



Pierce County Fire District 13

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Minutes Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting March 14, 2017

Present: Commissioners Zuluaga, Noll and Malone, Chief McCollum, Battalion Chief Wassall

Members of the Public and Staff: 5

Commissioner Zuluaga called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chief McCollum announced that Elexia Cooper-Anderson will be departing PCFD13 for a career position with a different fire station.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes:

Motion- A motion was made by Commissioner Noll to approve the minutes with corrections of February 14, 2017 as amended.

Seconded: Malone

Passed

Vouchers:

Motion- A motion was made by Commissioner Malone to approve voucher #13492 for a deposit in the amount of \$93.75 from CPR training and Attorney records request.

Seconded: Noll

Passed

Motion- A motion was made by Commissioner Malone to approve voucher #13534 for a deposit in the amount of \$449.28 from State of WA BVFF for Volunteer FF Physicals Reimbursement and an auto parts return.

Seconded: Noll

Passed

Motion- A motion was made by Commissioner Noll to approve vouchers #13493 through #13533 in the amount of \$32,580.55 for monthly payables.

Seconded: Malone

Passed

Correspondence/Public Testimony: Card for Battalion Chief Wassall with a thank you for teaching a first aid and CPR class for Solid Surface Solutions.

Special Reports and /or Standing Committees:

March 14, 2017 Chief's Report:

Calls: 13 total calls, 1 Fire, 9 EMS, 1 Service call, 1 Mutual Aid, 1 Motor Vehicle Accident

Staffing and Recruiting: Academy graduation is Saturday March 25th at Ayleen Jr High in Puyallup. Pierce County Executive Bruce Dammeier will be the guest speaker. Start time is 1300. IFSAC testing was completed on March 4th and was quite successful with all but two completing the FF1 practical and written. On to probationary books and shift assignments. Next academy will most likely start in late August. B/C Wassall has prepared the following staffing report as requested by Commissioner Noll.

Staffing Report by Battalion Chief Wassall:

The Fire Department currently has 52 volunteers, 2 part time staff and 2 paid employees. Of the 52 volunteers, 37 are FF/EMT's. 8 are probationary FF/EMT's, 3 are currently in the Buckley academy and we have 6 that are in support roles; i.e. rehab on a large incident, CPR classes, evaluators for EMT skills, special projects.

The department is led by Chief McCollum and is supported by 2 Battalion Chiefs, Jim Wassall and Mark Rapozo. We currently have 1 Captain, Eric Forsythe and 5 Lieutenants, Aaron Beckwith, Chris Reynolds, Daniel Robinson, Nick Russo and our newest member to the officer staff, Chelsea Motzer.

Chief McCollum, Mark Rapozo, Monica Watchie, Jason Baker, Eric Forsythe and Ryan Petersen are the senior members of the department. Jim Wassall started in 2009 and the rest of the department started after that.

We are a young fire department with not a lot of fire experience but we are always on the lookout for any type of fire training that might become available to us to participate in. The majority of our calls are medical and we have 3 paramedics and Medic Josh Wright who along with Chief McCollum assists us in our continued medical training.

Over the last three years we have lost a number of volunteers to career fire departments and to some of the local hospitals in the area. We are always looking for people to volunteer in whatever capacity they can. We have some that start as EMT's and move into an open academy slot and others that go straight into fire academy and find an EMT class sometime later. To date we have lost 2 to a career department and 4 others to changes in their life so far this year.

We have discussed a continuing training program for the new probationary fire fighters with all of the officers and have put it place to make our new people as productive as we can. Chief and I will begin planning for our next academy very soon.

Further discussion from the Commissioners in regards to personnel included: shift coverage, officer training and internal promotional opportunities, mentor options, and current personnel status. The current graduation academy will bring 8 new firefighters to the personnel pool within the district. There are currently not any additional local citizens who had submitted volunteer applications. [End of Report]

March 14, 2017 Chief's Report continued:

Financial Report: Lynnett has a tracking report for you but to summarize; this months payables were \$32,580.55 After this month's payments our balance is \$34,108.22. Reserves are at \$53,010.62. Trauma grant receivables are at \$1,250.00 and WSP training reimbursement is \$5,400.00.

Training: We sent 4 to the West Region Trauma Conference in Ocean Shores. They all stated the training was great. Jones Chemical manager, James Groh, will be at drill tonight giving a presentation on Chlorine Gas.

SS911: SS911 Operations Board met and approved the new radio template. There also is a software update needed. Both of these will require a service call to each department for reprogramming in May.

Fleet Analysis:

We now own our own brush truck. Purchased a 1995 Ford complete for \$6,800 with 17,000 miles on it. Lettering and stripe will cost \$1,500 and I figure radio change over and some hose changes to cost an additional \$2,000. We will have the brakes inspected prior to deployments. It will be perfect for the fire season and I think it will pay for itself in one year.

