

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

Minutes

**Date:** 9/29/15

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** 10020 SW Bank Rd., Vashon, EOC

**REGULAR MEETING**

1 **Present:** Candy McCullough, Chair

2 David Hoffmann, Vice-Chair

3 Rex Stratton, Commissioner

4 Camille Staczek, Commissioner

5 Ron Turner, Commissioner

6 George Brown, Assistant Chief

7 Susan Wolf, Minute Taker

8 **Absent:** Hank Lipe, Chief

9 **Guests:** Volunteer EMT Brigitte Schran-Brown, Resident Volunteer and Recruitment  
10 Coordinator Ross Copland, Susan Reimer, Vashon Beachcomber; Volunteer Lt. Charlie Krimmert,  
11 FF/EMT Randy Tonkin and Larry Jensen.

12 **Amendments to Agenda**

13 None.

14 **Approval of 9/8/15 Minutes**

15 Motion by Commissioner Stratton:

16 "I move we approve our minutes of the meeting on 9/8/15."

17 **MOTION PASSES, 4-0; Commissioner Hoffmann abstains.**

18 **Voucher Approval**

19 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

20 "I move that we approve the referenced vouchers and transfers as detailed in  
21 **Administrative Memorandum 09.29.15-01."**

22 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

23 **August Financial Report**

24 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

25 "I move we accept the August Financial Report."

26 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

- 27 • This report shows we are 1% overspent, but we were underspent by 3% last month, so a  
28 budget fluctuates. This is not an issue at this moment as we still have three months  
29 remaining in this year's budget.  
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31 **Chiefs' Reports**

32 *A/C Brown:*

- 33 • At the Bennedsen Residence the hot water heater quit working and there was a problem with  
34 the heating system. It was an antiquated European system, but the burners were out and a  
35 minor leak of CO2 was found, necessitating a replacement of the entire system for \$12,000.

36 Awards Banquet Moving to December

- 37 • The Board was asked for an endorsement to double expense our annual awards banquet this  
38 year by changing the time to December. Then it would be once a year after that. After a  
39 survey of the membership, it was determined most would like to combine the December  
40 holiday gathering and Annual Awards Ceremony and have it on a Saturday. Only the 1<sup>st</sup>  
41 Saturday in December is Camp Burton charging the regular rental fee. Otherwise it would be  
42 \$13,000 to rent the facility.

43 Motion by Commissioner Stratton:

44 "I move that we endorse the first Saturday in December and if doesn't fit in this year,  
45 look to next year's budget."

46 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

- 47 • Chief Lipe is in the process of preparing an anti-bullying policy.  
48 • Regarding the SCBA update, Chief Brown will know tomorrow which brand we are going to  
49 purchase with our grant money. We picked up the remaining bottles from Yakima to use  
50 until we get our new ones.  
51 • The new ESO software will be rolling out October 1. Captain Smith and MSO Brownell  
52 have worked diligently on this project. ValleyCom will not download our calls into SunPro  
53 but into the ESO. Crews will continue writing MIRFs while learning the system. Eventually  
54 they will write one report in one place one time instead of twice like they are now.  
55 • About the MDT program, Randy Tonkin has spearheaded this project. The mounting  
56 brackets have been installed into the vehicles.

57 **New Business**

58 Volunteer Recruitment Update

- 59 • Chief Brown introduced Ross Copland, a Resident Volunteer and part-time Volunteer  
60 Recruitment and Retention Coordinator. Chief Lipe asked him to give an update to  
61 the Board.

62 *Recruiting Goals:*

- 63 • For Associate Members, our goal was 10 for the year and we are at 8.  
64 • For EMTs, that's a non-fire position, pure EMS role only; our goal was 20 and we're  
65 at 9 with 5 more coming into training right now.

- 66 • With Firefighter/EMT roles, our goal was 15 and we're at 7; this is not including any  
67 of our Resident Firefighters on that list.
- 68 • For Residents, our goal was 12 and we're sitting at 11 right now. This past month we  
69 converted 6 of our regular volunteers to Residents. This is huge for us. We've  
70 managed to get a minimum of two Residents on every shift and some shifts have  
71 three. We've met our goal there – kicked it out of the park since we're not at the end  
72 of the year yet.
- 73 • For Support, the goal was 10 and we're sitting on 8, with 5 going into training in  
74 October as well.

