



Vashon Island Fire and Rescue  
10020 SW Bank Road PO Box 1150  
Vashon WA 98070 206.463.2405 206.463.2954 fax  
www.vifr.org administration@vifr.org

**CHIEF'S  
REPORT**

## **Board of Fire Commissioners'**

Meeting of

**23 February 2022**

Please accept the following information. This report's focus is to provide the Board with an overview of Vashon Island Fire and Rescue, as well as point out noteworthy topics, since the Board's last regularly scheduled meeting.

### **1. Personnel:**

- a. Our conditional offer to a new Administrative Assistant has been accepted. We are now addressing the various on-boarding obligations for the position...
- b. Our search for an Assistant Chief of Operations is on-going and additional hiring plans are being developed...
  - i. In support of the search for a new Assistant Chief the District, I believe all the identified stakeholders, as well as four of the five Commissioners, have met with the consultant in support of their development of a position profile for us...
  - ii. Further it is my understanding that a representative of the Prothman company is with us on the call tonight to discuss the matter/position with the Board...
- c. Also see additional notes under Board Committee Work: Staffing Committee...
- d. I would like to further advise the Board that in compliment to her certificate as a Mediator Ms. Ehlers recently secure her Human Resources Professional certification from the Society of Human Resources Management (SHRM). The District is both proud and appreciative of her efforts to better serve the District and I ask that you congratulate her the next time you see her...
- e. Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> I will be speaking to our membership regarding the 'State of the District' and other topics and/or questions...

### **2. Operations:**

- a. We are continuing to test health care providers at the start of shift via mandatory Point of Care COVID-19 Testing (POCCT)...

### **3. Dispatches:**

- a. As of shift change (07:30) this morning our total call volume for the year was at 191...

### **4. Training:**

- a. I currently have nothing significant to report...

### **5. Apparatus:**

- a. As of this morning two of our apparatus are out of service...
  - i. A03 is out of service and off island. For this repair work, we are only operating three aid cars. Repairs to the engine's turbo are being delayed for the pandemic's negative impacts on the supply chain...

- ii. T02 (Tender 358) has been taken out of service for a water leak. Tender 3551 has been temporarily stationed out of Station 58 to cover T02's absence. Again, a delay in securing the necessary parts is preventing its timely repair and return to service...
- b. We have been advised that the new aid car (A06) is expected to be delivered around the end of March or beginning of April...
  - i. For the one-year delay in getting this car the entire Apparatus Replacement Schedule is being modified to incorporate the delay moving forward across the long-term...
  - ii. The current draft of the Apparatus Replacement Schedule has been presented to the Board with the financial spreadsheets for January...
- c. I have been repeatedly told that the funding for a new boat and the new boat in and of itself is questionable. As the staff responsible for recommending its design features and capacities has yet to present them to the Administration, may I ask for the Board's position on a new vessel as well as what features it believes are desirable should they wish to advance the idea...

## 6. Facilities:

- a. Design discussions with the architect of record are moving forward with regards to a final design direction of the expansion/renovation of the Duty Quarters of Station 55...
- b. Also see noted below under Board Committee Work: Building Committee...

## 7. Financials:

- a. The State Auditor is fast approaching the completion of their review of our 2018, 2019 & 2020 fiscal years. In fact, we understand the auditor to be completed and it is going through its 'secondary review' by their supervisor(s). We had hoped to share the findings with you this evening however as of the time I issued this report we had not been provided with the several preliminary findings we understand exist. We have been told that any findings are minor in nature...
- b. The attached spreadsheets represent our end of the first month's balances for the new 2022 fiscal year. Please accept the following summary representing the actual revenues, and expenses in relationship to the budget through the end of January, 2022...
  - i. The balance of our Operational Funds/Account was \$1,752,274.42...
  - ii. Revenues were \$32,604.95 or approximately a half of a percent of those forecasted for the year...
  - iii. Expenses were \$387,286.99 or 7.496% of the year's allowance...
- c. This following nine categories represent our total expenditures for last month:
 

