**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**May 6, 2010**

**Call to Order**

President Reggie Romines called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 11:45 a.m. at the Tacoma Training Center located at 2124 Marshall Avenue, Tacoma, WA. The following were present:

Dexter Habeck, Eatonville FD Jeff Jensen, Tacoma FD

Jon Lendosky, Tacoma FD Jim Sharp, Lakewood FD

Michael Dobbs, Lakewood FD Mitch Sagers, UPFD

Dave Dupille, UPFD Lloyd Christianson, UPFD

Dan Rankin, University Place FD Bob Black, Gig Harbor FD

Eric Watson, Gig Harbor FD John Burgess, Gig Harbor FD

Mike Miller, Gig Harbor FD Bill Jarmon, Gig Harbor FD

Tom Sutich, Gig Harbor FD Jack Andren, CPFR

Doug Willis, CPFR Ruth Obadal, CPFR

Matt Holm, CPFR Judy Murphy, CPFR

Gary McVay, PCFD #13 Andy McAfee, Riverside FD

Tom Lique, PCFD #16 Guy Allen, PCFD #16

Chuck West, PCFD #16 Chris Grant, PCFD #17

Paul Webb, PCFD #18 Reggie Romines, GFR

Gary Franz, GFR Tony Judd, GFR

Todd Jensen, GFR Steve Richards, GFR

Bob Skaggs, GFR Jerry Thorson, EPFR

John McDonald, EPFR Garry Olson, PCFD #23

Michael Smith, PCFD #26 Wayne Wienholz, PCFPB

Dic Gribbon, PSCAA Norma Pancake, PCEMS

Chuck Frame, DNR Denise Menge, Recorder

**Flag Salute**

Jeff Jensen welcomed everyone to the Tacoma Fire Department Training Center. They are moving forward with working with Central Pierce Fire & Rescue with Dispatch. They are around 30 positions short with the budget and they have applied for a SAFER grant.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the April 1, 2010 minutes. MOTION CARRIED.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer not present, no report presented.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**Guest Speaker**

John McDonald reported that the guest speaker for the June meeting at Brown’s Point / Dash Point will be Mark Rapozzo from the State Auditor’s Office. July there is no meeting. August will be Tom Miner to talk about the Type III Incident Management Teams, and September will be Lt. Casey Hill from Graham to talk about his experience with the Haiti Earthquake Response. Please contact John if you have any ideas or suggestions for future guest speakers or topics.

John introduced today’s guest speaker, Pierce County Executive Pat McCarthy.

Pat stated that she won’t be able to stay long as she will be attending a commemoration ceremony for Officer Kent Mundell at City Hall this afternoon. We have experienced a historical recession and it has been very challenging for everyone. It has afforded us the opportunity to look at how we do business and to ask if we are staying true to what we should be doing. There are some initiatives this year or campaigns, and she has asked that all departments engage in the customer service campaign. To ask who we serve and/or do business with how we are doing. All twenty-four (24) departments are participating in this campaign. This survey or questionnaire can also be done on-line.

Community and Human Services are being consolidated. A team was pulled together to look at and it made sense for efficiencies and economics. A team is also looking at Planning and Land Use, and Public Works and Utilities.

An environmental sustainability program is being started so the County can model what they are asking people to do. A sustainability plan was just rolled out and they are moving forward to reduce the carbon footprint of county government. There is a large spectrum of people from those that recycle to those that don’t.

The amnesty program is a good thing and it would be good if this group could encourage the Council on this program. It is a creative way for Planning and Land Use to get those who have built an addition, etc. without a permit to come into compliance, etc. She would like to solicit support from this association for this program.

There is a five million dollar budget cut this year. 75% of the discretionary budget goes to Public Safety, Sheriff’s, Criminal Justice, etc. We are bleeding, but not hemorrhaging. She is hopeful that the economy is going to pick up. They will not be opening any contracts to adjust COLAs, etc. They also gave department heads tools to use, such as furlows.

