



Business Meeting Minutes, January 11, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm, with a link posted for public Zoom access. Present were Commissioner Chair Bill Tubbs, Vice Commissioner Chair Pat Sample, Commissioners Molly Olson, Doug Rupp and Leigh Christianson. Also present were Chief Eric Andrews, Asst Chief Ernie Walters, Deputy Chief Jarrod Spence, MSAs Joe Simmons and Pete Parrish, Captain Brandon Vargas and Secretary Karen McPeters (recorder).

Public Commentary: No public

EXECUTIVE

Bolt Creek Fire – The chief attended another after action review on the Bolt Creek Fire hosted by the US Forest Service. This focused more on the initial response. While there are always ways to improve, most of the review was very positive.

Hospital overcrowding – The County Fire Chiefs are encouraging the county to declare a state of emergency for hospital overcrowding. Many agencies are seeing wait times exceeding 2 hours, and some up to 9 hours, while attempting to bring patients into the emergency departments. Data shows the wait times have continued to worsen over the last year with no end in sight. We do not see this as much in Monroe, but we have experienced some wait times when transporting to Everett. You will no doubt hear more about this in the future. One of the main reasons seems to be the shortage of nurses.

Budget – Revenues for 2022 have exceeded projections and while the budget appears to be capable of paying the back taxes for 2020 and 2021, I have left the \$100,000 transfer from reserve in the revenues. But it is very likely it will not be needed.

Recent Storms – We have had above average storm activity with an increase in alarms. In one day, we had a record of 36 calls including a structure fire that was well involved upon alarm notification, and crews had to cut their way through downed trees to get to the scene. The structure was a total loss. Many homes, RVS and vehicles were damaged by trees as well as electric lines and roads.

Sky Valley Awards – The Chamber of Commerce will hold their annual awards banquet at the Startup Event Center on February 3rd at 1730 hours.

2022 Alarms – The district received 1,400 calls in 2022. This is an average of 3.84 calls per day.

OPERATIONS

AFG Grant - We have been notified by FEMA that we have been awarded the grant for the vehicle exhaust systems in the stations and can start looking at vendors. The grant is for a total of \$185,150.76, of which \$8,816.71 is our responsibility. We still need to finish the Environmental and Historic Preservation review prior to receiving any reimbursement for the grant. Chief Walters will be preparing the documents to send out to vendors in the next week or two and will be setting up appointments for them to come out and review the project.

EMS Unit - The Aid Car committee traveled down to Chehalis on the 15th of last month and did the final inspection on the new aid car. There were some small changes that were fixed when we were down there, but we drove it back and it should be in service on Friday after we do an in-service on it on Thursday night.

We have received the specification packet for the next aid car and will be looking it over and making modifications to it that we discovered were standard but are not needed.

Awards Banquet - The Department awards banquet was held on the 17th of last month and was well attended. We are still awaiting a few awards that have been delayed. Thanks to the Gold Bar Firefighters' Association, who sponsored guests since the department is not able to provide meals for non-department members.

EMS

Continuous Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance (CQI/QA)- All ESO electronic health reports (EHRs) have been assigned to the QA team through January.

DOH and Dr Cooper have approved the QA plan, and it has been submitted to all SCEMS agencies, bringing this project to a close.

Dr. Cooper submitted his resignation from SCEMS. This will likely have an impact on the protocol update and the update project.

Code Stat is caught up, and all Cardiac Arrest and Advanced Airways have been annotated.

EMT Training- EMT class graduated 19 students.

Continuing EMS Education- Completed all BLS OTEP training for 2022, and completed all ALS training for our ALS providers.

Medics- There is an upcoming interview with a potential new medic.

Vail Medics- The majority of ski shifts have been covered, and Vail is content.

December ALS coverage 92% (60 hours not covered out of 744 total hours)

SUPPORT SERVICES

ESTA Recruit Class - 16 people started the fire academy at the start of the year. The public will see them out and about doing physical training.

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Training Support Vehicle – The training support vehicle has been delivered to the dealer in Washington and is now be having the utility box installed. This is the vehicle that was funded by the grant from the Stillaguamish tribe.

Training Center – The permit has been submitted to the county for the training facility. We will now wait for the county to come back to us and then move forward with announcing and going out for bid.

Starlink – With the wild weather that we had over the past several weeks we had some internet outages, and Starlink was used to supplement when Comcast was down. We will investigate adding Starlink as a backup or possibly some semi-permanent internet access for both Stations 53 and 54.

Secretary's Report

The audits are now complete. The state auditor will be scheduling an exit interview soon, so all commissioners are welcome. We do need to post a meeting notice if 3 or more want to attend, so please let Karen know.

The IRS has still not given us a final total amount for 2020 and 2021, although the auditor did estimate it would be around \$120,000 for each year.

Budget

Currently at 8%.

Minutes: Molly moved to approve the December minutes. With a second from Leigh, the motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers: Bill moved to approve vouchers 1 through 39 for \$93,376.98, vouchers 40 through 52 for \$27,811.86, and vouchers 53 and 54 for \$7050.29 from the expense account, voucher 1 for \$216.20 from the Apparatus Fund, and vouchers 1 for \$4620 and 2 for \$17,353.74 from the Construction Fund. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: Bill moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$139,883.38. With a second from Doug, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Leigh shared a review of the Bolt Creek fire by the USGS. They noted in this presentation that the landslide risk in the areas near the towns of Grotto and Baring will remain high, and may increase as the roots of burned trees break down. Representative Kim Shrier and Senator Maria Cantwell are trying to get funding for debris flow management. There are currently rainfall trackers in place, and the area continues to be monitored.

The Sno-Isle Commissioners banquet will be on Jan 28th at Shawn O'Donnell's.

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Action Items

Bill moved to surplus the old 2003 aid car and the replaced tires from the new aid car. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously. The aid car will be sold on the public surplus site.

Election of officers: Elected by unanimous consent:

Commissioner Chair Bill Tubbs

Commissioner Vice Chair Pat Sample

Board Secretary Karen McPeters

New Business

The Startup Events Center will host their annual awards banquet on February 3.

Next regular meeting February 8, 2023 in person with public access on Zoom available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12.

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