



Business Meeting Minutes, March 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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, MSA Pete Parrish, MSA Joe Simmons, Captains Rob Thurston and Scott Coulson, and Secretary Karen McPeters (recorder). Also logged on remotely was member of the public logged in as James Jaques.

Public Commentary: No public

EXECUTIVE

Volunteer Compensation – Still waiting for password to participate in the upcoming online conference by Brian Snure on March 17th at 1000. From what the chief has learned, there is a court case that occurred in Grays Harbor County where the state court ruled for limiting the compensation for volunteers, significantly lowering the threshold set by the FLSA. This will have substantial consequences for our future staffing. The board should start to think about a choice we may have to make. The choice will be to reduce staffing and some purchasing or ask our tax payers for another increase in levy. Neither are a good choices unfortunately, and we will need to act soon if we plan to run a voter approved measure in August.

GEMT – There is a lot of talk about the federal government reducing or phasing out GEMT reimbursement. This also could have a significant impact on our funding.

Portland Leadership Conference – The chief attended the leadership conference in Portland last week. There were some really good speakers as always. The speaker that made the best impression was on the topic of mental health in our first responders.

Washington Survey and Rating – We will be having a rating evaluation in April of our district. This is the first time they will be using the ISO standards for ratings. Ratings have a large impact on homeowner insurance costs. We hope that improving our rating would be a big help in public support as taxpayers see that their taxes not only provide a high level of service but can save money on insurance costs.

OPERATIONS

Facilities: Station 54- we have purchased two new washers and dryers for the crew and residents to use. At the station 55 resident house we have replaced the oven with an improved model (convection oven) and had to replace the hood vent due to the fan motor going out.

AFG Grant: Walters submitted the Environmental and Historic Preservation review for the AFG grant and has received a response back that they will review it next month. He is still working on the bid documents to send out to vendors and will be setting up appointments for them to come out and review the project.

New Aid Car: We have received the specification packet for the next aid car and will be looking over it and making modifications. Braun NW has informed us that the aid car is about \$35,000 more than the previous aid car that we received 3 months ago.

State Audit –There is a close out audit report on March 15th. If more than two commissioners want to attend we will need to have a special meeting, so let us know if you plan to participate.

EMS

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

Continuing EMS Education- Ongoing 2023 OTEP training. Submitted recertification packets for one Paramedic, beginning the recertification process for 3 EMTs.

CPR Training- 79 BLS certifications, 26 first aid and CPR certifications, 2 Instructor renewals.

MSA 53 Equipment- In the process of outfitting MSA 53 with all equipment needed to respond to critical calls, or additional calls.

Medics- Bringing on Jesse Freer from SVFR, for a total of 17 medics.

Vail Medics- The majority of ski shifts have been covered.

District 5 Medics- A plan is in place outlining how to utilize D5 medics for SVF assistance during their PIP. All three D5 medics have riding 12 hours each on M54.

February ALS coverage 96% (30 hours not covered out of 672 total hours)

SUPPORT SERVICES

ESTA – The academy is still going well. They are finishing up structural firefighting skills and moving on to automotive extrication and rescue.

IMT – Capt Coulson has completed All Hazards Incident Commander training and met with other WA IMTs while at the IMT conference. He will be representing our new IMT (HLS1) as part of the WA IMT coalition. We will be taking ownership of 2 trailers from Snohomish DEM and are hoping to get a different regional training trailer from SRFR which we plan to make into CV53 Type 3 plans trailer. This equipment will be reimbursed when sent out on major incidents. To date CV54 has made \$97k since 2020.

Training Center – no current updates.

“Volunteering to Make a Difference”



IT – I have been talking to T-Mobile about different solutions in our area that would benefit the fire service. One solution we have started to work with is a company called Pano. This company provides 24/7 monitoring and servicing of cameras that use AI algorithms to locate and pinpoint smoke and determine if it's a wildfire in its infancy stages. DNR is set to go live this year covering their protection area, and while this service is not cheap I am attempting to work with other agencies to mitigate costs. Currently the first year of service is \$40k and the following years are \$50k. They provide and install everything needed on pre-existing towers to form a network of cameras to triangulate and cover the area needed.

Secretary's Report

The audits are now complete. The exit conference with the state auditor is scheduled for March 15. We are still waiting for a final determination of the amount due for the IRS audit.

Budget

Currently at 23%.

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

Vouchers: Bill moved to approve vouchers 96 through 121 for \$24,8747.08, and vouchers 122 through 148 for \$141,002.52 (Secretary's note: amount revised to \$131,862.44 due to error in Stryker invoice) from the expense account. With a second from Molly, the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: Bill moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$102,160.94. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

A legislative request was filled out by Doug and Representative Mike Steele is sponsoring a bill funding the initial study of the North Fork 911 extension project. Doug moved to authorize \$2000 to hire Cameron Bailey for 2 months of lobbying. Pat seconded. Doug, Pat and Leigh voted yay. Bill and Molly abstained, citing insufficient information.

A bill is proposed in the legislature banning certain drone platforms, which could be problematic for the software the department is currently using.

New Business

Commissioner Christianson the Sno Isle Commissioners met with the Snohomish County Chiefs' liaison. Two concerns discussed were hospital overcrowding, and the high cost of new vehicles. The new head of Snohomish Co DEM will speak at the next meeting.

Next regular meeting April 12, 2023 in person with public access on Zoom available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12.

"Volunteering to Make a Difference"

