**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**April 1, 2010**

**Call to Order**

President Reggie Romines called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. at the Pierce County Library Administrative Building located at 3005 112th Street East, Tacoma, WA. The following were present:

Bud Lucas, Eatonville FD Dexter Habeck, Eatonville FD

Jeff Jensen, Tacoma FD Ken Sharp, Lakewood FD

Paul Tinsley, Lakewood FD Jim Sharp, Lakewood FD

Mitch Sagers, UPFD Lloyd Christianson, UPFD

Stephen Murphy, UPFD Dan Rankin, University Place FD

John Burgess, Gig Harbor FD Mike Miller, Gig Harbor FD

Bill Jarmon, Gig Harbor FD Scott Casebolt, Gig Harbor FD

Tom Sutich, Gig Harbor FD Doug Willis, CPFR

Judy Murphy, CPFR Baron Banks, CPFR

Gary McVay, PCFD #13 Cliff McCollum, PCFD #13

Guy Allen, Key Peninsula FD Chuck West, Key Peninsula FD

Bob Vellias,SPFR Reggie Romines, GFR

Bob Skaggs, GFR Jerry Thorson, EPFR

Russ McCallion, EPFR Rick Kuss, EPFR

Garry Olson, PCFD #23 Micheal Smith, PCFD #26

Ken Parrish, PCDEM Jody Woodcock, PCDEM

Wayne Wienholz, PCFPB Dic Gribbon, PSCAA

Denise Menge, Recorder

**Flag Salute**

Doug Willis led the flag salute.

Doug Willis welcomed everyone to Central Pierce Fire & Rescue. He announced that Keith Wright has been appointed to the Deputy Chief position once Jack Andren retires. Jack Andren’s retirement party is May 8th. A flyer invitation has been sent out via e-mail.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the March 11, 2010 minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Kathy Hale was not able to attend the meeting, however, she sent along the Treasurer’s Report. Recorder Denise Menge read the report. The account balance is $9,297.12 with $4,000.00 for EMS for a grand total of $13,297.12.

**Correspondence**

President Romines reported he received a letter from the Pierce County Executive applauding the work being done for a single dispatch center.

President Romines reported he received an e-mail request from Chief Robert Drozynski requesting a Joint Police and Fire Chiefs meeting at their June 17th meeting. Tom Minor is presenting information on the IMT Type III teams. Our regular meeting for June is scheduled for the 3rd at Brown’s/Dash Point, and our August 5th meeting is going to be held at the EOC. Discussion followed. It was the consensus not to have a second meeting in June. It was suggested that the June meeting speaker be moved to a different month and ask Tom Minor to attend and present the IMT information.

**Guest Speaker**

**Al Church – Legislative Update:** Al Church reminded everyone of the State Chiefs Conference being held May 25 – 28th. There will be some great programs presented as well as some key legislators and guest speakers. The legislative session this year was the most decisive short session as they are trying to get the budget adopted. He asked how many house representatives there are? Answer = 98. How many are up for election this fall? Answer = all 98. How many house senators are there? Answer = 49. How many are up for election? Answer = 25. It is not easy to get anything through the legislature right now if it has anything with money attached with it. He went through some of the bills.

2009 long session, CBRNE did not gain any traction. They knew that it wouldn’t because of the cost associated with it, but they wanted to keep it in front of the legislators. There is also a Federal level involved with this bill.

The top 10 list is developed each year. He reminded the Chiefs to send in their top 5 legislative goals that they would like to see worked on next year. They will be voting on these at the conference to come up with the top 10 list for next year. Last years’ #1 issue was Impact fees for new developments and new construction. We got this one. It goes into effect in July. Fire Districts and Fire Authorities have to have a capital facility plan in place and the City or County they are in much adopt it. The City or County will collect the impact fees for the District or Authority.

A brief overview of some bills that passed: Shared leave time can now count towards DRS service calculations. Municipalities annexing into a Fire District has a new threshold of 300,000 population. State Fire Marshal position now has an option of PERS or LEOFF 2. Some bills that were killed: sprinkler barriers, E911 bills – there were 4 of them. They were also working to kill a number of bills – there were several regarding no mans land and wildland bills. A number of bills trying to mandate response by jurisdictions.

The members thanked Al Church for all of his work.

**Ken Parrish – PCWARN & Reverse 9-1-1 System Update:** Ken gave an update on the transition to the new mass notification system. They have been testing it multiple times a day. They are in the 90 day proof of process phase with the contractor. He brought with him an Everbridge expert, Steve Pelgram. They have been overwhelmed and very pleased with the working relationship and the customer service has been amazing. The commonly referred to as the Reverse 9-1-1 system isn’t really accurate. FCC guidelines regarding the 911 database states it must be a true emergency, critical event or life safety issues in order to use the database. The new system is not as cumbersome and it can launch a message in minutes. There are some huge benefits with the new system as they also have access to the white page numbers. They don’t have the 911 database yet as they are still in negotiations with Qwest. There are some concerns with regards to the public disclosure act and freedom of information act requests. The attorneys are talking to work out and make sure that the 911 database numbers are protected. Also, there will be an opt-in web page where citizens can go to and opt-in with their wireless numbers. The new system has the ability to capture wireless, fax, e-mail, etc. and can have up to ten (10) different devices per person that notifications can be sent to. The Everbridge system recognizes home faxes and prints out a text of the message being sent as well as any printout attachments, etc.

