW 42.30.140, which provides that the following is outside the scope of a public meeting:

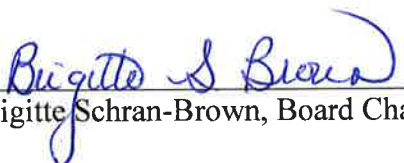
Collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations, including contract negotiations, grievance meetings, and discussions relating to the interpretation or application of a labor agreement; or . . . that portion of a meeting during which the governing body is planning or adopting the strategy or position to be taken by the governing body during the course of any collective bargaining, professional negotiations, or grievance or mediation proceedings, or reviewing the proposals made in the negotiations or proceedings while in progress.

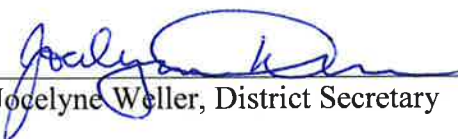
The public meeting was closed and the Executive Session opened at 19:40. The session was extended at 20:10 for 20 more minutes by Chair Schran-Brown. The Executive Session was closed and the public meeting opened at 20:30 for 20 more minutes by Chair Schran-Brown. The Executive Session was closed and the public meeting opened at 20:50 for 5 more minutes by Chair Schran-Brown. The Executive Session was closed and the public meeting opened at 20:55 for 5 more minutes by Chair Schran-Brown. The Executive Session was closed and the public meeting opened at 21:00. No decision was made.

Adjourned at 21:00

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

Approved this 30<sup>th</sup> day of October 2019

  
Brigitte Schran-Brown, Board Chair

  
Jocelyne Weller, District Secretary