PC Alert, which is managed by Emergency Management, is a system that will allow people to opt in and can use their cell phones, not just land lines, etc.

They are excited about the US Open 2015 being held at Chambers Bay Golf Course in University Place. The USGA will be renting the golf course for the event and they handle everything. The US Amateur will be held at Chambers Bay Golf course this year, August 23-29 as well as at the Home course in Steilacoom. This will be a big undertaking.

Open to questions. Jim Sharp stated with regards to Lakewood and Dispatch issues, he would like to compliment and applaud her office on working towards positive efforts on this issue. Pat McCarthy stated they are on a really good path of coming together and working towards a common goal. There is a paradigm shift of how we offer services and they are willing to open communications and working together. Andy McAfee stated that he would like to see continued work on the issues with LESA. Pat stated she is Chair of the LESA Board right now. The world has changed and that needs to change as well. We need to continue to look at what is in the best interest of both and at the end of the day, do what is best for all. We have to work collaboratively and cooperatively.

Reggie Romines thanked her for the reinstatement of a position that was going to be lost in PALS, a cartographer. Addressing is very important to the Fire Service and losing that position would have had negative impacts. Pat stated the credit would go to Chuck Kleeberg, not herself.

A budget fact document was distributed (see attached copy). The Association thanked PC Executive Pat McCarthy for her time and presentation.

Chief Stephens congratulated Jack Andren and wished him good luck in his retirement. Judy Murphy reported that Jack’s retirement celebration will be held at the Pavilion at the Fairgrounds on Saturday beginning at 5:00 p.m. You can park in the gold lot and enter through the gold gate. Also, there is another event being held at the fairgrounds that same evening, a church auction dinner.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Program/Speaker Committee**

See Guest Speaker.

**Audit Committee**

Andy McAfee reported the books look great. A letter was submitted with their report of the audit being completed.

**Banquet/Awards Committee**

Nothing to report.

**Nominations Committee- DORMANT**

**UASI Committee**

Jeff Jensen reported the 2011 grant cycle meeting will be held on the 25th.

**Regional Communications Committee**

Jim Sharp reported they will be meeting with the Executive’s office again. The LESA issue has not fallen off of the radar.

**Code Committee**

Gary Franz reported on the sprinklers issue. There is a WA Sprinkler Coalition meeting Tuesday night. Jerry Thorson stated the city of Kirkland is looking at a 1 and 2 family residential sprinkler ordinance. It was suggested that this association write a letter to the Kirkland City Council to refute some of the information from the Master Builders. Discussion followed. Does King County have a Chiefs Association? And, if so, what kind of action are they taking? More discussion followed. Jerry Thorson stated the letter would be more of a rebuttal to use locally. He would ask that this body endorse sprinklers. Reggie clarified that we are supporting the sprinkler coalition. Jim Sharp made a motion that Gary Franz draft a position paper in support of residential sprinklers and to make the document available to anyone interested to promote the concept. Doug Willis seconded the motion. Bob Skaggs stated he is in support of this as well and can help with writing a letter. MOTION CARRIED.

Andy McAfee made a motion for the PCFCA to recommend to the County Council for the next cycle of code changes to adopt the amendments from the 2009 IRC Standard. Jerry Thorson seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Gary Franz stated he has been working on behalf of Graham Fire & Rescue, there is a meeting coming up on the 20th with the purpose to begin impact mitigation for Fire Districts under the new change in law. He is looking in to what the process will look like and developing a template for all Fire Districts to utilize. Jeff Jensen stated the State Chiefs are also working on this. The committee will be rolling out at the conference.

**DIVISION REPORTS:**

**EMS**

Judy Murphy reported a Medical/Legal workshop is being held at Graham Fire & Rescue on June 4th and 5th. It’s a one day workshop being held twice.

The new protocols have a go live date of June 1st.

The Divert Committee met and on average in 2007 and 2008 the hospitals were on divert 20% of the time. In first quarter 2010 it was 1 ½ to 2%. What a tremendous change and phenomenal job the hospitals are doing with regards to this.