75 Ross was complimented by the Board for his nice work.

76 *Demographics of New Recruits:*

- 77 • We just wrapped up intake process and of the twenty-five who applied, ten passed the  
78 interviews, psychological and medical exams. Of those that passed, half were on-  
79 and half off-island. Referring to the hand out, Ross separated the accepted applicants  
80 by roles. We have six EMTs starting October 1; four starting support and one in the  
81 King County EMT class which started a month ago. He'll be finishing up in the next  
82 few months. Because we had a quality panel and a rigorous process, we got quality  
83 EMTs and good support members so we're happy. One person who wants to be a  
84 firefighter will go through the support training first.

85 *Residents:*

- 86 • We're proud to maintain this number of Residents who work either 24 or 48 hours per  
87 week throughout the year unless they get hired elsewhere. Most are assigned on  
88 rotating shifts, and there is one floater who is working a 9-5 job and setting a  
89 schedule around her work.
- 90 • Our website has undergone extensive renovation and recently a bulletin was added to  
91 the front page stating, "We Need Volunteers" and people can click to find more  
92 information and apply online. Pages were reorganized to simplify the look and  
93 provide information to answer people's questions.
- 94 • There will be an advertising campaign in the Beachcomber for 13 weeks to recruit  
95 volunteers. We're in the process of getting quotes for advertising on the ferries using  
96 their TVs and billboards.
- 97 • A proposal for using Social Media has been submitted to the chiefs for a trial period  
98 to promote VIFR to the world.
- 99 • We want to do some presentations to EMT classes at the local college and Brigitte  
100 invited us to do presentations to the ski patrol to get them volunteering with us in the  
101 off season.
- 102 • We're looking at recruiting nonresponding positions and putting together an  
103 administrative position to answer phones and assist the District Secretary.

104 *Retention:*

- 105 • In order make VIFR a more inviting place at which to work, we conducted an  
106 anonymous survey for volunteers. One complaint that came out of that was that it  
107 took a long time to get needed clothing and equipment. Captain Munger and Ross  
108 worked together to make a simpler, smoother system and now members can go online

109 from home and fill out a request. Then we can have the items ready for them the next  
110 time they come to work.

- 111 • There needs to be a cultural change to eliminate “class” amongst the members, such  
112 as paid/volunteer, on/off island, support, etc. To promote unity within the fire  
113 district, the captains are working together with him to help that along. He had two  
114 requests for Commissioners: to put on two breakfasts or lunches a year, with the  
115 chiefs and commissioners wearing aprons and cooking pancakes for our volunteers  
116 and their families. The other was to tell community members, “We need more  
117 people,” rather than, “We need more on-island people.” We need to avoid creating  
118 divisions and we’re doing everything we can to make that happen.
- 119 • The uniform committee approved hoodies for MOBED personnel to wear on the fire  
120 line (fighting wildfires) rather than have to sleep in their own clothing.
- 121 • As an aside, Ross mentioned that he ran into Stan Voynick who told him he was  
122 excited to be accepted with us.
- 123 • The Orientation is tomorrow from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. and Board members are invited.  
124 Ross was thanked for his “fabulous” hard work. Census from the Board was that they  
125 supported Ross’ efforts and would participate.

#### 126 Report on King Co Fire Commissioners & King Co Medic One

- 127 • Commissioners Staczek and Stratton spent 12 hours one day last week at both Kent  
128 and Maple Valley and wanted to provide a report to the Board. The meeting in Kent  
129 was at the new Consortium EMS Center, which they toured.

#### 130 *Medic One Transition:*

- 131 • They also attended the EMS advisory committee meeting where Chief John Hebert  
132 went over what he could share about the transition. Medic One Local 2595 is the  
133 absorbing our IAFF Union Local #4189 under the Council of Firefighters and local  
134 ILA. They’re in negotiations on behalf of both unions with Andre Chevalier, who  
135 was raised on the island, as the negotiator. Two more meetings are scheduled for  
136 October 7<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>.
- 137 • Issues involved are the financial obligation of accrued paid time off and how that  
138 would be transported over to their new employer, etc. Under the rules of engagement  
139 from Washington State Council Firefighters there can be no discrimination with rank,  
140 benefits or pay. The union has 25 proposals/questions not finalized.
- 141 • There is no disagreement that there will be two medics on Vashon 24/7 and two aid  
142 cars. There will be an inventory system on Vashon, with administrative support for  
143 the medics. The same rules apply here and with King County Medic One.  
144 Dr. Tom Rae is MSO for entire King County Medic One system and answers to  
145 Dr. Mickey Eisenberg head of King County EMS. The medics would be stationed  
146 three months in one place then rotate. An exception would be to possibly keep one  
147 Vashon medic on duty for one year with rotating medics to provide Vashon specific  
148 information, locations, etc. King County Medic One is reviewing proposals.
- 149 • Once the transition occurs, we will no longer need Dr. Sam Warren or a MPD, so no  
150 expense will be incurred for that. For Basic Life Support for King County, they have  
151 a Medical Program Director so we won’t have to pay for that.

