

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

3 Minutes

4 **Date:** 5/27/14

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

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

7 **REGULAR MEETING**

8 **Present:** Camille Staczek, Chair  
9 David Hoffmann, Vice-Chair  
10 Candy McCullough, Commissioner  
11 Rex Stratton, Commissioner (late arrival)  
12 Ron Turner, Commissioner  
13 Hank Lipe, Fire Chief  
14 George Brown, Assistant Chief  
15 Susan Wolf, Minute Taker

16 **Guests:** Jim Fogarty, King County EMS Director; Peter Lake and Barbara Huff, Island CPAs;  
17 James Cottrell, Praxis; Mark Radford, five career paramedics and one volunteer officer.

18 **Amendments to Agenda**

19 None.

20 **Approval of 5/13/14 Minutes**

21 Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

22 **“I move we approve the minutes of 5/13/14.”**

23 **APPROVED, 4-0**

24 **Voucher Approval**

25 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

26 **“I move we approve the referenced vouchers and transfers as detailed in**  
27 **Administrative Memorandum 05.27.14-1.”**

28 (Commissioner Stratton enters).

29 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

30 **April Monthly Financial Report**

31 Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

32 **“I move we accept the April Financial Report.”**

33 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

34 **2013 Annual Financial Report**

35 Presentation by Barbara Huff and Peter Lake:

- 36 • This report is what the auditor compares with the King County ledger/reports. An additional  
37 note was added this year about the Association Building remodel.

38 Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

39 **“I move we accept the 2013 Annual Financial Report.”**

40 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

41 **New Business**

42 The Chair moved down the agenda to New Business.

43 Resolution 14-342 regarding Capital Asset Thresholds

44 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

45 **“I move we approve Resolution 14-342.”**

46 **MOTION PASSES, 5-0**

47 **Chiefs’ Reports**

48 *Chief Lipe:*

- 49 • He attended the King County Fire Chiefs meeting regarding the 900 MHz proposal and is  
50 also negotiating with Praxis for a contract.

51 *A/C Brown:*

- 52 • He attended the Washington Fire Chiefs conference all week.

53 **Old Business**

54 SOP 9002 Digital Imagery – TABLED

55 Medic One Presentation by Jim Fogarty, King County EMS Director

- 56 • Mr. Fogarty said he was there in response to a letter from Battalion Chief of EMS  
57 Mark Brownell and Dr. Sam Warren, VIFR Medical Program Director, with concerns  
58 about low patient contact with VIFR paramedics and concerns about splitting up our  
59 two paramedics when transporting patients off island to the hospital. He suggested a  
60 discussion about moving our medics into their system to maintain their skills.
- 61 • Mr. Fogarty said King County Medic One has the ability to partner or not to partner  
62 with us but he has no conclusions; he only wanted to explore the opportunities for the  
63 medics, patients and our agency.
- 64 • From the patient’s perspective: Having the Medic One system rotate paramedics here  
65 would mean start to finish care with two medics who would then take the patient to  
66 the appropriate facility. Paramedics with the same training, average the same wage  
67 throughout the county; however South King medics see 260 patients per year  
68 compared with only 60 patients per year for VIFR medics.
- 69 • From the medic’s perspective, they would see a dramatic increase in patient care.  
70 The organization of King County Medic One and Kent Regional Fire Authority are  
71 very similar. Their medics get more direct access to Quality Assurance physicians.  
72 Rural county 9-1-1 calls are 75% BLS; 25% are ALS. On Vashon, 40-50%

73 categorized ALS, which ties up assets. By partnering with local medical assets such  
74 as clinics or calling the physician of the patient could result in upping the skills of the  
75 BLS responders (EMTs). A model for that exists in the City of Redmond.

