

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

Minutes

Date: 10/24/2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: 10020 SW Bank Rd, EOC Room

SPECIAL MEETING

- 1 **Present:** Camille Staczek, Chair
2 Brigitte Schran-Brown, Vice-Chair
3 David Hoffmann, Commissioner
4 Candy McCullough, Commissioner
5 Ron Turner, Commissioner
6 Charles H. Krimmert, Fire Chief
7 Robert Larsen, Assistant Chief
8 Susan Wolf, Minute Taker
- 9 **Guests:** Jan Milligan, Joe Ulatoski, Darren Lenz, Jojo Weller and Josh Dueweke.

10 **Amendments to Agenda**

11 Add: ValleyCom Agreement, Tax Assistance and WFCA Conference to New Business.

12 **Approval of 10/10/17 Regular Meeting Minutes**

13 Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

14 "I move we approve the minutes of 10/10/17."

15 **MINUTES APPROVED, 4-0 with one abstention**

16 **Voucher Approval**

17 Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

18 "I move that we approve the vouchers of 10.24.2017-1."

19 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

20 **September Financial Report**

21 *This topic delayed until after the Chief's presentation on the budget.*

22 **Chiefs' Report**

23 *A/C Larsen:*

- 24 • The seven candidates for part-time paid positions are advancing through the process with an
25 anticipated start date of December 1, 2017.
- 26 • New recruits in the academy all passed their Firefighter 1 practicals and are now taking
27 HazMat training. Graduation: December 9, 10:00 a.m. at the Theatre.
- 28 • Call volume: 1,245 calls so far this year. Last year at this time we were at 1,311; or 66 more.

- 29 • Still answering concurrent calls. This morning we had an aid call in Gold Beach, then a walk
30 in cardiac patient. Last month we passed the total of concurrent calls for all of last year.
31 There's no easy way to pull a report for these statistics. He searched every call in the
32 database.
- 33 • Two fires to report; details are in the chief's report.
- 34 • We sent three firefighters on a MOBE to California on Friday the 13th and they returned on
35 the 18th.

36 *Chief Krimmert:*

- 37 • For staffing: one week contains fourteen 12-hour shift opportunities. If we have two
38 volunteers per shift, that's 28 opportunities. This week we have four responders filling five
39 slots.
- 40 • Fleet apparatus replacement: that schedule will depend on the success or failure of the levy.
- 41 • Financials: ValleyCom costs will increase from \$40.79 to \$41.81 in 2018. A quick summary
42 of revenues vs. expenditures, which the chief will address in detail during the budget
43 discussion: We have completed the third quarter of the budget year. Our revenues are at
44 75.4%. October's tax revenue has not yet been received. Expenditures are at 78% due to
45 hiring an additional Firefighter and three part-time paid firefighters, which were not in the
46 budget. We have also invested more money in our information technology to get better
47 performance.
- 48 • The chief has been asked to discuss the ballot measure on a radio show called Crossroads on
49 Voice of Vashon, Monday, October 30 at 7:00 p.m. with Alice Larsen, Rick Wallace and
50 Hillary Emmer. It may be rebroadcasted on Wednesday.

51 **Old Business**

52 a) 2018 Budget

- 53 • This is the second presentation of a preliminary budget – one without the levy and one if
54 the levy passes. The spreadsheet, which the chief projected on a screen for the meeting,
55 also shows the budgeted and actual amounts for the current year. (This draft is attached
56 to the minutes.) There were some revenues that were unanticipated this year: a claim
57 from our insurance for \$21,900; MOBE reimbursements, although we have not received
58 all our tax revenues yet. Delinquency payments may give us more taxes; refunds may
59 take some away. Expenses for training were up because it wasn't budgeted to keep that
60 position for this year. Fees for investments with the county are up this year. Ferry
61 expenses are down because Raechel has been negotiating and following up with the
62 ferries when they charge us over-height or over-length fees, when not warranted. She is
63 also attempting to reduce the fees. Comments from the Board were that they appreciated
64 Raechel's efforts.
- 65 • In a budget without a levy lid lift, training would be cut to the bone but the chief would
66 attempt to retain all the people we could afford. Apparatus would continue to age and
67 there would be no money for replacement.
- 68 • In a budget considering a successful levy, we would hire more firefighters and put money
69 aside in reserve accounts for deferred maintenance on buildings/grounds and start a
70 replacement schedule for apparatus.
- 71 • The chief asked for comments, questions and ideas from the Board to help guide these
72 decisions.

