



Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One

COMMISSIONERS' MEETING MINUTES

July 9, 2019

Chairman Sutich called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Sutich, Nelson, Entze, Duncan and Wilsie, Chief Burgess, A/Chiefs E. Watson, S. Nixon, T. Meyer, D. Bjurstrom and EA T. VanderVaate.

FLAG SALUTE

Commissioner Kevin Entze led the flag salute.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Commissioner Duncan made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. With no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

COMMISSIONER ABSENCE

Commissioner Wilsie indicated he will be absent from the July 23, 2019 meeting. Chairman Sutich made a motion to excuse Commissioner Wilsie's attendance at the July 23, 2019 meeting. With no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

Commissioner Nelson indicated he will be absent from the August 13, 2019 meeting. Chairman Sutich made a motion to excuse Commissioner Nelson's attendance at the August 13, 2019 meeting. With no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

None.

MINUTES AND BLANKET VOUCHERS

Commissioner Wilsie made a motion to approve Minutes of the June 25, 2019 Special meeting. With no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

Commissioner Nelson made a motion to approve the vouchers and ACH transfers as outlined in the agenda for a total consideration of \$1,945,349.55. With no further discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED**.

LOCAL 3390 REPORTS

None.

VOLUNTEER REPORTS

Larry Rucker gave a brief report regarding the volunteer program (copy attached).

CHIEFS REPORTS

Chief Meyer reported that 4th of July this year was fairly quiet.

Chief Meyer reported four new firefighters have completed the District's operations academy and the goal is to have them staff shift work by the end of the year.

Chief Meyer reported that Lt. Norby Johnson has deployed to Fairbanks, Alaska as part of the PNW2 IMT Team assigned to the Shovel Creek Fire.

Chief Bjurstrom introduced the new Accounts Payable employee Jenny Bruess.

Chief Waters gave an update that the Peninsula School District is conducting a traffic analysis at Artondale and he will be discussing options them after the traffic study is complete.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Several citizens spoke regarding deployment planning the Board is currently addressing.

Chairman Sutich advised everyone in the gallery that the District was unable to schedule a Saturday workshop, therefore the Commissioners would be taking a short recess and reassembling to discuss Deployment Planning at tonight's meeting.

Chairman Sutich called for a short recess at 5:26 p.m. and called the meeting back into regular session at 5:44 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

A. Deployment Planning. Chief Burgess gave a recap of the deployment planning process the District is currently looking at, stating:

- The goal is to get policy direction from the Board;
- Standards of Cover – Chief Nixon laid out statistically how we are doing – last slide questioned do we go up or go out.
- Chiefs are asking the Board for policy direction on what to do next.
- District conducted several community meetings seeking input from citizens of the community. All meetings netted input from community members, Fox Island being the highest attended with over 40 people.
- District Staff is asking the Board to give direction on staff out versus staff up so the ad hoc Deployment Committee can work to create a deployment model to bring back before the Board.
- After a deployment model is presented to the Board it would then go back out for additional community input.

Chief Burgess stated the District would, of course, like to have all of these things (staffing out

and staffing up) but is limited by financial resources. Chief Burgess distributed a handout for the Commissioners and President Ron Wasmund of Local 3390 to review and discuss (copy attached). Chief Burgess then shared background information from when he was the Chief of Operations in 2009 he recommended expanding out to Stations 52 and 56, followed by additional staffing up before further staffing out. At that time, there was a stronger volunteer program. Chief Burgess is still supportive of staffing up before out, with the caveat that the District invest in programs to improve cardiac arrest survivals in rural areas of the District. All of that said, if the desire and recommendation of the Board is to go a different direction, District staff will work to meet any goals set by the Board.

President Wasmund indicated Local 3390 is one hundred percent in support of the staff up model immediately, pointing to majority of calls received in Urban Growth Area (“UGA”), increasing survivability and increasing safety for District employees. President Wasmund also indicated a need to reinvigorate programs to serve our rural areas, perhaps including opportunities for volunteer medical responders to run an aid car out of the unstaffed locations. Suggesting those volunteers could receive a small stipend, or possibly school tuition, in exchange for volunteering in the community. President Wasmund indicated he has members of Local 3390 who will support a reinvigorated volunteer program.

Chief Burgess also suggested additional community education programs using Pulse Point, CPR training and marketing the app heavily.

Commissioner Entze pointed out most law enforcement vehicles now have AEDs in their vehicles and AEDs can make a big difference.

Commissioner Duncan suggested AEDs are very affordable and perhaps the District should consider offering to provide them for volunteers to keep in the trunks of their personal vehicles.

President Wasmund agreed all those options should be considered and with the right level of funding and support, both the District staffing and volunteer program could be top notch. It just takes money to do it all.

Chairman Sutich requested President Wasmund define the Local’s position regarding staffing up immediately.

President Wasmund indicated the Local wants 3-man as soon as is possible.

Chairman Sutich noted that the volunteer program right now isn’t much of a volunteer program, based on the numbers cited in Larry Rucker’s report and went on to indicate he has a responsibility to all the taxpayers in the District, not just those in the UGA. The District needs to do everything to protect all the citizens of its district and he would like the Local’s request of immediate implementation of 3 man staffing up taken off the table so as not to handcuff the ad hoc deployment committee. He shared the Commissioners need to stay out of the operations end of things.

