



Pierce County Fire District 13

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Minutes Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting June 14, 2016

Present: Commissioners Zuluaga and Noll, and Captain Wassall

Excused absences: Commissioner Ballantyne and Chief McCollum

Members of the Public and Staff: 7

Commissioner Zuluaga called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Minutes:

Motion- A motion was made by Commissioner Noll to approve the minutes of May 10, 2016.

Seconded: Zuluaga

Passed

Vouchers:

Motion- A motion was made by Commissioner Zuluaga to approve voucher #12955 for a deposit in the amount of \$1,439.11 for WA State firefighter physicals, CPR training and jacket name tag reimbursements.

Seconded: Noll

Passed

Motion- A motion was made by Commissioner Zuluaga to approve voucher #12956 for a deposit in the amount of \$6,402.00 for WA State Patrol firefighter training reimbursement and WA State trauma grant.

Seconded: Noll

Passed

Motion- A motion was made by Commissioner Noll to approve vouchers #12957 through #13002 in the amount of \$43,568.12 for payables.

Seconded: Zuluaga

Passed

Correspondence/Public Testimony:

DPSIC thank you for support of the June 4th Dash Point Dash.

DPSIC/Grant Hosford thank you for providing the truck and support of Ace Hardware Mark Wenner's send-off.

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St. Matthews Episcopal Church thank you for the crew that provided the children's hose event. Metro Parks/Phedra Redifer thank you for helping Boy Scout Troop 398 with CPR training. Pierce County Citizens Corp certificate of appreciation recognizing our support in helping build disaster ready communities.

Thank you from the preschoolers to Captain Eric and Firefighter Kyle for letting them wear firefighter "costumes" (gear and masks), and letting them sound like Darth Vader.

Special Reports and /or Standing Committees:

June 14, 2016 Chief's Report: (given by Captain James Wassall)

Calls: 21 calls, 2 fire, 14 EMS/Aid, 1 Mutual Aid-MVA (Motor Vehicle Accident), 4 service calls.

Staffing and Recruiting: The 8 new probationary firefighters (FF) are continuing to progress well. 2 graduated the EMT class. 3 FF's graduated last Thursday from the Buckley Academy. One of the 3 is an EMT. We are beginning to screen for the upcoming September academy. We currently have 9 completed applications with an additional 5 that showed interest in the prior Buckley academy but were unable to attend at that time.

Financial Report: Pierce County Budget and Finance trial balance sheet is submitted for your review. We calculate we have \$185,055.72 balance after this month's payables. Included is the purchase of a used aid vehicle for \$9,846.00, of which we will get back approximately \$5,000.00 when we sell our existing aid car (more information below). As shown in our voucher deposits we had a WA State Patrol training reimbursement receivable of \$5,112, and we received trauma grant funds of \$1,290.00 from the WA Department of Health. We also received \$1,000.00 in WA state reimbursements for 10 firefighter physicals from the Board of Volunteer Firefighters.

Training: Training focuses around the probationary folks as well as our monthly training schedule. We will be doing some firefighter practicals in Gig Harbor on June 18th.

Good of the Order: The Chief was able to obtain a great deal on a replacement aid vehicle, purchased from West Pierce. It is a 2002 with a Ford chassis, Braun box, and more reliable motor. It is much roomier with 2 bench seats, and set up for firefighters with storage hooks. On May 21st we had 7 of our new firefighters go out to their burn day at Key Peninsula for wildland certification. 3 of our current firefighters also participated for recertification. We had a visit from 3, 4 & 5 year olds from Gymboree Preschool on May 26th. Water training for the elementary schools in the area took place over 3 days, May 31st–June 2nd, at the Browns Point Lighthouse Park. A special public meeting was held on Wednesday, June 8th to discuss the lid lift ballot measure.

Commissioner's Report:

Commissioner Noll asked if there were any concerns with vehicles and buildings. Captain Wassall reported no brush truck is an issue to assist in wildland fires. There were 2 for sale at \$15,000 each. Need to determine if they are 4x4. A type 6 requires carrying 150 gallons of water. 4x4 preferable for fighting fires near the Cascades. Requirement for pump – 500 gal.

of water at 150 psi. Hose needs are 300 feet of 1 inch 300 feet of 1-1/2 inch and supply line at 1-3/4 inch. Brush trucks are considered a type 6. Fire trucks considered are considered type 1. A tender is a fire hydrant on wheels.

Commissioner Zuluaga moved that we surplus the old rig and allow staff to sell the old aid vehicle (VIN #1FDKE30F8THA54177) at a value the public is willing to pay. Lights and sirens have to be disabled if sold to a private party.

**Seconded: Noll
Passed**

Water rescue vehicles: The jet skis used previously for water rescue are sitting at the Puyallup tribe station. Commissioner Zuluaga spoke to Alex Wrolson, an officer of the Puyallup Tribe. He is willing to come to the next Commissioner meeting to make a presentation and work toward a long term plan. They understand this was tribal land and they are happy to continue to have a presence on the water, whether it is a FEMA grant or a % reimbursement. Commissioners Zuluaga and Noll agreed to invite him to the July meeting.

