



## **Business Meeting Minutes, April 12, 2023**

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 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).

**Public Commentary:** No public

### EXECUTIVE

**Pierce County DEM Presentation** – Snohomish County DEM and Sky Valley Fire presented an overview of Bolt Creek Fire to Pierce County officials arranged by Pierce DEM.

**Staffing Planning** – I think we all learned much from the Snure online seminar on compensating volunteers. It is obvious we must change the methodology of reimbursement to our personnel. We have a first meeting April 19th to brainstorm and look at options. Staff has been challenged to come up with ideas on how we can staff. It is apparent to maintain the staffing levels we have been used to, we will need to budget more funds to staffing.

**Levy Planning** - We had planned to ask voters to lift the lid for the fire response levy in 2024 to receive those funds in 2025. Due to the increased cost of staffing under the new model, our option is to run the fire lid lift in 2023 to receive funds in 2024. With high AV increases we have seen the levy rate drop to \$1.04 for 2023. Depending on what assessed values change to in 2023 for collection in 2024 will further decrease the rate. In best guess scenario if AV's increase 6% the fire levy rate will drop to 0.98 and the EMS levy rate will drop to 0.47 and the bond levy will drop (for the old FD 26 properties) will drop under 0.10.

Options are to make drastic cuts in other budget areas and redirect money to staffing with no levy increase, run a lid lift, or ask for a M & O levy which would require a 60% majority vote. The option for the levy lid lift is a multi-year lift in which we would state in the ballot title a limit of percentage increase in each of the following four years.

**Logistics Trailer** – We purchased the two trailers from the previous NWIMT. The trailers contain some good equipment and Capt. Coulson is working on what equipment we will be using with our new IMT. We are still working on the specifics of the IMT organization.

**Community Preparedness Meeting** – DEM and the City of Gold Bar have set up a community meeting to be held at the Startup Event Center April 26, 2023. We will be speaking about fire dangers and hazardous materials incidents, and DEM plans to talk about flood dangers. There seems to be a lot of interest and there could be large attendance.

## **OPERATIONS**

**Station 53:** We have started to repair the fence on the east side of the building that we had to take down for the station painters.

**Station 54 -** We have installed two new washers and dryers for the crew and residents to use.

**Station 55 Resident House-** We are planning to replace the hot water heater at the station this month.

**AFG Grant:** Walters submitted the Environmental and Historic Preservation review for the AFG grant last month and has received a response back that they approved the plan and have given us the go ahead to proceed with the bidding and installation of the equipment. He will be sending out the documents to vendors this month and setting up appointments for them to come out and review the project.

**New Aid Car:** Walters has been going back and forth with Braun NW about the vehicle cost increase and discussing ways to reduce the cost. They came back with an option to allow them to use our unit as a demo unit for a couple of months and/or take it to vendor shows. They would give us \$1500 off for each trade show or for 30 days of using it as a demo.

**WSRB Review:** We will be meeting with the WSRB to review our ISO rating. Currently we are at a 5, and hope to stay there or reduce to a 4. I have sent them multiple documents to review and they have a list of others that they will review when they meet with us on the 18th.

## **EMS**

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

**Continuing EMS Education-** Ongoing 2023 OTEP training. Recertified two providers.

**CPR Training-** 2 first aid and CPR certifications, 1 BLS.

**MSA 53 Equipment-** MSA 53 is fully stocked with ALS equipment and kits.

**Medics-** Jesse Freer is oriented and ready to begin.

**Vail Medics-** The majority of ski shifts have been covered. The season ends on April 16.

**Station 55-** Station EMS supply is fully functional and will be managed through O IQ by Brittanie Martin, including ordering, receiving and stocking.

March ALS coverage 92% (63 hours not covered out of 744 total hours)

## **SUPPORT SERVICES**

**ESTA** – The academy is in its final stages with mostly evaluations this month and testing at the

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end of the month. We still have 14 and they have all been doing great.

**IMT** – We took final ownership of two incident management team trailers, and more importantly, the equipment that was inside. The plan is to keep the best trailer and surplus the second older white one. The white trailer which we got for \$100 contains roughly \$45,000 in radio equipment that will be used for the IMT.

**Training Center** – Work was completed on the new boxes that were purchased for the training facility. There will be minimal work that will have to be redone once they are moved.

**Wildfire Defense Grant** – We did not get awarded the Community Wildfire Defense grant for round one. However, I am attending webinars with Washington, DNR and they are giving valuable feedback on the scoring for future reference, and how we can be successful. We will be submitting for round two for around a \$400,000 grant sometime later this year when it is announced.

Secretary's Report

The Systems Design report is available for review.

Budget

Currently at 28%.

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

Vouchers: Bill moved to approve vouchers 149 through 189 for \$74,940.60 from the expense account, and voucher 4 for \$12,344.24 from the construction fund. With a second from Doug, the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: Bill moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$107,254.11. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Funding for a feasibility study of the North Fork 911 wifi extension project has been included in the new budget approved by the state legislature.

Action Items

Bill moved to approve Resolutions 2023-02 and 03 to run a lid lift measure on the fire levy in August, and in the event the August levy fails to pass, again in November. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

New Business

Commissioner Christianson the Sno Isle Commissioners met with Steve Jahn, who addressed supply chain difficulties and new electric vehicle requirements.

Next regular meeting May 10, 2023 in person with public access on Zoom available.

Meeting adjourned at 8:35.

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