The PCWARN system was separate and messages for only official purposes to notify officials, command level staff, etc. The old system was a 1 way paging type system. The new system is interactive, for example, you can have a message that asks them to press 1 if they can respond within 10 minutes, press 2 if they can respond in 20 minutes, press 3 if they cannot respond, etc. It also offers polling and quota capabilities as well. Real time reports are available. It can also do conference calling with up to 96 participants. You can also have simultaneous conference calls. Ken stated they will be migrating the old groups into the new system. They will be asking agencies if they want the ability to launch the system. If so, they need to designate someone from their agency to be trained, etc.

July 9th will be a soft roll out of the new system. Media will be notified and they will be advertising the opt in option. A quick demo was done with the PCWARN system.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Program/Speaker Committee**

County Executive Pat McCarthy will be the guest speaker at the May Meeting in Tacoma.

**Audit Committee**

Nothing to report.

**Banquet/Awards Committee**

Nothing to report.

**Nominations Committee- DORMANT**

**UASI Committee**

Nothing to report.

**Regional Communications Committee**

Jim Sharp reported they are meeting with the County Executive on plans for Tacoma Fire Dispatch and Fire Comm to consolidate. They have another meeting scheduled the week of the 19th to meet with the Sheriff’s, Police, Tacoma, Executives, etc. PSAPs radio communications will be discussed. This has grown and is moving in a good direction.

Pierce County has gone out to bid for a consultant study for narrowbanding. A consultant will be coming through and coming up with a migration plan to be completed by 2013.

 **DIVISION REPORTS:**

**EMS**

Judy Murphy reported on the letter from AMR she brought up at last months meeting regarding FEMA having chosen AMR to manage transport services during a disaster. AMR was awarded this contract several years ago. IAFC, State Chiefs and the EMS Section all recommend not being involved with this.

WAC changes were sent out via e-mail. There are some new terms. There will be a hearing for input on May 11th at 10:00 in Olympia.

June 4th or 5th will be a Medical-Legal Workshop. It is a full day class being offered twice. Space is limited. Fliers are available.

**MetroTraining**

No representative present.

**Training – TEW Training/Exercise**

No representative present.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:**

**American Red Cross**

No representative present.

**Department of Emergency Management**

Ken Parrish wanted to introduce their new Deputy Director, Jody Woodcock, but she had to leave.

**EMS**

No representative present.

**Fire Marshal**

Wayne Wienholz distributed a monthly report. There have been a considerable number of arson fires. They are working on five (5) right now. The county is going through the process of code simplification changes. Gary Franz is working on this. Wayne shared that he had given a presentation to the County Council on the status of Fire Districts with annexations, consolidations, mergers, etc. and how much has changed since he came here 26 years ago. In 1984 there were 26 Fire Districts and 13 city and town departments. Now there are 16 Fire Districts and 7 city and town departments, not including McChord, McNeil Island or the Army base.

**State Chiefs/Western Chiefs**

Jeff Jensen reported the Chief of the Year nominations are out. Please send them to him. Also, the No Secrets Symposium is coming up.

**PS Clean Air Agency**

Dic Gribbon stated he had nothing to report.

**PC Fire Commissioners**

Bill Jarmon informed everyone that their next meeting is on April 22nd at 7:00 pm at Fire District 5 Headquarters. Guest speaker is yet to be announced.

Commissioners Association President Rick Kuss reported at the last EPFR Board meeting they passed a resolution for a seven (7) member Commissioner Board. He read a history of East Pierce Fire & Rescue from 1989 to current. He is here to ask for a letter of support from the Chief’s Association to support legislation for an increase to a seven (7) member Board in 2011. This would be done by a vote of the people. The citizens of the District or Department would make the decision. They had tried to pass this two (2) years ago. Discussion followed. President of the State Fire Commissioners, Bob Skaggs, recommends for this Association to support this. Jerry Thorson made a motion to support legislation for an increase to a seven (7) member Board. Chuck West seconded the motion. Bob Vellias stated in his own agency they have gone from a 3 to 5 to an 8 member Board and it has benefited their District. Clarification was requested on the number for population that is being used. President Kuss stated he believes it is right around 50,000, but that number can be tweaked if needed. There being no further discussion the MOTION CARRIED.

Bob Skaggs reported sprinklers are being amended to the new code. He is encouraging everyone to adopt so they can enforce the sprinkler system.

**Dept. of Natural Resources**

No representative present. Just a reminder that Wildland Refresher paperwork needs to be turned in by May 15th in order to get them processed and back in time before wildland season starts.

**Unfinished Business**

**Pierce County Revised Mutual Aid Agreement:** Doug Willis stated this agreement has been sent out to everyone. Any questions, let him know. Please get it to your Boards to sign. Attorney Joe Quinn will be the keeper of the documents, so please send him a signed copy.

**New Business**

**Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy Golf Tournament Hole Sponsor:** Doug Willis asked if the Association would once again like to sponsor a hole for this golf tournament. He would also like to ask to sponsor a hole for the BRAVE Foundation Golf Tournament. Discussion followed. Doug Willis made a motion to sponsor a hole at $150.00 each for the Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy and the BRAVE Foundation golf tournaments. Mitch Sagers seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

**Good of the Order**

Scott Casebolt announced at their last Monday nights’ meeting, John Burgess was appointed as their next Fire Chief when Bob Black retires.

Commissioner Skaggs stated that he has made a commitment for the State Commissioners to work more closely with the State Chiefs. There are a lot of dynamics.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 13:05 p.m.

*PLEASE NOTE: The May 6, 2010 Meeting beginning at 11:30 will be at Tacoma Fire Department Training Center located at 2124 Marshall Avenue*

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