President Wasmund indicated the District has been at a place with 2 persons on the apparatus seems to be causing more injuries to staff and more L&I claims. The Local would like to have

the UGA stations where the majority of the calls are staffed up first. Went on to indicate over the last three to four years there has been a steady decline of volunteers and acknowledged we need to consider all options. President Wasmund's first concern is for the protection of his members, increasing longevity of careers and bringing the District into compliance with WAC 296-305.

Chairman Sutich suggested it could take six or more months to build a robust volunteer program. He went on to share a personal story of friend who passed away. In turn President Wasmund shared a personal story regarding a family member and reiterated the District needs to do the most for the most.

Commissioner Wilsie indicated, based on his experience doing the job, he believes three people are more efficient, safer and experience less injuries. Looking at the UGA map he feels Station 51 should be the first choice to staff up, followed by Stations 56, 52 and then 59 next. Looking at it tactically and strategically, the priority should be to get people on rigs.

Commissioner Nelson shared that Pierce County has legal interns that cycle through every 2-3 years and it's a system that works to get people experience and for the County to see if the individuals would be a good fit for the organization. At the Fox Island community meeting, Lt Nick Langlow and President Wasmund both committed to supporting a revived volunteer program. Commissioner Nelson commented that the support needs to come from the entire body, everyone in the District, not just the executive Board of the Local and indicated that a volunteer program should be viewed as an asset. The only way this works is if we go up and establish a volunteer program that goes out and for that to be successful the full time employees need to be supportive.

Commissioner Entze commented that volunteerism is changing. Lifestyles have changed. To have a volunteer program that provides training, the District will need to recognize that those volunteers are typically looking to become career employees. In his years on the Commission, he did not realize a firefighter could not make entry with two people. The District should plan to give the best training possible, look at the safety of the firefighters and the safety of the community. In a perfect world, with unlimited funding, the District would fully staff all nine of its stations. The District was fortunate during the recession not to get hit too hard. It wouldn't do the District any good to staff out if the bubble bursts again. No life is any less important and we have to look at saving the most number of lives. The Chief is tasked with hiring and promoting staff. The Commissioners are here for guidance. Feels the Commissioners should value the input of Commissioners Wilsie and Duncan because they have done these jobs before. Commissioner Entze is in support of a strong volunteer program and feels strongly that 3 man engines for the stations that respond to the most calls is where the District should focus.

Commissioner Duncan spoke that he had a great career with the Department and he fels it is necessary to get a 3rd person on the rigs for safety of the employees, to decrease L&I risks and extend careers. He is in support of expanding/rejuvenating the volunteer program and indicated we need to revisit some issues and see how we can make it work.

Chairman Sutich moved to direct District staff, when reasonable, to prioritize improving the response times of an engine and three firefighters to begin a known rescue while working creatively to improve cardiac arrest survivability in rural areas with an emphasis on a) staffing up

and b) a need for alternate programs (volunteer/resident/community) in rural areas. After a brief discussion, the **MOTION CARRIED** by unanimous roll call vote.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

SPECIAL INTERESTS/UPCOMING EVENTS

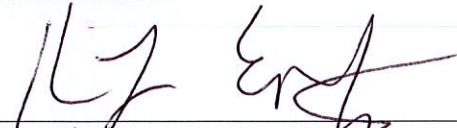
ADJOURNMENT

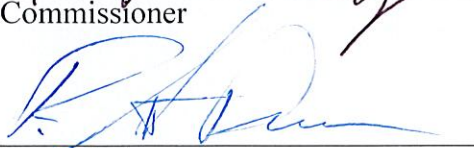
There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Sutich adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, July 23, 2019.



Chairman Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner


Commissioner

Commissioner


Attest: District Secretary

To: PCFD#5 Commissioners

09Jul19

From: Vol DC Rucker

Subj: Volunteer stats for ^{June}~~July~~ 2019

The following breakdown is the status of volunteer's involvement with Gig Harbor Fire and Medic One:

Number of volunteers: 15 (6 Fire fighters, 8 Medical Responders) LT. Justin Zungia (station 53) has submitted his resignations and has taken a position as a career Firefighter with Navy Region North West.

Note: One verbal notification of future departure from volunteer program

299 hours staffing apparatus at volunteer stations (apparatus E53, R54, E57, E55, T55, T57, and A56)

38 hours of training completed (this is either by hands-on, lecture, or computer based training)

12 calls responded

46 students taught CPR/First Aid/ or a BLS-Health Care Provider course through the CPR training program.
(Managed by volunteers)

2 newly BLS instructors qualified and added to the CPR team.

Policy positions considered and prioritized:

1. Staff Up
 - a. WAC 296-305-05005: Ensuring arrival of 1st staff(ed) engine and 3-firefighters to meet the exempt status of 2-in/1-out for a "known rescue"
 - b. Improve FF Safety & Efficiency
 - c. Improve residential full assembly of 14-firefighters
2. Staff Out
 - a. Decrease BLS response times
 - i. Improve Cardiac Arrest survival
 - ii. Improve Trauma response
 - b. Decrease response times of 1st engine (2-firefighters ONLY)
 - i. Slow fire spread to other structures and/or vegetation

Policy Example (options):

1. When reasonable, prioritize improving the response times of an engine and three firefighters to begin a known rescue while working creatively to improve cardiac arrest survivability in rural areas.
 - a. Emphasis on Staffing Up
 - b. Need for Alternate Programs (Volunteer/Resident/Community) in rural areas
2. When reasonable, prioritize improving BLS response times to increase cardiac arrest survivability while ensuring District operations continue to follow WAC 296-305-05005.
 - a. Emphasis on Staffing Out
 - b. Need to recognize 1st Engine limitations (2-firefighters)