- 76 • First shocks (Defib for chest pain) are delivered by paramedics on Vashon within 8  
77 minutes. In other parts of the county, most first shocks are given by EMTs.  
78 Improving the BLS profile to get to the patient really quick and make the right  
79 decision may be more effective than upgrading the call to ALS. Another option is  
80 obtaining third party contracts with an ambulance company to provide two ALS  
81 transports or upgrading BLS.
- 82 • Jim's proposal is a VIFR transition to a BLS model with some additional funding in  
83 2015 and 2016 to help with that. A tiered approach with back up would be similar to  
84 Enumclaw where the second unit arrives within 20-30 minutes.
- 85 • There are more helicopters available with Guardian One and the King County  
86 Sheriff's helicopter, weather permitting.
- 87 • Another option would use boats to transport patients off the island or having a third  
88 medic on the island the first six months, to help understand the system here.
- 89 • The county is a willing participant and not a hostile takeover. Renton EMTs make  
90 clinical decisions without much intervention with paramedics. He stated he didn't  
91 know whether the time has come or not, but all parties benefit from having an  
92 intelligent conversation.
- 93 • Lt. Krimmert pointed out that if 40% of VIFR calls are EMS that works out to more  
94 than 60 patients per year per responder. Because our medics have fast, nimble  
95 vehicles they can get to patients first rather than the aid car, which is a patient benefit.
- 96 • Mr. Fogarty explained that EMTs could be trained for interactions with physicians to  
97 carry out physician directed treatment plans. Statistics on first shocks could be  
98 looked into with more detail.
- 99 • Because of concerns on the time it takes to get to a hospital with two medics, and if  
100 there is a second call it would not be timely getting medics here. If ALNW can't fly,  
101 we're stuck. Mr. Fogarty pointed out that the first patient's outcome is being  
102 sacrificed by holding one medic back for a potential second call.
- 103 • Ten years ago a study was conducted in Issaquah. It showed that over a period of  
104 time that the first patient outcomes were poorer when medics are split up. With  
105 enough notice a medic could be coming over and but the second medic is 20-30  
106 minutes away. This timetable was questioned due to the frequency of ferries breaking  
107 down and transports being subjected to a two-boat schedule.
- 108 • The standard of care for our countywide system is two medics, occasionally split, but  
109 not as a regular method.
- 110 • Two medics working together is different than having a EMT partner – skills degrade  
111 after a while with fewer ALS calls. A provision for two medic care is a better way  
112 without sacrificing patient outcomes. The medics meet with Dr. Warren every month  
113 to go over every report and receive critiques.
- 114 • Sometimes medics go on BLS calls to observe for teaching back at the station after  
115 call. A question was raised as to whether EMTs confer with medics. The answer was  
116 that anytime responders leave a patient at home, they are to the call medics and write  
117 a report.

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- Medicine in general is impacted by island life. During his eight years here, B/C Brownell has seen 2-3 times that two medics transported due to ALNW not being able to fly. Less severe calls would still benefit from two medics.
  - More education could provide “Super EMTs” becoming a backup system. What is the effective skill set for the EMTs? On other islands, some operate with EMTs only – no medics. In other parts of the state there are higher qualification EMTs, IV Techs, etc.
  - The conversation needs to start between medics and FF/EMTs to explore partnering with King County. We are not near a decision but the Board would like to hear what the paramedics think.
  - County would help with the BLS improvement (training).
  - There are liability issues to consider when the county standard is two medics treating and transporting versus one medic on call. VIFR has two medics for the first 15 minutes. A decision is made; then one transports or if there are multiple calls, they split up. Vashon could greatly benefit from a two medic system.
  - Throughout the county, medics cycle through different stations with varying call volumes but are only allowed two months at low volume stations.
  - We want to improve our system for the community not our organization. We don’t have mutual aid for BLS – five calls close together last Friday left one medic and the chief manning the station. We want to build safeguards because of our uniqueness builds confidence to the public.
  - Commissioner McCullough is an EMT and became one in an isolated area of Colorado. In order to get more experience due to their isolation, every month the EMTs would go in the hospital Emergency Room, Operating Room, Pediatrics, Geriatrics or Obstetrics. They would also do ridealongs in a larger city. The paramedics did an eight-hour shift on a different floor each month.
  - Medic One paramedics rotating through would not have fire suppression duties, although a few may be firefighters.
  - The outcome of these discussions and the plan for EMS on Vashon needs to be worked into the Strategic Plan.
  - The Board would like an operational committee to be put together addressing ALS, EMT and EMS with one or two representatives from South King County and report back to the Board their recommendations.

151 **TABLED**

152 Chief thanked everyone for coming. He appreciated the energy in addressing this issue and  
153 making it better.

154 900 MHz Issues

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- Commissioner Stratton commented that there is a big issue coming put forth by the Emergency Medical Service Advisory Committee (EMSAC) in that 800 MHz is going away as the county transitions to 900 MHz. King County is discussing a levy lid lift and this will push districts through pro-rationing. Those districts would prefer that the county do a bond or levy instead, to pay for it, which would be easier to pass than a levy lid lift. If the county does a levy lid lift, it won’t hurt VIFR, but will other districts in the millions of dollars. A proposed letter was in the commissioner packet and he asked that the other members of the Board join in with a short letter that we support a levy or bond and not a lid lift.

164 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

165 "I move that we do a letter to the effect that VIFR supports the county passing a  
166 bond or special levy and not lift the lid."

167 • The Chair of the Board should sign the letter.

168 MOTION PASSES, 4-1;

169 Commissioner McCullough abstains.

170 **General Comments**

171 • Per Leslie Pohl's suggestion, Chief Lipe has nominated Mike Kirk for Grand Marshal  
172 for the Strawberry Festival parade.

173 **For the Good of the Order**

174 None.

175 **Documents Signed**

176 ACTION ITEM: Susan to place on the agenda for next meeting under New Business, "Strike Team  
177 Mutual Aid."

178 At 8:00 p.m. the Chair adjourned the meeting.


179 *The next Regular Meeting will be on 6/10/14 at 6:30 p.m. at 10020 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, EOC Room*

180 Approved this 10 day of June, 2014.

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184 Camille Staczek, Chair

  
Susan Wolf, Minute Taker