



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

**Date:** 11/28/2018

**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  
David Hoffman, Commissioner (arrived at 18:33)  
Camille Staczek, Commissioner (arrived at 18:34)  
Andy Johnson, Commissioner (on phone)  
Chief Charles Krimmert  
Robert Larsen, Assistant Fire Chief  
Jojo Weller, District Secretary

Dave Libao, Jade Grace, Ivy Sacks, Knute Rockne, Ron Smothermon, Linda Lamb, John Simonds.  
Captain Dueweke, FF Ben Davidson, FF Darren Lenz, FF Ryan Smith, FF Zak Endicott, Recruit  
Tristan Gornall, Mike Brown, Emily Brown

**Absent:**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Amendments to Agenda**

- Dave Libao from Cummings Frasier Associates to present before Chiefs' reports

**Approval of 10/31/18 Minutes**

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I make a motion to approve the 10/31/18 minutes.”**

Chair Schran-Brown, as corrected in the section For the Good the Order.

**MINUTES APPROVED, 3-0**

**Voucher Approval**

Motion by Commissioner Hoffman:

**“I move that we approve the referenced vouchers as detailed in Administrative**

- Dave Libao presented an overview of the District’s benefit plans
  - The District has a competitive plan with great price
  - Reviewed medical, dental, vision, short and long term disability and life insurance products
  - Besides the 15% increase in medical the other products have no changes
  - In 2020 there’s a possible increase of 10% with medical based on trends
  - Dave suggests to renew as is for 2019
- Vice Chair McCullough clarifies the preliminary introduction benefit for the Standard Life Insurance is for consideration only. Dave confirms.
- Chief concurs to stay with current plans and benefits
- Chair Schran-Brown thanks Dave for his work
- Vice-Chair McCullough recites detailed benefits that will be renewed
- Chief clarifies that the cost of medical to the District is 100% for employee and 85% for dependents
- John Simonds asks if Part-Time paid get these benefits and if they are covered by L&I. Chief’s answer; no medical or any other benefits but they do accrue sick and vacation hours and are also covered by L&I.
- Ron Smothermon asks what the annual premium is for medical. Dave answer; around \$643 per month.

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I make a motion to approve renewing the same benefits for 2019.”**

**RENEWAL APPROVED, 5-0**

**Assistant Chief Larsen’s Report:**

- see Assistant Chief’s addendum
- re: 2a, AC recommends to watch the news at King5.com VIFR Graduation which highlights a war veteran
- re: 2b, academy 2019-01 to have orientation 20 December and first class is 02 January.
- Re: 2d, a new group to start EMT academy in February

**Chief Krimmert’s Report:**

- see Chief’s addendum
- Chief points out the apparatus schedule worksheet which has no immediate impact to the budget except for setting aside \$450K for the new engine
- Ron Smothermon asks how much the charge is for each recruit from other Districts; Chief explains that it is currently \$2,000 but will go up in 2019-02 at about \$2,250. The advantage of having these academies is the three volunteers that the Vashon recruits afterward with the other District’s recruits coming in to help fund the training program

John Simonds asks/:

- If the District is asking for the 6% max levy
  - *Chief confirms this is correct but using the Preliminary Assessed Value so the final*

*6% amount may vary.*

- If there are details for the capital funds such as money in and money out
  - *Chief tried to show John from the worksheet where the money went into the expense account and where it got spent however John passed on the opportunity and commented that it should be in the capital funds account; Chief thanked John for the suggestion and will take it into consideration*
- About the 1.05 million going into capital reserves
  - *Chief replies that 350K will go into the General Reserve, 450K to go into Fleet Reserve, 100K into Facilities Reserve and 150K into Equipment Reserve*
- Questions the reserve money and not having enough FFs due to poor fire rating on Vashon
  - *Chief replies that there are not enough FF at the southern station even if he hires more career FFs today they will be stationed in town and that still won't affect the rating for Vashon's south end community*
- John mentions that having more FFs would be better for responding and thinks eight on duty is more realistic especially with the limited volunteer response
  - *Chief replies that not only does the District have three career FFs on duty with two part-time and however many volunteers sign up; there are also the Chief, Assistant Chief, Battalion Chief and Training Specialist on duty per M-F. The Chief, Assistant Chief and Training Specialist live on Vashon and do respond on weekends, evenings and early mornings.*
- John would like to see 600K moved from capital reserves to general expenses to hire more FFs
  - *Chief replies, if we move the 600K it will work for one year; one of the reasons the District asked for the levy is the continued look at a yearly plan, focusing only on the individual operational cost for one year (at this point John interrupted with his strong feelings of hiring more FFs and discontinuing the transport fees); Chief thanks him for his comment and will consider his recommendations*

