

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

Minutes

Date: 12/9/14

Time: 6:30 p.m.

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

REGULAR MEETING

1 **Present:** Camille Staczek, Chair
2 Rex Stratton, Commissioner
3 David Hoffmann, Vice-Chair
4 Candy McCullough, Commissioner
5 Ron Turner, Commissioner
6 Hank Lipe, Fire Chief
7 George Brown, Assistant Chief
8 Jojo Weller, Minute Taker

9 **Amendments to Agenda**

10 Chief Lipe tables Item 8a (SOG 4008) until the next meeting.

11 **Approval of 11/24/14 Minutes**

12 Motion by Commissioner McCullough:

13 **“I move we approve the minutes of 11/24/14.”**

14 **MOTION FAILS, 1 yes; 4 abstentions**

15 **Approval of 11/25/14 Minutes**

16 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

17 **“I move we approve the minutes of 11/25/14.”**

18 **APPROVED, 5-0**

19 **Voucher Approval**

20 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

21 **“I move we approve the referenced vouchers and transfers as detailed in**
22 **Administrative Memorandum 12.9.14-1.”**

23 **APPROVED, 5-0**

24

25 **Chiefs' Reports**

26 *Chief Lipe:*

- 27 • Attended the Zone 3 Fire Chief's meeting at ValleyCom. The points of discussion included
28 an "active shooter" policy to standardize responses for the entire county. The majority of
29 the discussion was focused around King County administration of overhead with the Medic
30 One levy, the CMT program and how it's going to impact labor and funding.

31 *A/C Brown:*

- 32 • Christmas party was a great time.
33 • A past Captain and longtime volunteer firefighter, Milt (Brett's dad), is ill please think of
34 him.
35 • Met with Bob Johnson, a retired firefighter, who is voluntarily developing maps for a GIS
36 project. He's willing to help and he is a great resource.
37 • We found the MDC's router that we chose has some hidden costs. Firefighter Tonkin
38 discovered this, so we are researching this before we buy them. We are looking at partnering
39 with Burien on software aspects which will save us a large amount of money versus
40 partnering with ValleyCom.
41 • We received the final occupancy permit for the Association building (Community Service
42 Center). That project is now complete.

43 **New Business**

44 SOG 4008 Automotive Apparatus Operations

45 **TABLED**

46 Discussion of Adoption of King Co. Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan

- 47 • The King County mitigation plan is finished and Chief Lipe asked that the
48 commissioners review it. We are a part of this regional plan and able to be included
49 as a fire plan.
50 • We would be preauthorized in the event of a federal qualifying disaster if we lost a
51 fire station, for instance, to receive funds.
52 • Rick Wallace is scheduled to come to the next meeting to speak more about it and
53 answer any questions commissioners may have. The values mirror what we have in
54 our liability policy and I came up with the replacement value of the apparatus and the
55 assessor's office has the replacement value of the buildings. It's the first time we've
56 been identified in the plan.

57 **TABLED**

58 **Old Business**

59 2015 Budget

- 60 • A Commissioner concern is the merit-based incentive for the Administrative
61 Assistants and adding steps within a "bare bones" budget.
62 • Chief Lipe feels it is prudent to add the additional step because one of our non-union
63 employees is at the top step and because we are asking the staff to pick up additional
64 work because of the reduction of one employee. The other item is another week of

- 65 executive leave for Assistant Chief Brown, which is the same benefit that the board
66 granted Chief Lipe a year ago.
- 67 • Commissioners questioned that if half of the crew goes away, will half the job will go
68 away, too? Will there be less work if the accounting is outsourced?
 - 69 • Another concern is having individual Commissioners discussing compensation
70 directly with staff, as it undermines the chief. The staff works for the chief; the Board
71 authorizes the budget and authorizes the chief to administer the budget. If the Board
72 attempts to manage the budget, it is micromanaging. The Board should not tell Chief
73 how to use the budget or how the chief wants to use the pay for his staff.
 - 74 • The chiefs are looking at how to operate with one less employee and alternatives.
75 When the chief presents the budget to the commissioners, those are his
76 recommendations for policy decisions. Regarding with contractual issues, he likes to
77 be transparent including contractual issues such as his and Assistant Chief's contracts.
 - 78 • The staff is being asked to take on half of another person's job and the District is
79 getting "leaner and meaner." If you ask an employee to take on additional duties and
80 they are already at the top of their pay scale, it doesn't seem fair not to offer them
81 some additional compensation.
 - 82 • Commissioners would like the budget a month earlier, perhaps early October, for
83 further discussion so that it's not last minute. This will allow the Board to determine
84 where they have issues with the budget so the Chief can address it.
 - 85 • Executive leave, which also has a cost, must be considered in case either of the chiefs
86 cash it out.
 - 87 • The Board needs to keep in mind that the District does not receive the preliminary tax
88 worksheet until late October so the revenues are not known. The chief is willing to
89 provide a budget on whatever date the Board, as a collective, decides.
 - 90 • Typically the Chief's pay has been determined by a study by an outside firm of
91 comparable districts and then the Board decides.
 - 92 • Paramedics pay may have less to do with pay scale and budget than the fact we are a
93 small district so if a medic is out; there is a large amount of overtime. It is negotiated
94 between the union and the chief, then the Board approves the budget.

95 Motion by Commissioner Turner:

96 "I call the question."

MOTION PASSES; 4 yes, 1 no.

97
98 Medic One Proposal

99 No changes.

100 **General Comments**

101 Amended Ordinance 2152

- 102 • The final levy came in two days before the tax resolution was due at \$3,600 more so
103 the Ordinance 2152 had to be updated, signed and resent – it was time sensitive.

104 Pro-rationing Resolution

- 105 • After some discussion as to whether a Resolution was necessary to protect \$0.25 of
106 \$0.50 of our levy (pro-rationing) in case King County does a levy lid lift, since there
107 is no hospital district and we have not had a levy lid lift, Chief Lipe asked the Board

108 to table it until he could consult with the Assessor's office. It may be too late. If a
109 Special Meeting needs to be scheduled, the Board could meet this Saturday at 8:30
110 a.m.
111 • If we end up in the near future exploring other revenue sources, because tax laws are
112 so convoluted, there is a concern that the citizens will think we're raising taxes when
113 we're not, just protecting what the county is already collecting on our behalf. Benefit
114 charges are earmarked for that taxing district.

115 **For the Good of the Order**

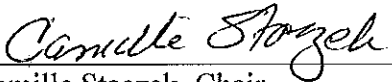
116 • Commissioner Stratton goes on the record stating that the Christmas party that Brigitte and
117 Mike threw was "over the top." There was a magician, music, lots of kids – it was truly a
118 family event. It was fun and elegant. She needs a Board thank you – consensus.

119 **Documents Signed**

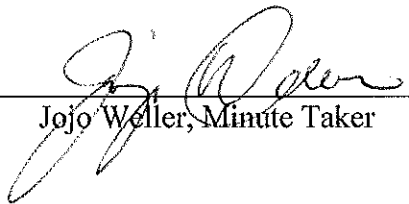
120 Having no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

121 *The next Regular Meeting will be on 12/30/14 at 6:30 p.m. at 10020 SW Bank Rd, Vashon, EOC Room*

Approved this 30 day of Dec., 2014.



Camille Staczek, Chair



Jojo Weller, Minute Taker