February 2011 is Good Sam’s new ER opening. 15th Street is closed and you can get to the hospital by going up 19th Street.

**MetroTraining**

No representative present.

**Training – TEW Training/Exercise**

Gary McVay reported the Exercise and Training has been busy. Next week is the PER 211 class at Emergency Management. The class is funded and will cover backfill and overtime. There is a regional Haz Mat drill scheduled for May 27th for PCHIT. June 10th is the water rescue conference. You can contact either himself or Tom Mason if you any training / exercise requests. Jack Andren stated we are not utilizing the monies available to us. He was asked to re-iterate to this group to ask for this money, we are not getting our fair share. We have this ability to get some very valuable training. It was asked what kind of training is available? Judy Murphy stated last year CPFR had an MCI drill last summer, and an active shooter training at the South Hill Mall. We were able to get backfill and overtime covered, and DEM helped with both trainings. John Burgess stated its also been used for DEM Infoportal training.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:**

**American Red Cross**

No representative present.

**Department of Emergency Management**

No representative present.

**EMS**

Norma Pancake reported that Rosa Franklin retired. SB1156 passed and as of June 10, 2010 anyone can purchase and give NARCAN. There is more to come on this issue. National Registry and EMT, they are working on helping to get a process in place to help people register and take this.

**Fire Marshal**

Wayne Wienholz thanked Reggie Romines and Graham Fire & Rescue for the response and care. They did a great job.

He has tickets for Friday’s (tomorrow) prayer breakfast being held at the Tacoma Dome. If interested in attending, let him know.

Tonight at 6:00 p.m. at the Church of All Nations will be a Fallen Officers Memorial.

With regards to the Amnesty Program, they are finding a lot of different things. It is a good program. There are 1,686 parcels outside Fire Districts in the County and as they are finding them, they are looking at how to resolve issues. Discussion followed. Jack Andren stated CPFRs approach is 1/3 of our funding is based on square footage assessed valuation, etc. so we would be in support of the County identifying these buildings and/or additions that are currently not be accounted for. Reggie Romines commented that we should support the Counties efforts for safety issues.

**State Chiefs/Western Chiefs**

Jeff Jensen reported the conference is May 24 – 28 in Spokane. We will be voting on by-law changes as well as legislative issues for the Legislative Committee to work on.

**PS Clean Air Agency**

Dic Gribbon reported the position for Executive Director is still open. They are hoping to have the position filled in July.

**PC Fire Commissioners**

Next meeting is on May 27th at 7:00 pm at Browns/Dash Point. Dr. Raha will be their guest speaker.

**Dept. of Natural Resources**

Chuck Frame reported they survived the legislative session. The aviation program stayed in tact state-wide. DOC did not close, however, mission creek is closed. There are 10-20 hand crews available. Reminder that it is red card renewal time.

**Unfinished Business**

Nothing at this time.

**New Business**

John McDonald reported that about a month and a half ago or so there was some training regarding active shooter protocols, etc. This was discussed at the last E-Board meeting. There was discussion of extraction teams, and concern of the training being piece-mealed together. A committee from Police and Fire has been formed to look at these issues. Deputy Bryan Jeter is the Chair, himself, Baron Banks, and Tim Pierce are members. They will be looking at the protocols and how to implement them county-wide.

**Good of the Order**

Reggie Romines stated on behalf of this organization, Graham Fire & Rescue, and himself personally, would like to thank Jack Andren for all of his years of service. Thank you for the career you have given. Jack Andren thanked Reggie and the rest of the Association. He encouraged everyone to savor the time they have in their position as it goes by so quickly.

Chris Grant announced they will be testing for a lateral Firefighter/Paramedic.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 13:40 p.m.

*The June 3, 2010 Meeting beginning at 11:30 will be held at Brown’s Point / Dash Point located at 5125 Tok-A-Lou Ave. NE.*