

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

3 Minutes

4 **Date:** 08/12/14

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 Rex Stratton, Commissioner

11 Ron Turner, Commissioner

12 George Brown, Assistant Chief

13 Susan Wolf, Minute Taker

14 **Absent:** Hank Lipe, Fire Chief

15 Candy McCullough, Commissioner (unexcused)

16 **Guests:** Steve Palmer, Union President and Paramedic/Firefighter

17 Myron Hauge, Paramedic/Firefighter

18 **Amendments to Agenda**

19 None.

20 **Approval of 7/29/14 Minutes**

21 Motion by Commissioner Hoffmann:

22 **“I move we approve the minutes of 7/29/14.”**

23 **APPROVED, 3-1; Commissioner Stratton abstains.**

24 **Voucher Approval**

25 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

26 **“I move we approve the referenced vouchers and transfers as detailed in**
27 **Administrative Memorandum 08.12.14-1.”**

28 **MOTION PASSES, 4-0**

29 **Chiefs' Reports**

30 *A/C Brown:*

- 31 • He has been working on the Volunteer Resident guideline, the Volunteer Reimbursement
32 policy and the Resident Position Description. He's also been working on the Medic One
33 conversion project.

- 34 • A new group of five recruits are starting EMT academy.
35 • We had a very busy weekend — Zone 1 callbacks received a very minimal response from our
36 volunteers due to vacations, etc.

37 **Old Business**

38 Medic One Proposal

- 39 • Chief Lipe’s memo, the ALS and BLS proposals both chiefs worked on with Jim
40 Fogarty are in the packet. The chiefs would like to know if the Board has questions.
41 A/C Brown will answer what questions he can and convey others to Jim Fogarty. A
42 Special Meeting can be scheduled next week with Jim Fogarty to answer more
43 questions.
- 44 • *Question:* Who will benefit from the transition of Vashon paramedics back into the
45 county-wide Medic One rotating system? It would benefit the public community and
46 visitors by having two medics providing transport during the first ALS call received.
- 47 • Mr. Palmer answered that paramedics see this as a natural evolution which started on
48 the island with only two paramedics providing 24/7 care, but unlike the rest of the
49 system we’re only able to transport with one medic. Director Fogarty said their study
50 showed patient outcomes were worse with a one medic transport, so they stopped
51 doing it throughout the rest of the system, but allowed it for Vashon due to
52 paramedics’ out-of-service time with ferry transports to hospitals. He sees it as an
53 improvement.
- 54 • Mr. Hauge differs in his personal opinion. When he worked for Seattle it was busy.
55 When he was hired here, he had to learn to work alone, but with his personality he
56 liked working that way and felt it worked well. When there are two ALS calls going
57 on at the same time it was exciting, challenging and he has seen others work well
58 under those conditions. He also likes firefighting on Vashon. He would only get to
59 perform a single assignment on a fire in Seattle but here he has the opportunity to
60 perform multiple tasks and he would much prefer to stay here. He also worries about
61 lapse of care taking two medics off at once.
- 62 • *Question:* How are all the medics feeling about this change? Mr. Palmer replied that
63 generally everyone is in agreement because off island rotating (through stations and
64 partners) is the system everyone is used to before coming to Vashon. Paramedics
65 came here because they wanted to be here, but their skills are not as sharp. Some of it
66 is due to lack of “muscle memory.” For instance, he’s seen two gunshot wounds in
67 10 years on Vashon, but saw that many a week at Shoreline. He was an EMT-P when
68 he started but patient care did not offer the same outcome that the two paramedic
69 responses provide. In Seattle or Shoreline you would resuscitate 6-12 patients a
70 month, which more than he’s seen in 10 years on the island.
- 71 • Vashon pays \$700,000 into the EMS levy while King County subsidizes Vashon’s
72 program with 2.1 million dollars.
- 73 • We enjoy a 63% CPR survival rate in King County.
- 74 • *Question:* Will Vashon would see a service reduction? It was pointed out that the
75 Fire District is responsible for fire suppression and Basic Life Support (BLS). King
76 County Medic One is responsible for Advanced Life Support (ALS) response – it is
77 their program.

