



**SNOHOMISH COUNTY  
FIRE DISTRICT 26**

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**Business Meeting Minutes, September 12, 2018**

**BVFF Committee:** Bill, Kate, Chief Andrews, Carsen Smith not in attendance.

Carrie Schumacher's bills approved pending conversation with BVFF regarding which bills have not been paid.

The meeting was called to order at 19:03. Present were Commissioner Chair Bill Tubbs, Vice Commissioner Chair Pat Sample, and Commissioners Kate Hayes, Michelle Adie, Molly Olson, Leigh Christianson, Dean Johnson, Doug Rupp and Tim Folsom. Also present were Chief Eric Andrews, Assistant Chief Ernie Walters and Secretary Karen McPeters (Recorder)

**Public Commentary:** There was no public commentary.

**Administrative Reports**

**EXECUTIVE**

September predictions call for continuing dry weather and increased fire hazards in the state. We have had no large fires in the District so far this year. Mobilization activity is continuing to be above average. Karen is up to date with the invoicing of the mobilization costs so we should see the revenues come in before the end of the year.

The association's rummage sale held last weekend, earned about \$1700 plus \$200 in sale of surplus. Thanks to all who helped out.

The Washington Survey and Rating Bureau has advised us that we are in danger of losing our tender credit for the district which extends the best classification ratings to a 5-mile radius of the fire station as if they had a hydrant within 1000' of the home. We are researching ways to place an apparatus at Station 55 that will secure that rating for the five-mile distance. The good news is the rating for the Town of Index will be reduced to Class 5 rating and the old District 28 will be reduced in class also but depends on the tender purchase. We hope to have a recommendation for you at tonight's meeting.

The county is looking for fire district to pass a resolution in support of the upcoming sales tax increase on the November ballot to support 911 communications system. The tax can support all communications system components including replacing current communications system infrastructure, radios used by fire and police and dispatch center costs.

The Board for Volunteer Firefighters' pension board is proposing improvements for this year legislature which would add \$50 to the base pension beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> 2019. This would make the maximum pay \$350 per month. The proposal also asks to remove the 25-year maximum pay but will not allow buybacks that would allow a maximum pension of \$500 if the member paid in for 40 years total. They are also proposing an increase in fees for disability from \$30 per year per member to \$50 per year to member and the annual pension fee will increase from \$60 to \$90 per year per member. Effective dates of July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire commissioner's conference is coming up October 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> at the Yakima Convention center. If interested get your Hotel rooms soon as they fill up fast and let Karen know to get you registered.

## **OPERATIONS**

Ernie met with the Mayor of Gold Bar and discussed another option to improve storage in the mezzanine in the current city hall that would allow them to use this as storage and abandon the building at the station 53. Ernie is working on obtaining costs for this upgrade.

BR55 was damaged at a deployment when a large truck carrying a bulldozer struck it while parked. We have the trucking company's insurance working on obtaining repair. BR54 was damaged when it hit a deer also while out on a deployment. A claim has been submitted to insurance company

## **SUPPORT SERVICES / TRAINING**

The annual recruit firefighter training academy (East Snohomish County Training Academy) will run for 11 weeks starting September 5<sup>th</sup>. There were 22 recruits, down to 21 after the first week. There are participants from Fire District 4, 5 26 and 50 as well as self-paid unaffiliated recruits.

There are some dates that Jarrod will provide to the commissioners that would be a good opportunity to see the recruit class in action during the live fire evolutions. Commissioners should let Jarrod know if they are interested.

Still working on new phone system and new server for the district. This is a work in progress that is likely to take a few months.

## **EMS**

Operative IQ inventory program will be implemented by Thursday for EMS equipment. This program is planned for use of all inventory of the district in the future. Using RFID stickers that can be read remotely. Can inventory an entire apparatus. Can monitor the last time bunker gear was washed. Can monitor when SCBAs were filled. Completed triage training for EMS personnel for last month's continuing education.

