



**Pierce County Fire District 13**

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**Minutes  
Board of Fire Commissioners March 12, 2024**

**Commissioner Malone** called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call led by **Commissioner Malone** to confirm quorum has been met. Present for the meeting: **Commissioner Noll via zoom, Commissioner Zuluaga via zoom, and Chief Wassall.**

Members of the Public and Staff 5

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Minutes: Motion-** A motion was made by **Commissioner Noll** to approve the meeting minutes for February 13, 2024, Regular Meeting.

**Seconded Commissioner Zuluaga  
Passed (Unanimous)**

**Vouchers:**

**Motion-**A motion was made by **Commissioner Zuluaga** to approve vouchers, #18390-18426 in the amount of \$43,248.67 for Monthly Payables.

**Seconded: Commissioner Noll.  
Passed (Unanimous)**

**Motion-**A motion was made by **Commissioner Noll** to approve vouchers, #18427-18427 in the amount of (\$5,971.29) for Monthly Deposits.

**Second: Commissioner Malone.  
Passed (Unanimous)**

**Public Comments:**

**Correspondence:**

**Thank you from Niigata Seiryō University students for having us at the fire station.**

**Chief's Report**

**Calls:** 17 total calls, 1 fire call, 13 EMS calls, 1 MVA, and 1 Service Call, 1 Mutual Aid Call, A76, had 5 transports, Oly131 had 6.

**Staffing and Recruiting:** Staffing has not changed much, but our fire department has been busy completing FF1, HazMat, Instructor 1, and FF2 IFSAC testing. I am sure that most Volunteers will be glad to be out of a textbook. Recruiting has been steady. Battalion Chief Fitzgerald and Lieutenant Tapia have been gaging interest and answering questions to

prospective volunteers. Explaining commitment and time that they will need to invest. We are still planning an August academy here.

**Financial Report:**

GL Trial Balance cash on hand:	\$179,121.68
Less 03-12-2024 expenses	-\$43,248.67
Deposits (not yet posted)	<u>\$5,971.29</u>
Remaining cash on hand:	\$141,844.30

Reserves: \$857,501.98

**Training:** We have been working on mandatory training while the weather has been unpredictable. Once the weather breaks, we have more opportunities to work on team building skills and training. Our 5 recruits have been in the academy for almost 2 weeks. They have had questions and concerns just like every academy. They should be in a rhythm and ready to get after it.

**SS911:** SS911 has been quite this month. The last meeting was a review of what SS911 is today and what it needs to become to serve all of Pierce County. Too many different antenna systems doing different things on different radio frequencies. Then there remains which radio will be the choice of the fire side and which for law enforcement. Will SS911 be able to service us all with the chosen equipment? The meetings are hard to follow. I would hate to be on a committee that decides whose equipment will be purchased. It will affect the County for the next generation of radios for at least the next 10 or so years

**Fleet Status:** A76 last week had the power cot put into service. BR76 was in the shop to have shore power and an isolator installed to keep the back battery charged when on deployment. That battery runs the pump. In a week or so, we will take it back to have the console installed, all the parts were not there earlier. U76, the Crown Vic is having transmission troubles. We are looking for a shop to help us with diagnosing the problem.

**Good of the Order:** Commissioner Zuluaga, Holly Noland, and the staff gathered all the necessary information for us to apply for a FEMA Assistance to Fire Fighters Grant. We submitted it on Friday March 8, 2024. It was accepted, now we wait to see if our efforts will produce any funds. There will be 3 different awards held throughout the year.

We had a visit from the Junior College from Japan, there were 5 students. They must speak English during their 3 week visit to the US. They had great questions and we had them all in a bunker jacket and wearing an SCBA to get the feel of what it feels like and what it weighs. We had the NorPoint Preschool visit with 3 classes. The kids got to see a firefighter get dressed and give a firefighter a high 5. They then got to visit the engine, and everyone had a fun time. Last Saturday, LT Tapia assisted the local Boy Scout Troop in earning the Fire Merit badge. I hear the parents learned as much as the Scouts did.

Last Saturday, 4 different fire departments descended on the fire department in Buckley to take a written and practical test to earn their Fire Fighter 2 certificate. There were 27 candidates. Early start and a late end but we got them all evaluated. We had 6 out of the 10 Browns Point candidates pass the practical, we are waiting on the written results.

Not a lot of calls but we all were busy, all for the good of the district and the citizens we are sworn to protect.

### **Executive Session – Agency Litigation / Settlement**

An Executive Session was called by acting Chairman Malone at 9:32am until 9:50am. The Executive Session was called per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i) To discuss with legal counsel representing the agency litigation or potential litigation to which the agency, the governing body, or a member acting in an official capacity is, or is likely to become, a party, when public knowledge regarding the discussion is likely to result in an adverse legal or financial consequence to the agency.

The regular meeting resumed at 9:50am.

**Motion**-A motion was made by **Commissioner Noll** ... I move that the Fire Commissioners allow the Chief to work with our legal counsel and our Insurance company to settle a claim arising from the November training house burn.

**Second: Commissioner Zuluaga**  
**Passed (Unanimous).**

### **MSO-Craig Williams**

MSO is reviewing our call reports.  
Following up on 13 Volunteers with recertifications.  
Power cot is in service.

### **PIO – Per-Captain Noel Fitzgerald**

Time to renew the Website.  
Averaging 1 inquiry a day for information on volunteering.  
IT Source has been bought out. New company asking for meeting to review wants and needs.

### **Commissioners Report**

#### **Commissioner Zuluaga:**

Pierce County has been working on Markham Street. The road has been paved and a new wall has been built.

Thank you to Chief Predmore and Chief McCollum for reviewing our FEMA Grant proposal.  
Thank you to Holly Noland for her time working on and completing the FEMA Grant for us.

#### **Commissioner Malone:**

March 12th BPIC Meeting-County Council Marty Campbell to attend.  
March 30th Easter Egg Hunt

#### **Commissioner Noll:**

Thank you to all who helped put the FEMA Grant together.  
Will be attending a procurement webinar that Brian Snure is holding on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Town Center Status  
SEPA Process on going.
2. Property Opportunities

No change regarding St Matthew site.

Monahan property has some wetlands and access issues, less than ideal.

3. Legislative Bills Passed of Impact  
No significant bills to impact our department
4. Rosenbauer Engine Status  
Schedule a mid-build inspection of the engine? Probably a good idea. Could be in the Sept/October timeframe.
5. Station and Equipment Security  
Chief Wassall to check with other Fire Chiefs to see how they are protecting their departments
6. MRSC, Next Steps  
Commissioner Malone to update resolution with approved limits.

**New Business:**

1. 2023 District Annual Report Status  
Completed and being reviewed.
2. 2024 Schedule Annual Planning Meeting  
May 14<sup>th</sup> after the Commissioners meeting

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** The next regular meeting will be Tues., April 9, 2024, at 09:00 AM.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at 10:36 pm.

Approved By:

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Chairman Noll

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Commissioner Malone

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Commissioner Zuluaga

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Fire Chief/District Secretary