My analysis of the fleet comes down to one word, "**Operational**". We have an aging fleet that will cost us repair and maintenance dollars at an increasing rate. We will factor that into our budget. The ambulance purchase was good and will work for what we need for at least three to five more years even with 167,450 miles on it. With the exception of the two engines, and the original ambulance, we have always gotten by with good used equipment.

The Crown Victoria will need a new torque converter and since the transmission must come out to accomplish that it should be rebuilt. Estimating under \$2,000. That will extend the life 2 to 4 years.

Both Expeditions have high miles but once again have sustainable life left. I just put in \$1,500 worth of brakes and a wiper motor and the other vehicle has needed little maintenance.

The Dodge pickup had the alternator, battery's, and a computer controller changed. It is handy to have but could be eliminated from the fleet.

Engine 77 has the generator system installed and low miles/high pump time. The most serious problem has been the development of cracks in the aluminum plates under the cab and the back boxes. This will need to be addressed in the near future.

Engine 76 also has low miles/high pump hours. Pump was rebuilt in 2014. No cracks were noted at the last inspection.

My opinion is that we continue to maintain the fleet and be aware of opportunities as they present themselves. I know it is not much of a hard numbered or structured plan but it has worked quite well in the past. Whatever we do I want to avoid asking the taxpayers for vehicle money. I will keep it within our structured budget.

09:52-Incoming call for residential fire alarm interrupted the meeting; Zuluaga called for short recess.

10:01-Commissioner Zuluaga brings meeting back to order from recess.

A continued discussion about watercraft rescue and boat launch access for the district was addressed.

ACTION ITEMS: Request for Chief McCollum to pull together costs, resources and information for a water craft. Inquiries will be made with BPIC in regards to waterfront access.

Good of the Order:

Pierce County Fire Commissioners met at the Browns Point Station on Thursday, Feb. 23rd. I was absent so I will defer that report. IC Solutions looks to be the best value for what we want. Price checking seemed that the bigger companies did not want small clients and most just wanted to sell complete online systems with large monthly fees. I am comfortable with IC Solutions and want to give a notice to proceed. On the subject of building upgrades, we are getting prices on carpet and painting in the next few months. I think we start there and build up the departments pride in ownership.

Nick Russo is getting better by the day. He was here for dinner on Saturday as well as stopping by on Monday. Still a long way to go but great progress.

8 firefighters took part last Sunday in the Columbia Center Stairclimb raising over \$3,600 for the Leukemia Lymphoma Society. I staffed the 40th floor and changed air bottles all day. A well run and rewarding event.

Commissioner's Report:

- 1) Commissioner Zuluaga referenced South Sound 911 and the financial flow, structure and design for a functioning EMS for Pierce County.
- 2) The Pierce County Commissioners meeting that was held at PCFD13 was a good meeting per Commissioner Zuluaga.
- 3) Commissioner Noll made updates in regards to the following: Washington State Fire Commissioners Annual membership was renewed and we received an updated Fire Commissioner Handbook. He also referenced F1 Annual Public Disclosure report that each Commissioner must complete. Commissioners Election is August 1st for primaries.
- 4) Commissioner Noll announced updates in regards to new laws that have been passed for fire commissioners, fire departments and staff. Some of these referenced could have potential impact for the communities of Browns Point and Dash Point.
- 5) Commissioner Malone announced Parks appreciation Day sponsored by Metro Parks in partnership with BPIC at Curly Slide Park. Request for a first aid booth.

PIO Public Communications Report (Leah Hensley):

Social Media: Facebook: we have 891 likes (880 following). Twitter: we have 35 likes (34 following). A discussion for a LinkedIn page for the department was briefly discussed; this was not of interest to the team at this time due to maintenance.

Website: Leah reported that the website has been getting traffic from the community. People that she has been speaking with have been visiting the site. This was helped by a post from Dave Berg who posted on the 'Friends of NE Tacoma/Browns Point' Facebook page.

Community Outreach: Leah went to the BPIC quarterly general meeting and spoke on behalf of PCFD13 in regards to our services and our upcoming event for the Health & Wellness Fair.

News/Events: There are currently no community members signed up for the CPR portion of the Health & Wellness Fair this coming Saturday. Leah will be posting the event on the local social media pages again this week. We want to post the upcoming event on the community board.

Leah will create a blog for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Fire Fighters Climb from this past weekend once a report from Lieutenant Reynolds is received.

Old Business:

Computer Replacement Status. An estimated amount of \$15,000 for new computers and IT system was discussed.

Motion-A motion was made by Commissioner Malone to approve the proposal by IT Source for the replacement and upgrade of the computer systems.

Seconded: Noll

Passed

New Business:

ACTION ITEM: Set a date for annual planning meeting for some time in June.

ACTION ITEM: Archive/Records Management Project Update

Announcements:

The next regular meeting will be Tues., April 11th, 2016 at 9:00 AM

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:04 AM

Approved By:

Chairman Zuluaga

Commissioner Malone

Commissioner Noll

Fire Chief/District Secretary