

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

Minutes

Date: 07/11/2017

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 **Absent:**

10 **Guests:** Bradford McMullen, Don Cheyette, Susan Reimer, Anne Turner, Ben Davidson, Randy
11 Tonkin, Matt McCann, Larissa Nakatsu, Gary English and members of the public. Scott Harvey also
12 came after the start of the meeting and left at 6:55 p.m.
13

14 **Amendments to Agenda**

15 None.

16 **Approval of 06/27/17 Regular Meeting Minutes**

17 Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

18 "I move we approve the 6/27/17 Regular Meeting minutes."

19 **MINUTES APPROVED, 5-0**

20 **Approval of 6/29/17 Special Meeting Minutes**

21 Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

22 "I move we approve the 6/29/17 Special Meeting minutes."

23 **MINUTES APPROVED, 5-0**

24 **Voucher Approval**

25 Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

26 "I move that we approve the referenced vouchers and transfers as detailed in
27 **Administrative Memorandum 07.11.2017-1.**"

28 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

29

30 **Chief's Report**

31 Chief Krimmert provided his written bi-monthly report to the Board to review. A few of the high
32 points:

- 33 • The advertisement for the part-time paid positions has been placed. We will be soliciting
34 applications until July 19.
- 35 • The Explorer graduation closed with a live fire training. Two of the Explorers are in our
36 academy with another one in an academy in Fairbanks, Alaska.
- 37 • On July 4th we were fortunate to only have two calls; one a medical call unrelated to the
38 holiday and one small fireworks brush fire.
- 39 • It's been six months since our new career firefighters joined the District. Their evaluations
40 have been completed and they are doing well.
- 41 • Another repair needed for our fleet: Engine 58 had a corroded pipe which produced a leak.
42 [Chief Krimmert showed the corroded 17-year-old pipe.] The water pump was also found to
43 have failed. That engine is now out of service and has to leave the island tomorrow to get
44 fixed. It is hoped to have it back in service by end of the week.
- 45 • The windshield broke on a 2007 vehicle (Ch56).
- 46 • We should see some reimbursement from the state for our MOBE for approximately \$5,000
- 47 • The Chief has jury duty on the 24th of this month.
- 48 • The Chief was chosen to participate on a panel judging fire facility designs next year, but
49 was asked to participate in this year's also on September 22-26. If the Board agrees, he
50 would like to participate and combine it with a vacation back East where he has family; a 10
51 day vacation. [Consensus]

52 **New Business**

53 None.

54 **Old Business**

55 District Overviews

- 56 • There have been questions about the budget that Chief Krimmert answered in this
57 way: He focused on mission critical elements and projected a 3% increase for the
58 budget. But, if inflation ran higher and the budget increased as well as assessments
59 so the tax rate dropped further, it would make the projected surplus look different.
60 This reflects the best information from King County Assessments, but they will not
61 predict the 2018 numbers until the assessments are finished sometime in September.
62 They did confirm to the chief that we have approximately a 16.9% increase in values
63 on Vashon. He validated our numbers with Elaine, the supervisor at King County
64 Assessments. Both she and the chief agree Parks will not be hurt, even if we went for
65 \$1.50 in 2018 or even through 2020. The Board has yet to determine whether to go
66 for that amount.

67 *Comments from the Public:*

- 68 • With the current tax burdens, going for the \$1.50 is a massive task. With school
69 property tax, could the District split the difference between \$1.38 and 1.50 and go for
70 1.40 something?
- 71 • The District can ask for an exception to the 1%. We can also ask for the \$1.50 in lieu
72 of a 1 percent on a five year cycle. We can pick the number and let it prorate down.

- 73
- 74
- 75
- In 2020, the \$1.50 would be \$1.26, assuming a very aggressive property value increase. Elaine and the Chief tried to figure enough wiggle room in both our numbers to still justify \$1.50 with Parks going for 60 cents and it would still work.
- 76
- The question of a county margin of 11 cents is not applicable to us.

77 *Comment from a Board member:*

- 78
- 79
- 80
- He's not worried about Parks and would support \$1.50 but does not believe it would pass. He did think that between a "stabilize" rate of \$1.38, transport fees and the membership program that should be sufficient.

81 *Response from Chief Krimmert:*

- 82
- 83
- 84
- 85
- 86
- 87
- 88
- We haven't yet received any transport money and we have yet to complete our first year. But we have to hire part-time people to make it work. It will cost \$600,000 for 24 part timers so that income will be consumed very quickly. The transport fees should bring in \$300,000 and we're estimating \$150,000 in memberships, so that will not be enough to pay for all the costs for the part-time employees. The Chief recommends staying in the \$1.40 and up range. A levy rate of \$1.44 would amount to \$26 more dollars (for tax payers) or a total of \$230 more per year.

89 *Comment from the Public:*

- 90
- 91
- 92
- 93
- 94
- 95
- 96
- The Park District failed to plan so had to finance three vehicles and a portable restroom. The Fire District failed to plan. He researched and used a life of seven years for an ambulance, ten years for an engine. First Bankers finances fire vehicles; that's all they do. It would cost \$110,000 a year for payments, which would leave a surplus of \$316,000. That's with a zero down payment. So the money would be approximately the same if the levy increased at the \$1.50 level and the District could make annual payments for both an engine and an ambulance.