#### **Transport Fees discussion:**

- Ivy Sacks asks what the policy of the transport fee is and why is there a fee?
  - *Chief replies that on July of 2017 the Board, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in recent history, approved charging for transport. The policy is, when the District responds to a 911 call and the injury or illness requires the patient to be transported to a local hospital there's a charge of \$700 plus \$15 per mile. The logic behind the charge is to fund for more staff for the increase depletion of manpower and apparatus off the island. As a rule of thumb is that transports takes three (3) hours with two (2) staff members. The purpose of the charge is to supplement and add funding for more staffing and also have diversified revenue. Before this charge there was no part-time paid program.*
  - *The Chief appreciates that some residents feel strongly about collecting property tax based revenues only. However, he believes that depending on one source of income is short sighted and poor business practice. The patient that uses the service contributes back to the island by helping fund that service.*
  - *Chief continues that it is critical as the island is focused on staying rural and*

*undeveloped. About 15% of the properties on Vashon pay no property tax at all but we have to service those properties. This puts a greater burden on properties that do pay taxes. We are trying to resolve this.*

- *Chief mentions that there are other revenues collected from room and tower rentals. It's important for him to diversify income sources to prevent from "going to the well regularly".*
- Jade Grace asks about the people who don't call due to the cost of transports? The emergency service should be provided. People will end up not calling the fire department and admits she has been close to not calling as well. Her second question is how much the charge would be for taking a patient to the end of the dock and transferring them to another ambulance company.
  - *Board Chair Schran-Brown responds the billing company bills insurance first. Most insurance covers the transport however the District will never take anyone to the collections agency if they can't pay their bill and also adds there is no charge to take a patient to the end of the dock to be transferred to another ambulance company. 54% of fire departments charge for ambulance service and that percentage is much higher in King County.*
  - *However, that private ambulance company will bill their own patients.*
  - *Commissioner Hoffman responds other Districts also charge for their service which all revenues stays within the District.*
  - *John Simmonds mentions that some departments only charge the insurance company.*
- Steve Graham, 25 year resident, comments on the unique situation Vashon is in with medical services limited. 911 is Vashon's medical service and if the department puts barriers in front of 911 you'll have people who are really sick from calling. 911 is just about all we've got.
  - *Chief talks about ambulance service being labor intensive and very expensive. Whereas the fees are being received as in Chief's perspective it is fiscal responsibility so the service will be available in 5, 10, 15 years.*
  - *Commissioner Hoffman recalls that the barriers were present before. There were ambulance fees in prior years (circa 1970).*
  - *Commissioner McCullough reiterates that the ambulance service is well used and the department needs to find a way to finance this service. The bills will go out, insurance will pay and the patients who can pay will pay. We will not send anyone to collections.*
- Ron Smothermon comments that the fee subsidizes the cost to send someone to the hospital that take four (4) hours to transport. To think that it will be cheaper on Vashon versus Burien or Issaquah is not a true fact. It's more expensive from Vashon.
- Jade Grace asks when the department didn't charge for service.
  - *Chief responds, 1973 through 2017.*
  - *Board Chair Schran-Brown comments the levy will barely help get the department out of the financial hole from not raising taxes for 26 years. The District needs to find other incomes to cover the vast expense of running the department to continue to meet our mission statement of protecting the island. There are other considerations that*

