

**VASHON ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS**

Minutes

Date: 04/25/2017

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: 10020 SW Bank Rd, EOC Room

REGULAR MEETING

1 **Present:** Camille Staczek, Chair
2 Brigitte Schran-Brown, Vice-Chair
3 David Hoffmann, Commissioner
4 Candy McCullough, Commissioner
5 Ron Turner, Commissioner
6 Charles H. Krimmert, Fire Chief
7 Robert Larsen, Assistant Chief
8 Susan Wolf, Minute Taker

9 **Guests:** Jason Everett, Susan Reimer, Matt McCann.

10 **Amendments to Agenda**

11 None.

12 **Approval of 04/11/17 Minutes**

13 Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

14 **“I move we approve the minutes of 04/11/17.”**

15

16 *Corrections:* Page 7 of 8, Line 267, regarding statements from the volunteers to the Board;
17 Commissioner McCullough just wanted their engagement in the discussion and a report from the
18 chief. Page 8, the Board Retreat on 4/23 was at 2:00 p.m.

19

MINUTES APPROVED as Amended, 5-0

20

21 Motion by Commissioner Schran-Brown:

22 **“I make a motion to annul the Motion of April 17, page 7 line 283.**

23 [“Is it appropriate for me to make a motion that we repurpose Station 56 as recommended by
24 Chief Krimmert based on if the three volunteers who respond to that station are in favor of
25 the relocation?”]

26 **“It is a motion to annul the motion as it has to do with Operations regarding vehicles
27 and staff.”**

28 Commissioner McCullough seconds the motion.

29

MOTION ANNULLED, 4 Nays, 1 abstention.

30 **Voucher Approval**

31 Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

32 **“I move that we approve the referenced vouchers as detailed in Administrative**
33 **Memorandum 04.25.2017-1.”**

34 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

35 **March Financial Report**

36 Chief recap:

37 Regarding the first quarter statement in the packet; it appears we are “burning a little heavy” but that
38 is because we had no costs budgeted for the paramedic transition. Take that out of the equation and
39 we are at 25% of our expenses for the year, which is right on target.

40 Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

41 **“I move we accept the March Financial Report.”**

42 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

43 **Chiefs’ Report**

44 *Chief Krimmert:*

45 [The Chief’s Report is attached to these minutes]

- 46 • He and A/C Larsen are working on the Enhanced Volunteer Program (EVP).
- 47 • They are setting up the transportation fee program and examining the operational guidelines
- 48 in order to roll it out as soon as possible. Chief Larsen is in contact with our vendor.
- 49 • The recruits will be here tomorrow observing as components with their EMT training. Both
- 50 are EMTs already.
- 51 • As of this morning we were at 485 calls; at this time last year we were at 510.
- 52 • We have hired former volunteer FF/EMT Raechel Ehlers as a part-time administrative
- 53 assistant.
- 54 • The Board has a Resolution before it tonight creating a fleet reserve fund. Funds from the
- 55 sale of old engine 551 and from the closed ALS fund will mean we start the fleet fund with
- 56 \$136,807. We need a new aid car which will run about \$200,000 so we’re looking at that.
- 57 • Regarding Station 56, several volunteers responded with various opinions. He and A/C
- 58 Larsen are continuing to research, but will make some initial operational changes. Once
- 59 they have some alternatives for that Station and the Bennedsen Residence, they will come
- 60 back to the Board.
- 61 • Total funds for the ALS transition have been mutually agreed upon and we will receive
- 62 \$499,000. This includes an additional \$12,000 recently negotiated in support of new AED’s
- 63 for our District.
- 64 • Miscellaneous: He met with King County Executive Dow Constantine, who toured the
- 65 station and talked with him briefly. The chief stated he pathetically begged for more
- 66 resources, and let Dow know our first line fire engine is 16 years old, which is a year past
- 67 standards.