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- They will have electronic records, Mobile Data Terminals in the Medic One Aid Cars with real time communication between medics, doctors and hospitals.
  - King County Medic One provides for 84 hours of continuing ALS training, with experts brought in for instruction.
  - Chief John Hebert says we are not going to have lessor medical services than we have now.

158 *Zone 3 Training Consortium:*

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- We are planning to budget to join the Zone 3 Training Consortium. All of the fire districts and city fire departments, including Burien, Kent, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, and Skyway are all in the consortium - all but one fire entity will be in. Membership in the Consortium will provide for common training for all of the fire districts across the membership. They are working on the ability to have common outfitting of apparatus to have all the fire trucks housing the same equipment, in the same location and be compatible for mutual aid. Uniform drills will give our people opportunity to interchange with other departments.
  - Another advantage is common purchasing, for instance, purchasing one aid car together with other departments for BLS we can get better pricing rather than buying it individually.
  - The new Training Center is gorgeous, with training rooms even for Blue Card/Incident Command System (ICS) training.

172 *King County Fire Commissioners Meeting:*

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- Maple Valley hosted the King County Fire Commissioners meeting. Some districts have done levy lid lifts and are at the top (of what they can collect). The concern is if the county passes their "Fast Start for Kids" initiative, which will be on the November ballot, some districts will lose \$0.14 (per \$1,000 of property value). Al Church stated that King County's levy is above their \$5.90 and because they have used their entire levy authority past \$0.07 and then it comes out of the \$5.90 for the junior taxing districts, (pro-rationing). Districts need relief and less money is one of the major issues the fire commissioners are discussing with King County Fire Chiefs and the County Executive. We have no hospital district so VIFR is the top district for levies here. Municipalities are different and the schools have their own "chunk." Some other districts have hospitals which supersede the fire districts. How are we going to do a strategic plan and fund it?
  - Kent, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, Enumclaw and Skyway are looking at merging. North King County (above Bothell) is considering doing the same thing. So the county may end up with five really large (regional) fire districts and Vashon Island. Commissioner Staczek is going to become the treasurer of the King County Fire Commissioners.
  - A comment from the guests was a question about King County Medic One transporting only in unusual circumstances. Medic One has stationed aid units all around the county including Bellevue and Redmond; their rules are countywide and how they accomplish transports is under discussion and negotiations. After the meeting on October 19<sup>th</sup> we should have an answer how Medic One will provide those services.

- 196                   • At the last meeting several King County Fire Chiefs E-board and membership there  
197                   was great concern expressed as to whether we are going to have a county-wide Medic  
198                   One levy next year or if everyone is going to have to scramble to finance their ALS  
199                   services.

200   **Old Business**

201                   Q/A Committee

- 202                   • Since the Assistant Chief was on vacation for the past two weeks, no progress has  
203                   been made.

204                   Chief Evaluations – TABLED

205                   Security System

- 206                   • Chief Brown provided the Board all the estimates but recommended that it be  
207                   budgeted for 2016. It's up to the Board now whether they want it now or wait until  
208                   next year. The lowest estimate was \$14,000.

209                   Medic One Proposal Update

- 210                   • Addressed above.

211                   Strategic Plan Update

- 212                   • Chief Lipe sent out an update to planning committee. Pending outcome of the medic  
213                   transition, then the strategic planning can go forward.

214   **General Comments**

- 215                   • Susan Reimer asked when there would be a public meeting scheduled about the  
216                   medic transition. The Board responded that sometime after the meeting on October  
217                   19, so hopefully within two weeks of that time. That would be once the union ratified  
218                   and signed the agreement.

219   **For the Good of the Order**

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221   **Documents Signed**

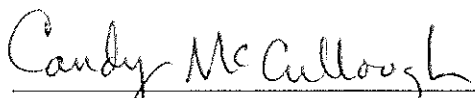
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223   **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

224   The Executive Session is being held pursuant to a provision of RCW 42.30.110(1)(g). The Open  
225   Public meeting was moved into Executive Session at 7:37 p.m. At 7:52 the meeting was extended  
226   for an additional 10 minutes. At 8:03 p.m. the meeting was extended for an additional 15 minutes.  
227   At 8:15 the meeting was opened back up into Public Session and adjourned at 8:16 p.m. No decision  
228   was made.

229                   *The next Regular Meeting will be on 10/13/15 at 6:30 p.m. at 10020 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, EOC Room*

Approved this 13 day of October, 2015.

  
Candy McCullough, Chair

  
Susan Wolf, Minute Taker