*the department needs to comply with like training, proper uniforms, personal protective equipment, etc. They're incredibly costly. 24 years ago a box of band aids cost \$0.74 now it's \$3.05.*

- *Chief remarks the District is repairing under funding that happened for such a long period of time that it's going to take a while. For example, the aid car that was just replaced with a recently bought aid car was 16 years old. That is a vital piece of equipment to provide service to our community.*
- *Chief has started a letter to the community to make it clear that the ambulance service should be utilized by everyone regardless of being able to support the transport fee.*
- *Commissioner McCullough has been a volunteer with the District for 30+ years and now a commissioner. She comments that even when the District didn't charge the residents hesitated to call 911 for fear they were going to get charged. The same is true then as it is now, we would like our residents to call 911 when they are having an emergency and not worry about being charged or not. Our calls are 80% aid service and the District needs to be responsible and finance the cost of this. However, we would like to remind our residents that we will not send you to collections if you cannot pay your bill. On the flip side we hope the people who can afford to pay do pay us as this is a way we can meet the expense of these aid calls.*
- Linda Lamb asks what the number of patients was that were billed but didn't have insurance and about the AirCare Program.
  - *Chief does not have this figure at this time.*
  - *Board Schran-Brown responds that the department started a similar program as AirCare but was shut down as the state insurance commissioner deemed the program to be insurance and the District is not in the business of selling insurance. The reason AirLift NW is able to offer the program is they got an RCW written specifically for their program.*
- The Board thanks the public for their questions and comments and invites them to stop by with ideas and suggestions on transport fees.
- Ref 5eii Chief's report; Linda Lamb asks what is being negotiated with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and their location.
  - Chief's response, they are a tax exempt nation and the District is receiving no funds to protect their land. The District is trying to negotiate a contract to protect their properties. They are located on 127<sup>th</sup> and 140<sup>th</sup> at the north end, 9 parcels, about 124 acres with an assessed value over 6M. Puyallup tribe also has land on Vashon but they pay taxes.
- Ref 6d Chief's report; Commissioner Johnson and Vice Chair McCullough will join Chief on VoV

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**"I make a motion to approve the proposed 2019 budget as presented."**

**2019 PROPOSED BUDGET APPROVED, 5-0**

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I make a motion to approve the October budget as presented.”**

**OCTOBER BUDGET APPROVED, 5-0**

### **New Business**

- Resolution 18-390 Submitting a Regular Property Tax Levy with Ordinance 2152

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I make a motion to approve Resolution 18-390 Submitting A Regular Property Tax Levy of \$4,683,565 In Accordance With King County Ordinance 2152.”**

**RESOLUTION APPROVED, 5-0**

- Resolution 18-389 Establishing Regular Meeting Times

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I make a motion to approve Resolution 18-389 Establishing Regular Meeting Times.”**

**RESOLUTION APPROVED, 5-0**

- Quinn & Quinn Legal Services Contract

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I make a motion to continue our legal services and renew Quinn & Quinn Legal Services Contract into 2019.”**

**RESOLUTION APPROVED, 5-0**

- 2019 Washington Fire Commissioners Association (WFCA) Membership Dues

Motion by Vice-Chair McCullough:

**“I make a motion to pay our membership dues with Washington Fire Commissioners Association for 2019.”**

**RESOLUTION APPROVED, 5-0**

### **Old Business**

### **General Comments**

- Board Chair Schran-Brown thanks everyone for their comments, perspectives and taking the time to attend the District’s meetings. She also thanks the District members for their outstanding service.
- Ron Smothermon also thanks the District members for their service.
- Ron Smothermon submitted a letter to the editor about exploring the possibility of banning fireworks on Vashon that are sold or discharged by the public. He also contacted King County Chair Joe McDermott’s office. His other Districts and communities do not allow firework discharge. Ron thinks it’s time to think about this matter especially in these times of early wildfires starting in May.

