



Business Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2022

BVFF Committee: No charges

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, MSA Pete Parrish, MSA Joe Simmons, Captain Brandon Vargas, and Secretary Karen McPeters (recorder). Member of the public Jose Vargas was also in attendance.

Public Commentary: Mr. Vargas stated that he believes that a fire department vehicle is being utilized for non-Sky Valley Fire purposes and asked if the board is aware of how vehicles are used and if gas consumption is monitored. Commissioner Chair Tubbs responded that he did not know all the details and would look into it. Chief Andrews stated that the vehicle use policy may need updating to address appropriate uses.

EXECUTIVE

Meeting with FD 5 – The chief forwarded a letter from FD 5 referencing a proposed joint meeting, and stating that the board of District 5 doesn't feel that a joint board meeting is needed. Andrews met with their chief on a couple of occasions, and they are planning to hire six medics, contingent on their EMS levy lid lift passing.

Voter Pamphlet - Five people have indicated they are interested in serving on the pro committee. We are not aware of any con committee interest. The appointment needs to be completed by this Friday.

Art Festival – Index is planning an increased presence at their Arts Festival and asked for input from police and fire on the closing of 5th St.

State Fire Defense – There is a proposal to nearly double the daily rates for apparatus sent on mobilizations which will be voted on later this month at State Fire Chiefs' conference.

Staffing - We have been continuing to research ways to increase staffing. We are using surveys to get input on varying programs to retain personnel and increase participation. There have been lots of great efforts reaching out to school programs including Sno-Isle Learning. We continue to see many vacancies in shift personnel which is causing concern.

OPERATIONS

Volunteers/Residents: We currently have four new volunteers in the academy and we have offered three other individuals positions with the department this month. Capt. Thurston, FF Knudson and FF Heisel have been doing an excellent job of recruiting new volunteers from the community college and Sno-Isle. We are ordering new recruitment materials to try and draw more volunteers in.

Drone Program: Chief Walters announced the RFP at the beginning of last month and has received three bids; one is not complete and will not be accepted. He sent out nine (9) RFPs to various vendors. He is evaluating the bids and is hoping to receive a few more to get the best price possible.

Joint Training: Multiple agencies (SCSO, Everett Fire, Fire District 22, Sky Valley Fire, Monroe PD, SAR) have been training together for the last couple of months to help standardize operations and to educate the agencies on what capabilities each has to offer. The plan is to continue to train together and have a standard schedule with specific training requirements for all drone operators.

Boat 54: The boat was repaired and was placed back in service last week. We have been paid by the insurance company and our deductible was only \$250.

Vandalism: Thursday night the Excursion was at a conference in Kennewick and was a victim of a catalytic converter theft. The vehicle was trailered back to station 54 and we are currently looking for a replacement catalytic converter for it.

Wood Chipper: The wood chipper that we received the grant for is at station 53 and we are working on a check off list for it, and setting up a schedule for communities to sign up to have it brought out to their area.

EMS

Continuous Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance (CQI/QA)All ESO electronic health reports (EHRs) have been assigned to the QA team through April. The EMS division is working with Snohomish County to update the County EMS CQI/QA procedure. This project is still ongoing..

EMT Training- Planning for the Fall EMT course has begun.

Continuing EMS Education- Following the 2022 SCEMS plan.

CPR Training- No CPR training in April.

Personnel- Dakota Fenter has 3 more shadow shifts in May.

April ALS coverage 80% (147.5 hours not covered out of 720 total hours)

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SUPPORT SERVICES

Training Facility Development – We received the cost estimate for the training center and it's higher than initially estimated, but with the current climate not surprising. Spence suggests bidding in stages, as once the sitework is completed lumber and steel prices may have come down.

Burn Facility – With the current shortage of personnel within the department able to assist with running the facility, and its deteriorated state, we will be ceasing training burns until further notice at the end of June, except for some previously scheduled burns in the second half of the year. The facility will still be valuable as we place a new burn prop for department and valley training as well as a clean prop, non fire training, and additional storage.

Planning for next Academy– We have another round of interviews in the next couple weeks and currently are planning to have at least 10 people at next year's academy. We receive continued calls of interest, many from high school students graduating this year.

Academy – We have just over a month left for the academy and we are down to 4 recruits after 2 resigned from the department. 1 member was hired by Bothell Fire.

IT – With the success of Starlink at station 55, we will be utilizing it as a mobile internet access for the mobile command post to evaluate its effectiveness. We are also setting up a networking security system at the current training building to protect items stored there.

Secretary's Report

The Systems Design report and run totals are available for review. The annual report will be completed by May 30.

Budget

Currently at 33%.

Minutes: Molly moved to approve the April minutes. With a second from Pat, the motion passed with one abstention from Leigh, who had not yet read them.

Vouchers: Bill moved to approve vouchers 206 through 248 for \$94,066.50, and voucher 4 from the Construction Fund for \$740.72. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: Bill moved to approve payroll in the amount of \$99,354.24. With a second from Molly, the motion passed unanimously.

Discussion Items

Doug spoke to DEM and it appears that they do not want to be the lead agency for this project, but may have access to federal funds down the line for maintenance.

Camp and Associates wants to bring some technical advisers to the Scatter Creek Campground to

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conduct some testing.

Doug would also like to try to arrange a visit from members of the state legislature to the Index-Galena Road area. He requested funds not to exceed \$5,000 to be used for a proposal for the legislators.

Action Items

Leigh moved to allow unbudgeted funds not to exceed \$5,000, which may be transferred from reserves, to be approved for the proposal to the state legislators. With a second from Pat, the motion passed with and abstention from Molly.

Leigh attended a commissioners' conference in Suquamish, and reported that there were a number of interesting speakers. Snure provided changes to public meetings requirements.

Leigh and Bill also attended the open house at the new District 5 station.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:47.

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