Based on the following factors, the Commissioners expressed the importance of a current and ongoing water rescue program: 2016 Salmon Bake, Dash Point Pier, lots of waterfront, public comments at the special June 8th meeting, and participation in mutual aid water rescue, i.e. Des Moines. Commissioner Noll recommended options are presented at the next meeting. To expedite implementation in 2016, he suggested options be sent via e-mail prior to the next meeting.

Old Business:

Lid Lift/Public Testimony: Commissioner Zuluaga reviewed some of the public comments from the June 8th special meeting. One of the public comments was that our fire district has some of the lowest fire taxes, and another was to pull back the lid lift levy. The Commissioners present agreed to let the voters decide. Commissioner Noll noted that the attorney recommended this approach. Should the lid lift not pass in August then we have opportunity again in November. He also mentioned that the Commissioners can only meet in public and that special meetings cost the taxpayers. Commissioner Zuluaga pointed out the paradigm we analyzed was what we are doing right. To recognize the good work that has built this department was the first and foremost focus, rather than making huge changes ad hoc.

Commissioner Noll noted all Commissioners are watchdogs for the public, that we are all taxpayers and that we all live in this district, anything we do should be what the voters would want us to do. All of the Commissioners are here to represent the taxpayers of this district. Commissioners Zuluaga and Noll feel all commissioners are watching out for the taxpayers.

Additional public comments were to reach out more to local community with signs at events and to always be looking for community volunteers. Captain Wassall mentioned that the majority of training is less visible now as much is done behind the Browns Point shopping center. Commissioner Noll suggested postings in the DPSIC & BPIC bulletins.

Public: Suggested a Life At The Points column with an interview of one of the current volunteer staff to help encourage our local youth.

Commissioner Noll pointed out the volunteer department today is not the department from 50 years ago. We draw more volunteers from outside the community than inside and requirements are very stringent.

Captain Wassall mentioned that it is a balancing act for the volunteer firefighters. They are people earning a living plus spending time here learning new skills, many also attending additional schooling.

Another public comment was regarding losing money by annexations: Commissioner Zuluaga mentioned that the fire department can't oppose annexation if an area decides to join a city. Upland Terrace was annexed into the City some years back. We cross through the City to get to some of our district locations. He pointed out that City and County calls come to different dispatch centers.

There was a public comment at the prior meeting about the 33% turnover. Commissioner Zuluaga feels the previous 33% turnover was an anomaly.

There was a prior public comment asking about Heritage Park and why it was our responsibility since they believed it was in the City of Tacoma. Commissioner Zuluaga responded that Heritage Park is serviced by us in mutual aid with the City of Tacoma Fire Department due to our close proximity; and DNR reimburses us should there be a fire.

The Commissioners discussed fundraising but felt it wouldn't yield the needed annual lid levy amount.

Another prior public comment was we need to do better to get the word out. Commissioner Zuluaga inquired about collecting our own e-mail data base. Commissioner Noll thought it was doable. Multi-prong approach suggested using BPIC and DPSIC newsletters, and Life At The Points publication. Commissioner Zuluaga suggested that we get an option on the website to allow individuals to sign up for e-mail communications.

The public asked the question at the last meeting whether Federal Way provided a brush truck for the rest of the Dash Point Park. Captain Wassall responded that he didn't believe Federal Way had a brush truck.

Public: Suggested we reach out to the Facebook Friends of Browns Point and Dash Point.

June 8th Minutes to be approved at the next meeting.

New Business:

Promotion: Captain Wassall was sworn in as Battalion Chief at the meeting.

DNR Contract: Commissioners Zuluaga and Noll reviewed the DNR letter and contract. Since we need to be under contract with DNR to carry us through this fire season, Commissioners Zuluaga and Noll are going to sign this extension. Commissioner Ballantyne has opposed this extension via e-mail message received June 14th, with the request to discuss elements in the agreement. This review and discussion will need to be done over the next few

months prior to receiving the new contract to start December 1, 2016. Commissioner Zuluaga suggested we have a DNR representative come out and explain.

Motion – *A motion was made by Commissioner Zuluaga to approve the DNR contract so that we are not out of compliance.*

Discussion: After a reminder e-mail was sent out to the Commissioners, Commissioner Ballantyne wanted more time to discuss and wasn't in favor of voting at this meeting. That would put us 2 months behind. Commissioner Noll would like the jurisdiction clarified for the December contract.

Seconded: Noll
Passed

Replacement Aid Vehicle in Service: We are using portable radios and cell phones until a formal radio is in place in the rig. In the prior vehicle there was no true place for items to be property stored, which was dangerous in case of accident. We will be watching for a power gurney, which may be surplus.

Commissioner requests: Commissioner Noll asked that a monthly actuals vs. budget comparison report be sent to the Commissioners prior to each monthly Commissioner meeting. He also requested all Commissioners have opportunity for agenda input two weeks prior to the Commissioner meetings and the compiled agendas be available at least a week before the meeting.

Announcements:

The next regular meeting will be July 12, 2016 at 9:00 AM.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM

Approved By:

Chairman Zuluaga

Commissioner Ballantyne

Commissioner Noll

Fire Chief/District Secretary