**For the Good of the Order**

- The District's Awards Banquet is on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, on Groundhog Day


**Documents Signed**

Adjourned at 19:48

*The next Regular Meeting will be on Thursday 27 December 2018, at 18:30 at 10019 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, Penny Farcy Memorial Fire Training Center, Large Classroom*

Approved this 27 day of December 2018

  
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Brigitte Schran-Brown, Board Chair

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



**Chief's Report**  
for the  
**Fire Commissioners' Meeting**  
of  
**28 November 2018**

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

**1. Staff/Personnel:**

- i. I have no substantial personnel issues or topics to discuss or advise the Board of...

**2. Fleet:**

- a. November 16<sup>th</sup> we had A56 (A-01) towed back to the shop for a mechanical failure while returning from Seattle. It was returned to service on the 19<sup>th</sup>...
- b. We are continuing to make progress with the design of a new fire engine (E-07) and continue to anticipate a late March early April delivery. Based on current design directions we have received a preliminary cost estimate; without taxes and contingencies we are forecasting an expenditure of \$381,368.00...

**3. Facilities:**

- a. Roof repairs to Station 55 were completed earlier this month...
- b. Regarding the South End Community Club & Station 57. Based on our October meeting I noted that we would continue to advance our considerations/investigations to sell the property, however, I did make commitments to considerations several alternate paths forward:
  - i. Investigate simply returning the property to the club:
    1. I have read the 11 September 2012 *Memorandum of Understanding-South End Community Club Gift of Fire Station 57 to Vashon Island Fire & Rescue* (formally executed 24 Nov 12) and there are no provisions for this situation; nor are there defined options for the property's return. The document actual notes the District's divesting itself of the property without note of any option to consider or require its return to the club. Having accepted it we can not now gift it back to this club or any group or individual...
  - ii. Keeping the property but allow it to be used by the surrounding community:
    1. Economically this is essentially where we are today. We do not believe this is a sound direction or a financially viable model for the District...
  - iii. Maintaining it as an emergency shelter:



1. Again the financial burdens of maintaining the property for such a limited, infrequent and unpredictable use is not sustainable...
- iv. Maintaining it as a rental income property:
  1. We have not completed this exploration yet. However, before it could be leased (short term or long term) significant maintenance work and repairs would be likely...
- c. In support of the above options Chief Larsen and I also considered converting the whole of the building into an Aid Car only sub-station with living and sleeping quarters for a crew. It does not appear feasible or cost effective at this time...
- d. I will advise the South End Community Club of these findings and will keep them apprised of our conclusions, recommendations and actions...

#### 4. Strategic Planning:

- a. We have no specific strategic planning topics to report on at this time...

#### 5. Finance Report:

- a. Please find in front of you a summary of our financials through the end of the October for your approval. The benchmark for the budget at the end of October is of course 83.333%. In broad overview:
  - i. Income is just ahead of benchmark at 84.321%. The October revenues will have a significant impact on our approach to the 2019 budget...
    1. Current property tax revenues are at 88.505% of forecasted...
    2. Delinquent tax revenues are light at 79.687%...
    3. Ad Valorem taxes (Tax refunds) are still forecasted to exceed estimates as they are currently 3.111% over benchmark at 86.444%. This is down from last month's overage of over 11%...
  - ii. At 81.927% overall expenses are under benchmark but only by 1.406%...
  - iii. Of the nine budget categories the same three continue to exceed the benchmark. The others are sufficiently under budget to allow us to be slightly below budget targets. The three over target are:
    1. *Training* is at 106.49%...
    2. *Equipment* is at 159.031%...
    3. *Fleet* is at 187.869%. This month's towing expense from Seattle will not help the end of year overage. Again, the capital expense of the new aid car is not a component of this number...
- b. Regarding the 2019 budget, the Administration has continued to hone the need for and distribution of funds. We are advancing based on the County's preliminary declaration of the Island's Assessed Property Values for the next tax cycle. At this time the 2019 Budget presented has been reduced from October's version but represents an overall increase of almost three percent (2.72%) over this year's operational budget...
- c. Chief Larsen and I are continuing to investigate the extent of properties not on the tax rolls for the Island; therefore paying nothing for/towards our District's services.
- d. Regarding the District's on-going efforts to establish its compliance with the RCW requiring interlocal agreements for services:
  - i. *Cemetery District:*
    1. A contract is being prepared for your approval, collective signatures and execution...
  - ii. *Water District (#19):*
    1. A contract is being prepared for your approval, collective signatures and execution...
  - iii. *Vashon Parks District:*
    1. Per my last communications with this Board you are aware that the Parks District Board would like to meet with you to discuss, and hopefully complete, the negotiations of a service agreement. I have not been advised of what action the Board wishes to take regarding a meeting.