73 **New Business**

74 ValleyCom agreement

75 Motion by Commissioner Schran-Brown:

76 **“I move we approve the fee schedule to the agreement by and between Valley**
77 **Communications Center and Vashon Fire & Rescue for dispatch services in**
78 **order to establish annual rates and fees under the Emergency Dispatch**
79 **Agreement to remain in effect from January 1, 2018 thru December 31, 2018.”**

80 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

- 81 • The Board asked if there was any way to negotiate the rates, but the Chief replied that the
82 rates are across the board, meaning the same rate applies for all the agencies ValleyCom
83 serves.

84 Tax Assistance

85 Commissioner Staczek and Hillary Emmer will be providing a class to seniors on how to
86 apply to the county for property tax relief on November 6 at 9:00 a.m. at Senior Center. It is
87 based on income and being a senior or disabled. Once you fill out the application, property
88 tax can be eliminated, reduced by a percentage or nothing depending on the county’s
89 determination. It is on the King County website that a person can apply tax relief especially
90 if making under \$25,000 per year. She asked permission to say the fire district supports her
91 in making this information available.

92 **CONSENSUS**

93 **WFOA Conference**

- 94 • Commissioner Staczek advised the Board she paid the registration fees for this conference
95 herself and will be attending. She will bring back information to share. It is being held in
96 Spokane, Thursday through Saturday this week.

97 **September Financial Report**

98 Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

99 **“I move we accept the September Financial Report.**

100 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

- 101 • Discussion was had about the best way to make budgets available to the public. There is
102 hesitancy to release draft copies of preliminary budgets for 2018 because the budget is in
103 process and the figures keep changing, however the secretary reminded the Board that
104 documents provided them during a public meeting are public documents. It was decided to
105 post 2015 and 2016 budget on the website and make draft 2018 budgets available by hard
106 copy at the station.

107 **General Comments**

- 108 • The chief was thanked by the Board for a nice job on working over the budget.
- 109 • Joe Ulatoski commented that from what he is hearing from the public there is no concerted
110 effort by the Board as a whole. He stated, “If you can’t say failure to pass the levy will
111 further endanger the public,” it will not overcome public concern about the “automatic 6%
112 per year.” The Board will decide each year how much to collect or ask from the county and
113 the Board will have a lot to say what the increases will be. He knows the chief and a citizen
114 group are supporting the levy, but there isn’t a lot from the Board talking about why we need

115 the \$1.50 levy. He suggested the Board write a joint letter to the Beachcomber and then the
116 chief can share it to the public. It needs to be a consistent “drumbeat.”

117 CONSENSUS; ACTION ITEM: Commissioner Staczek will work on a draft.

118 **For the Good of the Order**

- 119 • Commissioner Schran-Brown went down to Santa Rosa and said the disaster exercise we did
120 here called Cascadia Rising was “spot on” in terms of helping people with shelter. It was so
121 devastating, it took her three days to recover. It was worse than Hurricane Hugo, which she
122 lived through. She said the District has received thank you calls and two cards from
123 California.
- 124 • Jan Milligan commented that IFCH is taking itself out of sheltering business. Providing
125 shelter in a disaster serves a different community. IFCH tried it on for size, providing short
126 term shelters for the homeless during cold nights. She stated it was very challenging in terms
127 of staffing, supervision, financing and behaviors. VashonBePrepared is trying to look at it.

128 **Documents Signed**

129 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

130 The Executive Session was held pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(g) To evaluate the qualifications
131 of an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee.

132 The public session closed at 7:56 p.m. and the Executive Session opened at 7:58 p.m. At 8:00
133 p.m. the session was extended for 25 more minutes by Commissioner Staczek. The Executive
134 Session closed and the meeting was opened to the public at 8:25 p.m.

135 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

136 **“The Board directs the administration to offer Firefighter Paulsen to continue as a**
137 **volunteer for VIFR.”**

138 **MOTION PASSES 4-0 with one abstention**

139 The Chair then adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.

140 *The Regular Meeting for 10/31/17 is cancelled.*

141 *The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, 11/14/17 at 6:30 p.m. at 10020 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, EOC Rm*

Approved this 14 day of Nov, 2017.