i. <i>Administration-Business Support:</i>	\$41,550.15	or	8.978% of budget...
ii. <i>Personnel Costs-Wages &amp; Benefits:</i>	\$310,305.43	or	7.651% of budget...
iii. <i>Training Costs:</i>	\$2,122.80	or	1.341% of budget...
iv. <i>Equipment Costs:</i>	\$1,836.93	or	1.486% of budget...
v. <i>Supply Costs:</i>	\$3,280.39	or	11.246% of budget...
vi. <i>Uniforms &amp; Personal Protection Equipment:</i>	\$13,838.56	or	25.472% of budget...
vii. <i>Vehicle &amp; Fleet Costs:</i>	\$3,440.54	or	6.480% of budget...
viii. <i>Building &amp; Grounds Costs:</i>	\$8,662.19	or	4.156% of budget...
ix. <i>Disaster Preparation:</i>	\$2,250.00	or	10.465% of budget...

## 8. Contracts:

- a. Another modification to the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) remains pending for the Board to consider, review, and, if it sees fit, approve for attachment to the CBA. Specifically:
  - i. **MOU 22-003 (Juneteenth):** We have opened discussions on this topic however have not yet come to agreement nor documented the actual Memorandum of Understanding on this new holiday to be offered as previously dictated by the Board...
- b. Regarding the District's on-going efforts to establish its compliance with the RCW requiring interlocal agreements for services only one agency continues to be problematic:

- i. **King County Housing Authority:** This agency remains uninterested/defiant with regards to its legal compliance with the RCW. No progress has been made with this agency...
- c. **Washington State Ferries:** Communications with this agency continue to be drawn out. Our last communication with the Ferries was February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. We are continuing to discuss and review information to better understand the use of 2004 costs and the square footage on which the costs/fees are based. Our contract renewal remains a year pass due; however, the above action will address those costs, all be it at a much lower fee that we believe appropriate. We continue to work to secure an Agreement...
- d. **King County Public Health:** The renewal of the lease with Medic One for the paramedics working out of Station 55 is on-going...
- e. **Spirit/T-Mobile:** Contract negotiations have resumed. Their current agreement expires in May (2022), and we, via our consultant, are beginning to negotiate new terms and an extension(s) of the lease of our cellular transmission tower...
- f. **VashonBePrepared:** In an effort to better serve and protect the people of Vashon *VashonBePrepared* and Vashon Fire are discussing modifications to our existing service agreement to allow *VashonBePrepared* to be more easily recognized, during an emergency, by King County...

## 9. Business Operations:

- a. In address of a recent Commissioner's question regarding RCW 52.33 I would like to secure the Board's position on whether the District is to be considered a 'substantially volunteer' or a 'substantially career' fire district. We have to date worked under the position that we were 'substantially' a volunteer organization. However, though the District's legal counsel has acknowledged that we could make an argument for either case, Mr. Quinn believes the appropriate course of action is to consider Vashon Fire a 'substantially career' District. How would the Board like to proceed with regrades to this designation?
- b. We have been made aware of a House Bill 1965 under consideration by the 67<sup>th</sup> Legislature. Should it be passed, it could negatively impact the District financially; possibly causing pro-rating of portions of our funding. We are investigating the bill further to get some clarity...
- c. We are continuing to participate in the Labor & Industries' (FIIRE) program to reduce time loss as well as related compensation/insurance coverage rates...
- d. Since an AT&T sub-contractor destroyed the long-standing nest of the resident osprey (A protected species) atop of the communications tower there have been various challenges presented to the Administration. To keep the Board informed and allow it to be engaged in the matter please accept the following overview:
  - i. We have discovered that the nest was destroyed without a permit...
  - ii. We are in communications with an expert on osprey behavior and habitat...
  - iii. This same expert is equally familiar with osprey nesting deterrents...
  - iv. Should we wish to deny the osprey's return to the top of our tower we are investigating a proposal to install the necessary devices to prevent the returning pair from rebuilding their nest...
  - v. In support of our Mission Statement, if the returning pair is to be denied access to their former nest location to reestablish their nest where it sat...
    - 1. The expert has recommended an alternate location for the birds...
      - a. This alternate location is north of the tower and immediately south of Station 55's retention and storm water ponds...
  - vi. Should an alternate location be advanced upon a 60'-90' tall pole with a nesting platform will have to be erected for the returning osprey...
    - 1. We are investigating such an installation...