- a. The District's last counter offer was for \$8,815.50 for their 'Active Properties' with a 'Fee For Services' component on their 'In-Active Properties'; both documented via a one year contract...
- iv. *King County*:
  - 1. We are in communications with our legal counsel and them with King County; they will be meeting with senior County representatives Friday (30 Nov 18)..
    - a. The current draft version of an ILA will be discussed...
  - 2. Various calculation ideas/methods are 'on the table' including the idea of land in lieu of funds...
  - 3. We are still unable to forecast an execution date...
- e. Regarding additional contractual efforts unrelated to the above RCW:
  - i. We have no substantial progress to report upon in our negotiations with Sprint. Our latest communications with them states they are holding executing new agreements as they wait to see if they are merging with T-Mobile. We are still in agreement and rent payments are still being made but this may delay rent increase through the first quarter of 2019...
  - ii. There is no substantial progress to report upon with the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe...

**6. Community Engagement:**

- a. Friday the 2<sup>nd</sup> I again participated in the monthly 'First Friday' strolls of the downtown core. It was gray, cool and drizzling, plus I started a bit on the early side so participation was light and I was not specifically engaged by anyone I met during my stroll...
- b. November 7<sup>th</sup> in support of the Explorer Corps Drill Instructor Hemmer, District Secretary Weller and I were participated in the High Schools annual Community Services Fair...
- c. Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> I attended a meeting at Vashon Senior Center discussing various programs for isolated seniors across the Island...
- d. Last weekend Mr. Pryne has asked me and one or two Commissioners to join him on Monday evening's (10 Dec 18) show...

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

- a. At this time I have no additional topics to report upon...

Conclusion of Report



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



**Assistant Chief's Report**  
for the  
**Fire Commissioners' Meeting**  
of  
**28 November 2018**

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 8 personnel in the Part Time Program with interviews being completed yesterday for 4 more applicants and all passed to the next stage.

**2. Overarching Training Topics:**

- a. Recruit Academy 18-02 graduated on November 17<sup>th</sup> with 7 members. There was a news story on King5 that evening about one of the CK recruits and his trials and tribulations being a disabled war veteran.
- b. We are currently talking with other Districts and recruiting for the 2019-01 academy. At this point Central Kitsap has 3 and we have 2 self pays and 2-3 volunteers. At this point Central Kitsap is planning to budget for a total of 10 recruits next year. South Kitsap and Bainbridge Island are interested in placing recruits in 19-02
- c. We are currently planning a Support Academy for spring of 2019 and have 3 students in the intake process at this point.
- d. The current EMT Academy of four is scheduled to be complete in late January.
- e. The fire hydrant at the Training Center has been installed and should be operational next week.
- f. The Training Consortium Quarterly training for this quarter is Blue Card and Firefighter Fundamentals and will be conducted on the Island by the Consortium on December 3. All career staff will be attending and volunteers and Part Time employees are invited.

**3. Service/Call Volumes:**

- a. As of 07:30, shift change today, the District has responded to 1559 calls this year... a pace that suggests a possible yearend total of 1713..... Last year at this time we had responded to 1383 calls. So far this year we have had 223 occasions of multiple calls with 21 since Nov 1.
- b. We currently have no apparatus deployed out of District for State Mobilizations or mutual aid.

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

**5. Conclusion of Report**

  
Robert Larsen, Assistant Chief of Operations

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