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- *Question:* Is it a compromise to have two paramedics in a “box” (aid car) vs. two paramedics in their separate rigs? There are so many obstacles when we’re “at sea” considering ferries, tides, helicopter runs, etc.
 - This transition may lead to a lack of firefighters since many Medic One paramedics are not firefighters. King County medics do respond to fires but for firefighter rehab; suppression is not their duty. Even now if our paramedics are on a fire, one has to rotate out. If an ALS call happens, we have to have the paramedic out (of the fire zone) within 10 minutes. If a fire is going on, Medic One paramedics could go on a BLS call if our people are involved in fire suppression.
 - As soon as the two medics determined they need to transport, they can request a Medical Services Officer (MSO) to come to the island (if one is not already on duty). That MSO would respond, as a single paramedic with EMTs, to a second call just like we do now. We can also call for an MSO to come over if we have a structure fire.
 - It would give us more depth of staffing because with a paramedic out on an injury, like we currently have, the overtime is concerning because our medics are working 5-6 shifts/days to cover. Because of those needs, we have to deny vacations, etc.
 - At this time we do not have exact dollars or dates for the paramedic transition; the proposal is general. But this proposed transition would address the concerns that B/C Mark Brownell and Dr. Sam Warren voiced in their letter. It was suggested either a 60-day, 90-day or one year test period be implemented. Mr. Palmer said A/C Brown is right about the patient care but felt the MSO model will not work for very long. A three paramedic model, however, is supported by the people in the system. There is not that big a gap between the proposal and what they believe is best. Fire chief is relatively excited about it.
 - If 2.1 million dollars is taken out of our budget, our levy may not be enough to run our administrative services.
 - Mr. Palmer stated he is preparing the labor group here in order take over the labor union.
 - *Question:* What is the rank of an MSO? Throughout the Medic One system the title of MSO covers a range of ranks: Lieutenant, Captain and in South King County, a Battalion Chief. There are field supervisors and training supervisors on day shifts so there are various jobs throughout the system, but they are all practicing paramedics (or have been) first.
 - Three months ago, VIFR called a private ambulance to come over and transport a BLS patient when we had a number of calls and transports going on.
 - There was Board consensus to hold a Special Meeting on August 19. Director Jim Fogarty will be there and the Board said they would like to hear from other paramedics what their thoughts and feelings are about the issue. A/C Brown stated the schedule target would be to finalize the transition plan by the end of the month for the transition to take place the first of the year (2015). This will be an open, public meeting.

119 ACTION ITEM: District Secretary Wolf to send out a Special Meeting Agenda.

120

121 **New Business**

122 SOG 2044 Volunteer Resident Program with Appendix A

- 123 • This guideline is the culmination of the presentation and work of Jojo Weller and
124 Ross Copland to revise the resident program to include non-live-in residents.

125 Position Description – Volunteer Resident

- 126 • This will go out to the membership for comment and scheduled to be approved at the
127 meeting on August 26th.

128 SOP 1007 Volunteer/District Reimbursement

- 129 • This will go out to the membership for comment and scheduled to be approved at the
130 meeting on August 26th.

131 **General Comments**

- 132 • Board acknowledges the compliment received by a citizen who received care and the
133 responders deserve thanks for a job well done.

134 **For the Good of the Order**

- 135 • Nicole Castilliano will be taking minutes at next meeting.

136 **Documents Signed**

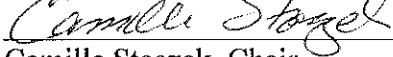
137 The Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

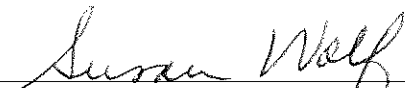
138 *The next Regular Meeting will be on 8/26/14 at 6:30 p.m. at 10020 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, EOC Room*

139 Approved this 26 day of Aug, 2014.

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142 
143 Camille Staczek, Chair


Susan Wolf, Minute Taker