97 *Response from Chief Krimmert:*

- 98
- 99
- 100
- 101
- 102
- 103
- 104
- He has been to the financing website but he has a number of aging vehicles so one would need to be replaced every two years. Plus, we have to consider the interest expense when we don't usually pay interest. Although it's true we don't know if we can sell the \$0.57 increase; Elaine, Hazel (both from the King County Assessor's office) and he doesn't think a levy rate of \$1.50 hurts Parks now or in 2020. If there is an alternative, the chief is happy to consider it and acknowledges the \$0.57 increase will be hard to sell.

105 [Scott Harvey leaves.]

- 106
- The Chief investigated the financing fire apparatus, but has not explored leasing.

107 *Comment from the Board:*

- 108
- We're up against the wall so we want to look at options.

109 *Comment from Chief Krimmert:*

- 110
- 111
- 112
- 113
- 114
- 115
- The levels on the white board are benchmarks but we're not married to them. One issue that Alice Larsen brought up at our last meeting concerned selling the south end and north end stations. The chief is not sure there is an insurance advantage to keeping them, so they could be sold. Trying to ascertain the difference in insurance rates is difficult because there are different companies and even the agents don't know how it is all calculated.

116 *Comments from the Public:*

- 117 • The distance to fire stations makes a bigger difference in insurance rate to
118 commercial buildings than residential.
- 119 • Question: What is your insurance (WSRB) rating? Response: It is at a 5 or 6 for
120 most areas and was reviewed in 2014. The rating is based on the number of
121 volunteers at certain stations; if they are not there, it could raise the rating but it is
122 unknown by how much. [Note: a lower rating is better.]

123 Discussion About Next Steps:

- 124 • The resolution must be filed by August 1.
- 125 • The District's attorneys will be happy to attend a public meeting to answer questions.
- 126 • The chief is on jury duty the last week of July.

127 Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

128 **"I move that after the July 25th regular meeting, we have a public session. Then**
129 **on Friday, July 28, we have a Special Meeting at 7 p.m. Both should be held in the**
130 **Penny Farcy Training Center in the large classroom in order to accommodate a larger**
131 **crowd."**

132 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0.**

133 **General Comments**

134 *Comments from the Public:*

- 135 • Board members and the chief should be careful what they say in meetings. For instance,
136 saying you "spit ball" figures when asking the public for hard money. You could word it
137 like, "We looked at the \$1.50, which we need, but are asking for \$1.38."
- 138 • If people point at you and ask how this happened, Board members should admit, "We
139 screwed up" and take the fall. Don't get defensive, don't distract with another topic and
140 don't make excuses.
- 141 • You've had the Park District questions and data. Decide which 10-12 questions you are
142 going to get asked again and again. Focus on talking points and the message you will give.
143 Write up the talking points. That way every one of the Board answers the same way. A
144 public hearing should be very focused.
- 145 • Alice had excellent questions; answer her questions or you're in trouble.
- 146 • All the numbers in the Chief's presentations make for too much information for the public,
147 even if they know what they are looking for, which make it a frustrating effort.
- 148 • No one showed up to school's meetings either. They sent it out public service
149 announcements, had it on their website, discussed it meetings, invited the public and had
150 good information.

151 *Comments from Chief Krimmert:*

- 152 • Besides chalk talks, the chief is working on a summary report for this group and for a mailing
153 to the community. He will build a talking points list for any Board member to answer.

154

155 *Comment from a Board member:*

- 156 • We need the chief to be there at the meeting to support the Board. We can offer to educate
157 and teach the public but some members are resistant. They say the sky isn't falling but we
158 know it is. But to win people over, we can't say that. What we can say is, "Our front line
159 engine had a water line which rotted out and the pump failed. This is what we need and why
160 we need it."

161 *Comment from the Public:*

- 162 • The Board and chief need to listen to people, present your perspective and answer questions.
163 "Here's the problem, here's the solution and what we need to pay for it," when people are
164 asking, "Why are you taxing us now?" The Board can say, "We hope the transport fee will
165 help pay for this, we don't know that it will be enough."
- 166 • Don't overwhelm people with too much information. The Board has listened to these
167 presentations for weeks, but the public will be lost.
- 168 • We have a miracle maintenance guy, but we're running short of money. Show how you will
169 solve the problems.
- 170 • For each issue, don't drill down too much, trying to sell a complex issue.
- 171 • Make the talking points short. For Parks, say, "We know the answer and have talked to the
172 county and have the solution for Parks. Use the presentations like incident command:
173 Complex situation, short orders.

174 *Comment from a Board member:*

- 175 • As a Board, we have no hidden agenda. We do care about the community deeply.

176 *Comments for the Public:*

- 177 • The Washington Fire Chiefs have to have experienced these questions, check with them and
178 their website. They may have resources for you.