68 **New Business**

69 Resolution 17-363 Fleet Reserve Fund

70 Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

71 **“I make a motion that we adopt Resolution 17-363 Fleet Reserve Fund, as**
72 **presented.”**

73 **MOTION PASSES 5-0**

74 Resolution 17-364 Closing ALS Fund and Transfer of Monies

75 Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

76 **“I make a motion to adopt Resolution 17-364 Closing ALS Fund and Transfer of**
77 **Monies, as presented by Chief Krimmert.**

78 **MOTION PASSES 5-0.**

79 **Old Business**

80 District Overviews

- 81 • While the Board has talked about “broad picture” goals for finances, he is reporting
82 tonight on staffing highlights. Volunteers are cyclic and we are at the bottom of the
83 cycle. In 1942, we had 28 firefighters. We have 71% less total volunteers and 17%
84 less firefighters.
- 85 • We have 2-3 staff working weekends and without volunteers we can’t respond 2.5
86 calls deep. Our call volume is up 60% from 17 years ago with 69% less volunteers.
87 We are anticipating our call volume to eventually reach about 2,000 and then plateau.
- 88 • The demand for 240 hours of training for a volunteer firefighter to reach a FF1
89 certification is a large amount. EMTs train for 120 hours for state certification.
90 Every three years they have to renew and have 100% of continuing education or
91 CBTs.
- 92 • Support requires 40 hours of training and a monthly drill.
- 93 • Basically our volunteers are taking on a second unpaid job and that’s why it has an
94 impact on our numbers. Blue card training demonstrates other districts are resource
95 rich and while they have mutual aid, ours is a half hour or hour away.
- 96 • We have to take action. The good news is we have eleven on-island established fire
97 support volunteers. They run the tenders and rescue truck which leaves the
98 firefighters free to fight fires.
- 99 • We are transferring more patients at the dock. It’s not pretty but gets staff back on
100 the island. So we are looking at a part-time paid program and we’re looking at the
101 transportation fees to pay for this program.

102 (*See attached photo of the Chief’s white board chart.*)

- 103 • The chief quoted Winston Churchill: “Never have so many owed so much to so few.”
104 When the chief began to volunteer here the goal was quality over quantity, but now
105 we ask are they breathing? We believe the enhanced part-time firefighter will
106 improve that number. Support is working well. They also direct traffic at accidents,
107 besides running the tender and rescue truck.
- 108 • The Board asked a question, if the ALS calls were requiring mutual aid. To date they
109 have not had an ALS response from town. They’ve split on transports but because
110 they are not toned out (radioed directly from Dispatch) we don’t know when they
111 respond. Traditionally we knew because they were part of the District. They are
112 outstanding paramedics and we have sometimes responded on the back up medic unit
113 with one paramedic and one of the firefighter/EMTs.

- 114 • The chief’s aspirational goal is to bring a presentation on fleet and the state of our
115 facilities on the May 9th Board meeting. We only have 17 people responding to Zone
116 1 call backs. While we have Vashon residents who are firefighters and EMTs for
117 outside Departments, the chief is happy to have them join us as EMTs or support, but
118 not as firefighters. It is a safety concern because their training, apparatus and
119 equipment differ. If they are responding together with our employees here, it could
120 be a firefighter safety issue. He has one such person asking to join us.
121 • Question about what the policy is and who decides when a patient is transferred on
122 the dock; the answer was EMT “owns” the patient. The EMT makes the decision
123 whether to take the patient into the hospital. If the EMT believes care can be
124 transferred so EMT can get back, they transfer. We’re seeing more transfers to the
125 dock because we are short staffed. Chief Larsen is discussing this in Operations
126 meetings. Typically they take kids, with whom they’ve developed a rapport, and
127 stroke victims due to the critical time factor. Also the amount of pain to transfer.
128 • We have also now installed a printer in the aid cars so we can print a short report
129 when transferring patients to private ambulance.

130 House 56

131 This subject will be addressed at the next meeting.

132 **General Comments**

133 Jason Everett thanked both the chiefs for asking, “Who’s got it?” We’ve dodged bullets and
134 provided excellent quality care to Vashon citizens, but at some point, we won’t be able to.
135 The chief is showing what the staff has known for some time. He’s thankful for the chiefs’
136 mindfulness.

