**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Meeting Minutes May 5, 2011**

**Call to Order**

President John McDonald called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. at Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One located at 10222 Bujacich Rd. NW, Gig Harbor, WA. The following were present:

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

Steve Nixon, Gig Harbor FD Mike Miller, Gig Harbor FD

Scott Casebolt, Gig Harbor FD Doug Willis, CPFR

Judy Murphy, CPFR Jeff Jensen, Tacoma FD

Jim Sharp, WPFR Gary McVay, PCFD #13

Bob Vellias,SPFR Chris Grant, SPFR

Reggie Romines, GFR Kathy Hale, GFR

Todd Jensen, GFR Steve Richards, GFR

Jerry Thorson, EPFR John McDonald, EPFR

Steve Bailey, PCDEM Ken Parrish, PCDEM

Mike Patti, PCFPB Dic Gribbon, PSCAA

Norma Pancake, PCEMS Dave Crossen, KCFCA

Denise Menge, Recorder

**Flag Salute**

John Burgess led the flag salute. There is a lot of change going on right now with Bob Black retiring. Things are going good and they are trying to refocus to change plans to secure funding like everyone else. Gig Harbor is re-entering the area of fire inspections starting August first.

**Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the April 7, 2011 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

**Treasurer’s Report**

Kathy Hale reported there is $7,609.92 in the account with EMS having a balance of $8,937.83 for a grand total of $16,547.75. It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

**Correspondence**

President McDonald reported he discussed with the Executive Board about having a liaison with the King County Fire Chiefs Association. Dave Crossen is the KCFCA liaison who will be attending our meetings. This is a great opportunity to keep track of what is going on with issues that affect both associations. If anyone is interested in being a liaison to attend the KCFCA meetings, please let him know.

**Guest Speaker**

President McDonald introduced Robert Ferrell with the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau. Mr. Ferrell thanked the association members for the opportunity to be here today. He shared information on changes and updates they are working on. They were formed in 1911 and this is their 100th year in operation. There will be an open house in Seattle next week. They are independent, not-for profit corporation mandated by law, a public service institution, managed and domiciled in WA, licensed and regulated by OIC (Office of Insurance Commission). Their primary funding is from insurance companies (subscribers).

What they evaluate: 1. Alarm receiving and dispatch – NFPA 1221 – infrastructure, equipment, staffing, FD notifications. Equals 9% of overall evaluation.; 2. Fire Department – apparatus and equipment, geographic distribution, staffing. Equals 39% of overall evaluation.; 3. Water Supplies – demand vs. supply, fire hydrants, alternate water supplies, testing and maintenance. Equals 39% of overall evaluation.; 4. Fire Prevention Activities – inspections of new and existing buildings, code enforcement, pre-fire planning, public education. Equals 13% of overall evaluation.

PPC (Public Protection Classification) – The Results. This is a deficiency point system meaning the more points equals the higher the classification. 1 – 10 with lower being better. The PPC is the starting point for determining the PC (Protection Class) rating of an individual building or property. For example, a city or community can be a 5, however, buildings within that city or community could be classed at a 6 or 7. The best any building in that city or community could ever be would be a 5. [www.wsrb.com](http://www.wsrb.com) is a site that has PC (protection class) for dwellings and class rated commercial properties available. This site will show you what the insurance industry sees.

Recent changes – Tender credit is less as of 1/1/10, PC 9A is new as of 1/1/10.

Homes over 5 miles from a fire station, not a 5 mile radius. They look at the roads to determine if a home is within 5 miles from a fire station. Also, they are trying to track all hydrants. They are working on updating the PPC evaluation schedule.

Contact information: 205-217-WSRB (9772), 206-217-WFAX (9329) Fax, email: [robert.ferrell@wsrb.com](mailto:robert.ferrell@wsrb.com), website: [www.wsrb.com](http://www.wsrb.com)

**Unfinished Business**

Nothing at this time.

**New Business**

President McDonald stated that Jeff Jensen had mentioned the State Chiefs position opening. Keith Wright, DC of Operations with CPFR and Vice President of this Association would like to be considered for this position. He has submitted for it. Currently this is the only position that is running against someone. He has asked the Executive Board for support. Doug Willis moved and Jeff Jensen seconded the motion to support Keith Wright in running for the State Chiefs Board position. Doug Willis stated that Keith has his and the Board of Commissioners support. He has received endorsement from the County Commissioners Association. MOTION CARRIED.

President McDonald reported that Chief Vellias from South Pierce Fire had sent out an email regarding the surface water service charges dramatic increase. He feels there might be some provision in the Pierce County code for exemptions and that we look into requesting that. Bob Vellias stated theirs increased from $600.00 to $2300.00 in one (1) year. There are twelve (12) items listed for exemptions with the 7th being non-profits that provide a service to the community. Doug Willis asked about how that might impact those that have Fire Protection Contracts? Discussion followed. It was decided to wait a month so that everyone can look at what these charges are in their jurisdictions, etc.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Program/Speaker Committee**

Next month will the PC Economist.