Working with King # 50 and planning for upcoming ski season responses.

New response standard required by Fire District 7 for closest medic unit to respond to incidents in District 5 will affect the amount of use of M54 in District 5. Currently we respond mutual aid to District 5 and we invoice patient when we transport. Fire District 7 has a contract that has guaranteed costs for reimbursement. We will need to coordinate contractual agreement with FD 7 to provide ALS service to District 5. The one thing we do not want to do is make cost an issue that supersedes patient care. Thus we intend to have the same cost as FD 7 for responses.

## **Secretary's Report**

**Transports:** August transport payments by level of service were viewed.

**Audit:** The 2016-2017 audit is in progress. Commissioner Chair Tubbs spoke with the auditor and answered the risk assessment questionnaire.

A new receipt submission form has been added to Fire Manager to address the lack of supporting documentation for some purchases. So far, the form has been working well for the firefighters using it.

**Budget:** Ahead of projected revenue to date.

## **Consent Agenda**

**Minutes:** Kate moved to approve the minutes from the August meeting, and with a second from Michelle, the motion passed unanimously.

**Vouchers:** Bill moved to approve vouchers 367-2018 through 402-2018 for \$77,406.87. With a second from Michelle, the motion passed unanimously.

**Payroll:** Bill moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$225,396.72 (\$151,998.78 for mobes will be reimbursed) and with a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

## **Discussion Items**

**Cell Coverage of Galena:** Received a letter from consultant from CTS 1. Commissioner Rupp did get T-Mobile signal but not from SERS tower, from a different tower. Confusion over Sprint vs T-Mobile. Chief heard from SERS. They are willing to work with T-Mobile, assuming it would be a rental agreement to use tower. Main concern for dept is public safety issue- 911 access. Needs to be done quickly or else not until spring due to snow.

**Tender for Index Area:** No parking at 55, so cost includes enclosing. Top choice of AC Walters Owned by a FD in Illinois. Required to keep it under cover. Has downwetting capability for spraying down helicopter landing areas. Could generate revenue.

Tubbs asked about enclosing area by 55, permitting in Index, etc. Needs front and back framed-needs engineering. Currently has 2 apparatus in there, but not enclosed.

Financed engines will be paid off this year. Can levy a tax limited (non-voted) bond for the

purchase or put some of reserves toward purchase. Chief recommends using 100K from reserves and financing the rest, including remodel. Total proposed cost of \$270,000. Will be about same as the payment for fire engines that expires at the end of this year.

Bill moves to go ahead and authorize \$270,000 for tender, travel costs, and enclosing station using 100K from operating reserves. With a second from Doug, the motion passed unanimously.

**Appraisal:** The Larsens made a counter offer for the property at 208 5<sup>th</sup> St. Capital improvement bond money could be used to create sleeping quarters, the engine, and training, so as long as purchase will be utilized for that, using the bond would be permitted. Otherwise, the district needs to talk to bonding attorney about extending 3 year limit on using bond, which should be used by Dec 2018. Commissioners want to talk to county about conditional use permitting at 54 and need to talk to city. The board decided to tell Larsen we will take his offer under consideration but can't make a decision yet, until further research is done regarding the use of the property for bond-allowed purposes.

**GEMT Program:** PCG Group says the district should get small payment in early 2019, a larger payment in Summer, and increase in transport fees. The district will have to pay state in advance but are reimbursed at much higher rate.

**Resolution 06-2018:** Sales tax for radios. Leigh moves, Kate seconds, unanimous approval.

### **New Business**

**Public Requests:** Commissioner Hayes noted that lights have been left on at Sta 54. There was also a public request to turn lights off at Sta 55 when not needed.

The next meeting of Fire District 26 will be on Oct 10 at 19:00 at the Index Resident House. Doug will be absent.

Skykomish Valley Fire and Rescue meeting in Nov at Station 54.

Meeting adjourned at 20:39.