2. In addition to securing a contractor to supply and install the pole we would need to construct a nesting platform, which we have secure design drawings for, and a 'starter nest'...
  - a. Further we will have to secure a permit from the County...
  - b. Further we have asked Training if this tower, more importantly the nesting platform and nest itself will:
    - i. Interfere in any training practices,
    - ii. If such training practices can be modified to accommodate the new pole and nest, and,
    - iii. If the pole can be taken advantage of for any training exercises or become a component of a 'prop'...
  - vii. The alternate location will require nest maintenance every ten years (+/-) to ensure the platform is not over-loaded...
  - viii. Based on the above information I would like to request the Board's support moving forward providing an alternate nesting location for the osprey should it also wish to deny the returning osprey access to a nest atop the tower...
- e. I am in conversations with AT&T, via their third party projects contractor, in in support of finding mutual resolution to the current concerns regarding the osprey and the interference with/of Voice of Vashon's communications equipment. Discussions are on-going...

#### 10. Board Committee Work

- a. In support of the Board's establishment of two new committees, this new category Board Committee Work has been added to the Chief's Report to ensure that the Administration's engagement with Board Committees is acknowledged and documented. At this time the Board has established the following working committees:
  - i. **Building Committee** (*Commissioners King & Simonds*): I have yet to meet with this committee formally, digitally or in person, on any facility topics.
    1. A Commissioner of the committee has asked that we confirm that the procurement of architectural and engineering services for the project currently underway followed RCW 39.80.
      - a. Unfortunately, the member of the Administration that organized and completed the procurement process is no longer with the District, however, the appropriate advertisements have been identified as was the Statement of Qualifications provided by the firm we negotiated, and entered contract with.
      - b. This information is being assembled for the committee members; physical files generally representing the highlights and communications between the District and the Architect of Record on the expansion/renovation of Station 55's Living Quarters are being assembled presentation to the committee members...
  - ii. **Staffing Committee** (*Commissioners King & Staczek*): I have yet to meet with this committee formally, digitally or in person, on any facility topics.
    1. On January 27<sup>th</sup> I received a letter from Commissioner Staczek (Dated January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022) and have taken it under consideration. Further, Commissioner Staczek and I met on the 14<sup>th</sup> (14 Feb 22) and components of our conversations reflected upon the open Assistant Chef's position, various staffing strategies, and other staffing considerations...
    2. A member of the volunteer leadership team/committee has reached out to me to be a part of this committee. I directed them to the Board's committee members to express their interest in being involved with, and supportive of, such a committee...

**11. Community Engagement:**

- a. As next month is Vashon Island Fire and Rescue's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary (24 Mar 42) a thank you card/mailer has been prepared for the community and it is our intent to mail it before the end of March...
- b. I continue to regularly communicate and/or meet with members and teams of *VashonBePrepared* and the various organizational teams it supports...
- c. On the 31<sup>st</sup> (31 Jan 22) I attended a leadership meeting of the volunteer emergency teams regarding our collective approach to the changing Cascadia Rising 2022 exercise...
- d. On the evening of the second (02 Feb 22) I attended the monthly EOC training/drill night. An After-Action Review (AAR) was held regarding our recent landslide activities on the island and our activation of the EOC for such...

**12. Strategic Planning:**

- a. I currently have nothing significant to report...

**13. Miscellaneous:**

- a. I currently have nothing additional to present, represent, or discuss with the Board...

Conclusion of Report



Charles H. Krimmet, Fire Chief  
**Vashon Island Fire & Rescue**  
1 206 463 2405 (Office) Extension 301  
1 206 300 0952 (Mobile)