**Audit Committee - DORMANT**

**Banquet/Awards Committee**

Nothing at this time.

**Nominations Committee- DORMANT**

**UASI Committee**

Jeff Jensen reported the first working group met last week. They are still waiting on guidance.

**Regional Communications Committee**

Jim Sharp reported on the tax initiative “South Sound 911” which is the 1/10 of 1% for County-wide communications. This would be a dedicated funding stream along with the $0.20 per 911 call that started 1/1/11. They plan to have this on the ballot in November, however, it has to go to the County Council first. They are close to having an Interlocal Agreement in place. Things are moving along.

Steve Bailey reported on radios for Pierce County government radios which means jurisdiction of, not geographical, such as public works, juvenile court, law enforcement, etc. They are being faced with narrow-banding requirements with VHF as well. It will cost 6 to 7 million dollars to maintain the existing radios with the frequencies being cut in half, etc. and then looking at doing again in another three years. Motorola has worked a proposed design on a trunk 700 narrow-banded VHF using Pierce Transit platform since it already exists. They are currently in negotiations and have ***NOT*** made a decision yet. This is NOT a done deal and there are other options out there they are looking at. He is not here to sell a radio system if or when it materializes, etc. If you might be interested in utilizing what they come up with, the choice is yours and you will have to approach them about it. They are working on building out the infrastructure for Sheriffs and Public Works. Discussion followed.

Jim Sharp announced there will be a Fire Comm Oversight Committee meeting following this meeting.

**Code Committee**

No representative present.

**DIVISION REPORTS:**

**EMS**

Judy Murphy reported there was a Divert Committee meeting yesterday and the problems they saw in 1st Quarter at GSH has gone down since the rest of the hospital opened the middle of March.

The TCC Paramedic program, TCC has lost 30% of their funding. 2011 there is still a Paramedic school, however, 2012 is up I the air.

Yesterday she had the honor of presenting Paul Berlin an EMS Achievement Award. He is retiring next month and has been on the PC EMS Council for 25 plus years.

**MetroTraining**

No representative present.

**Training – TEW Training/Exercise**

Gary McVay reported registration, back fill, and overtime for 16 firefighters and law enforcement is available for RS1. Same for RS2. PXT 301 also got grant funded. The end of June there are 24 spots for PXT 201/202. The Water exercise will be June 9th at Brown’s Point.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:**

**American Red Cross**

No representative present.

**Department of Emergency Management**

Ken Parrish reported that April 26th was the start of the new National Terrorism Advisory System. If you’re not familiar with this new system you can go to the DHS for FEMA website. HB1585 – WA Intra State Mutual Agreement Bill was passed on April 15th and signed by the Governor. Everyone is automatically in it, you have to opt out by ordinance. This does not mean that you have to go if you are called.

The 2011 grant guidance will hopefully be out by the middle of May which leaves a short turn-around time.

**EMS**

Norma Pancake asked everyone to check with their MSO on the Terrorism Threat level information as it has been sent to them.

**Fire Marshal**

Mike Patti reported he distributed the April activity reports. Night club inspections will be held tonight. Deputy F/M hiring process is underway.

Last month there was discussion regarding DNR proposing a burn ban implementation. DNR will be starting a burn ban on July 1st. They can do what they want to on State lands, etc. Mike recommends writing a letter to DNR requesting they follow other Counties with a burn ban starting July 15th.

**State Chiefs/Western Chiefs**

Jeff Jensen reported the conference is coming up. Special session is in full swing. LEOFF 1 and 2 combining is an issue. The State-wide Mutual Aid Agreement, even though everyone is automatically in it, if you don’t have the resources it doesn’t mean you have to go.

**King County Fire Chiefs**

Dave Crossen reported they are migration from 800 to 700 in King County. The equipment is about 12 years old. A big thing in King County right now is that the County Executive and Council have eliminated the Fire Marshal and there is no intention of replacing them. Now it is coming to the Fire Districts to contract with to provide Fire Marshal service.

**PS Clean Air Agency**

No representative present.

**PC Fire Commissioners**

Scott Casebolt reported their last meeting was at CPFR, Station 60. Andy McAfee spoke on the Fire Explorer Program. May 25th is their next meeting at Key Peninsula. The Chaplain from Kent FD will be speaking regarding line of duty deaths and available resources. There is also a free training for new Commissioners coming up on June 11th by Joe Quinn at DuPont.

**Dept. of Natural Resources**

No representative present.

**Good of the Order**

If anyone is interested in being the liaison to the King County Fire Chiefs Association, please contact President McDonald.

Wayne Wienholz shared is thanks and appreciation for all those that attended his retirement, it was way more than he expected.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

*The next Regular Meeting will be June 2, 2011 at PCDEM, located at 2501 South 35th Street, Tacoma, WA.*