179 *Comment from a Board member:*

- 180 • She will also talk to Roger Ferris at the Washington Fire Commissioners Association to see
181 what resources and comparables they might have.

182 *Question from a Public Member:*

- 183 • Has the Board gone out into the community and held informational meetings? The answer
184 was no, they have not. She suggested that the Board members provide accurate data, maybe
185 at the farmers market about the needs at the District. Hit it right now. If the Board engages
186 the public you can say, "This is what we'll do if you'll help us."
- 187 • Is it possible to rent the Park's signs at Ober Park and at the north end? The chief will look
188 into it.
- 189 • Check out the communications from the school district; they put a lot of effort into it.

190

191 **For the Good of the Order**

192 None.

193 **Documents Signed**

194

195

196 **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

197 The Executive Session was held pursuant to **RCW 42.30.110(1)(g)** To evaluate the qualifications of
198 an applicant for public employment or to review the performance of a public employee **AND** another
199 subject which falls outside the scope of the *Open Public Meetings Act, RCW 42.30.140* in that it has
200 to do with collective bargaining contract negotiations.

201 The public meeting was closed at 7:37 p.m. and the Executive Session opened at the same time. The
202 Executive Session was extended at 7:47 for five minutes. The Executive Session closed at 7:52 p.m.
203 and opened to the public.

204 Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

205 **"I move we go forth with restoring the back pay without interest to the employee."**

206 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

207 The Chair then adjourned the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

208 *The next Regular Meeting will be on Tuesday, 07/25/17 at 6:30 p.m. at 10020 SW Bank Rd., in the EOC Rm*

209
210 *A Special Meeting is scheduled on Friday, July 28, 2017 at the Penny Farcy Training Center at*
211 *10019 SW Bank Rd, Vashon*

Approved this 25 day of July, 2017.

Camille Staczek
Camille Staczek, Chair

Susan Wolf
Susan Wolf, Minute Taker



Chief's Report
for the
Fire Commissioners' Meeting
of
11 July 2017

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

1. Overarching Operational Topics:

- a. On 28 June we mobilized BR55 and Firefighters Kranjceovich, Paulsen & Puz to a wildland fire at the state's request for assistance. They were deployed to another fire on the 2nd and returned home on the 4th. All staff and equipment were back in service on the island for the fourth and actually all responded to a small brush fire that evening...
- b. We have begun advertising for the PTP program and current scheduling suggest the volunteer corps transitioning in will likely start before any new part timers...
 - i. Current volunteers becoming PTP will start 01 August (+/-)...
 - ii. New PTP are estimated to start 01 September (+/-)...

2. Overarching Training Topics:

- a. Explorer Post 2134's graduation and close for the summer was Saturday 01 July; they concluded the year with a live fire exercise overseen by Fire Support members Brown, Voynick & Miller, LT Brown and myself...

3. Service/Call Volumes:

- a. As of 07:30, shift change today, the District has responded to 796 calls...
 - i. Based on the averaging of last year's calls we should statistically be around 851, 55 calls higher...
- b. With regards to the 4th of July we were understaffed the whole of the day. However we ran only two calls, one medical call unrelated to the holiday and one fireworks related small brush fire...

4. Staff/Personnel:

- a. Firefighters Lenz and McMullen's six month reviews took place last week and yesterday. Both gentlemen are doing well...
- b. My six month anniversary was Sunday and a review by the Board is in order...

5. Fleet:

- a. E58's pump control panel has failed and it is out of services. We are working to expedite the repairs but it will have to leave the island for such. We hope to have it back in service by the end of the wee but at this time we are working with only two engines (E55 & E56)...
- b. CH56's windshield cracked yesterday and need to be replaced...

6. Facilities:

- a. I am pleased to have nothing of significance to report at this time...

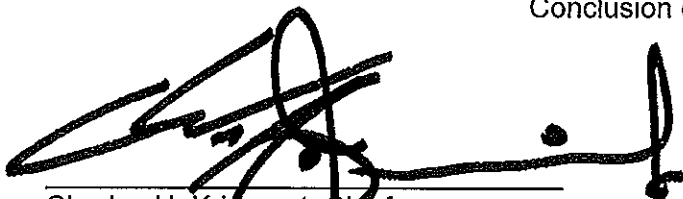
7. Financials:

- a. For the fire mobilization noted earlier the District should be reimbursed some \$5,000 for the use of the truck; I have not yet confirmed funding to the District for the crew of three...

8. Miscellaneous/Noteworthy Topic(s):

- a. I have been called upon for jury duty on the 24th...
- b. You may recall I have was asked to sit on the FIERO Fire Facilities Design Awards Program Jury next September 2018; they are now asking if I can also sit on this year's jury and are asking if I can be in North Carolina for the event(s) 22nd – 26th of September. With your permission I think combining this opportunity with a trip 'home' to see my siblings a well desired break...

Conclusion of Report



Charles H. Krimmert, Chief
Vashon Island Fire & Rescue
1 206 463 2405 (Office) Extension 301
1 206 300 0952 (Mobile)