137 Commissioner Schran-Brown commented that as a grant writer if you don’t have 100%
138 Firefighter 1 certificate trained staff, it dings you on getting grants.

139 **For the Good of the Order**

140 None.

141 **Documents Signed**

142 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

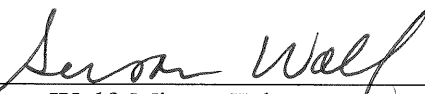
143 *The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, 05/09/17 at 6:30 p.m.*

144 *at 10020 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, EOC Room*

Approved this 9 day of May , 2017.



Camille Staczek, Chair



Susan Wolf, Minute Taker



Chief's Report
for the
Fire Commissioners' Meeting
of
25 April 2017

As a brief overview of the District, focusing on highlights since the board's meeting of the 11th, please accept the following information:

1. Overarching Operational Topics:

- a. The Enhance Volunteer Program (EVP) is developing and we are working to roll it out as timely as possible...
- b. The operational guidelines and program requirements to implement transportation fees are being formalized and we are working to roll the program out as timely as possible...

2. Overarching Training Topics:

- a. Recruits Lenz and McMillian will be on shift tomorrow (26 Apr 17) and 3 May as a component of their EMT training...

3. Service/Call Volumes:

- a. As of 07:30, shift change today, the District has responded to 485 calls...
 - i. Based on last year's call volume averaging would have us at some 510 calls by this date so we are running some 25 calls behind average...

4. Staff/Personnel:

- i. I am pleased to advise the board that former FF/EMT Raechel Ehlers has rejoined the District in a part-time administration position...

5. Fleet:

- a. I am very proud to announce that a Fleet Replacement Reserve Account is being established from the funds received for E551 and the closure and a partial transfer of the ALS Reserve Account into this new fund...
 - i. The starting balance will be approximately \$136,807.00...

1. A new aid car will likely be our first recommendation for replacement once this account has sufficient funding in place...

6. Facilities:

- a. I have received communications from some of the 21 island resident emergency responders that we requested opinions of regarding 'Option 3a' for the Burton Station...
 - i. Five (5) are in support of implementing Option 3a...
 - ii. No one has expressed opposed to Option 3a...
 - iii. Two (2) are offering alternate or hybrid options for consideration...
 1. Accepting/Supporting Options 3a but suggest informing the public of modifications and allow input/questions before implementation...
 - iv. Fourteen (14) have not yet replied or expressed an opinion...
- b. For the above, as well as the discussions of Sunday (23 Apr 17) we are moving forward with initial operational changes to Station 56...
 - i. However, for recent discussions between Chief Larsen and myself we are continuing to investigate options and alternate ideas for Station 56 and the RBR we believe to be promising...

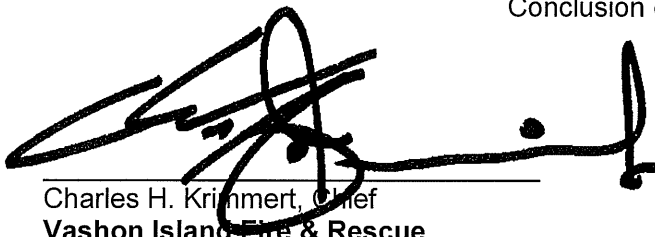
7. Financials:

- a. It is my understanding that the 'Spent to Date' summary of 2017's first quarter has been presented to you all within your packages...
- b. It appears that the final financials for the ALS transition have established themselves and the total funds will be approximately \$499,000...
 - i. This includes an additional \$12,000 recently negotiated in support of new AED's for our District...

8. Miscellaneous/Noteworthy Topic(s):

- a. Station 55 received a visit by King County Executive Dow Constantine Thursday (20 Apr 17). He visited with the staff and medics present and briefly toured the facilities...
- b. I would like to formally thank the commissioners for their time and input at Sunday's special public meeting (23 Apr 17)...

Conclusion of Report



Charles H. Krimert, Chief
Vashon Island Fire & Rescue
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1 206 300 0952 (Mobile)