Camille Staczek, Chair



Susan Wolf, Minute Taker



Assistant Chief's Report
for the
Fire Commissioners' Meeting
of
24 October 2017

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. The 7 candidates for PTP are advancing through the process with an anticipated start date of 12/01

2. Overarching Training Topics:

- a. Recruit Academy continues currently in week 13 with 9 students. All students passed the practical portion of the FF1 test and have taken the written portion with those scores expected back within the next two weeks. They are beginning their Hazardous Materials training this week. Graduation scheduled for December 9 at 1000 at the theatre.

3. Service/Call Volumes:

- a. As of 07:30, shift change today, the District has responded to 1245 calls...
 - i. Based on the averaging of last year's calls we should statistically be around 1311, 66 calls higher and in fact on this date last year we were at 1334.
- b. In the past two weeks there have been two reported large fires. On 10/12 there was a report of a large fire with explosion at approximately 125th Place SW and 124th Lane SW. Investigation found no smoke or fire in that area. A return call to the reporting party was made and they said there was still smoke but it "looked normal". We had been called to that same area a few times in the past two to three weeks for smoke and were unable to find anything other than chimney smoke. Later that day a person came into Station 55 and reported that they had been told by a relative who had been in a boat off the south end of Vashon and had seen the smoke and investigated finding a cabin that had been burned to the

ground and spot fires in the surrounding area. We received directions on how to approach the area and proceeded with a small team to the location finding what was described. We dug a fire line around the area before having to pull back for safety due to approaching darkness. A team returned the following morning and completed extinguishing hot spots. Due to the location and access it was all hand work. I made contact with the property owner and informed him of the incident. He said he would come to Vashon over the weekend to look at it, unknown if he did or not. Investigation was done by the KCSO Fire Investigator.

- c. On 10/19 we were toned to a possible residential fire in the Lisabeula area. Upon arrival we found that a small fire had been accidentally started by a plumber doing some torch work and had been mostly extinguished by the work crew on location. One worker suffered burn injuries and was transported to Harborview for treatment. Investigated fire room and found fire out with no extension. Scene investigated by KCSO Fire Investigator.

4. Miscellaneous/Noteworthy Topic(s):

- a. We mobilized a crew of three and an engine to the California fires on and they returned on the 26th.

Conclusion of Report

Robert Larsen, Assistant Chief of Operations
Vashon Island Fire & Rescue
1 206 463 2405 (Office) Extension 302
1 206 940 2618 (Mobile)



Chief's Report
for the
Fire Commissioners' Meeting
of
24 October 2017

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

1. Staff/Personnel:

- a. A week contains 14 twelve hour shift opportunities for volunteers. Assume two or three firefighters and/or EMT's working each shift and we have 28 or 42 positions available every week. This week we have four responders filling five or the 28 or 42 openings...

2. Fleet:

- a. We are continuing to develop an *Apparatus Replacement Schedule*; we have chosen to advance one, tied to the singular budget to be advanced after the results of the levy ballot are known...

3. Facilities:

- a. Nothing to report on at this time....

4. Financials:

- a. Valley Com, our dispatch center has advised us that the cost of dispatching us is going up next year. Fees are increasing from \$40.79/call to \$41.81/call. It is my understanding that the board needs to vote on the approval of this increase...
- b. The end of third quarter revenues and expenses has been incorporated into the 2018 budgeting spreadsheet for review. At this time all numbers should be at 75%; revenues are at 75.4% and expenses are at 78%... The balance of our operational account at the end of September was \$485,453.62...
- c. I have no additional financial topics to bring up or discuss as we are continuing our 2018 budgeting work sessions/process this evening...

5. Miscellaneous/Noteworthy Topic(s):

- a. I have been asked, and agreed, to voicing my thoughts/opinions on the pending District levy on the radio show Island Crossroads on Voice of Vashon Monday (30 Sep 17) at 19:00. Also on the show will be Alice Larson, Hilary Emmer and Rick Wallace...

Conclusion of Report

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles H. Krimmert', written over a horizontal line.

Charles H. Krimmert, Fire Chief
Vashon Island Fire & Rescue
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1 206 300 0952 (Mobile)