**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**October 4, 2012**

1. **Call to Order**

President John McDonald called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. at West Pierce Fire & Rescue, Station 31 located at 3631 Drexler Drive West, University Place, WA. The following were present:

Gary McVay, Steilacoom Public Safety Ken Sharp, WPFR

Lloyd Christianson, WPFR Paul Tinsley, WPFR

Karl Roth, WPFR Eric Norton, WPFR

Dan Rankin, WPFR John Burgess, GHFMO

Steve Nixon, GHFMO Scott Casebolt, GHFMO

Bill Jarmon, GHFMO Eric Waters, GHFMO

Doug Willis, CPFR Keith Wright, CPFR

Bryan Pearson, CPFR Pat Donovan, CPFR

Judy Murphy, CPFR Bob Vellias, SPFR

Reggie Romines, GFR Todd Jensen, GFR

John McDonald, EPFR Garry Olson PCFD #23

Jay Wiggins, PCFD #27 Warner Webb, PCFPB

Norma Pancake, PCEMS Denise Menge, Recorder

1. **Flag Salute**

Ken Sharp led the flag salute and welcomed everyone to West Pierce Fire & Rescue. He invited everyone to tour the 911 Reflection Park after the meeting. The steel structure from the Twin Towers is in the center of the park. They broke ground on 7/6/12 and dedicated it on 9/11/12. A full size bronze firefighter has been commissioned and will be added next to the steel structure when it is completed. Their department is struggling with the economy as everyone else is. Conversations were started with Steilacoom regarding a long term contract for service and November 1st they will begin to transition their apparatus and employee.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Pat Donovan and seconded by Reggie Romines to approve the September 6, 2012 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Kathy Hale was unable to attend today’s meeting, however, she sent the Treasurer’s Report to President McDonald. President McDonald reported the account balance is $7,408.23 in the general account, with $7,757.69 in the EMS account for a grand total of $15,165.92. It was moved by Lloyd Christianson and seconded by Paul Tinsley to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Correspondence**

None.

1. **Guest Speaker**

Vice President Keith Wright welcomed Pierce County Assessor Treasurer candidates Billie O’Brien and Mike Lonergan to the meeting. They each introduced themselves to the Association members.

Billie O’Brien stated this is the first time she has ran for an office. She has worked for the Assessor Treasurer’s Office for the last 22 years. She is a certified residential property appraiser and was promoted ten (10) years ago to the Administrative Manager for the Assessor Treasurer. She has acted as the Chief Deputy Assessor. They have 76 staff and she has been involved with the budgets. There are 330,000 parcels in Pierce County that are revalued every year. No on the job training would be required if she were to win office.

Mike Lonergan stated along with the five (5) candidates that applied for running for this position, the incumbent is the reason he has gotten involved. He commends Billie and the professional staff she works with. The incumbent is also the reason he is involved. He is the Executive Director of the Rescue Mission for the last 12 years and manages 65 employees and a $4,000,000 budget. He completed the Harvard University Government Executives Leadership program and is an honors graduate of UW. 8 years Tacoma City County and Deputy Mayor. His dad was a Firefighter for Richland and Hanford and died of cancer when he was a teen. He loves the Fire Service.

1. As the assessor office works through a calendar year, would there be an opportunity to let the districts know how the AV is trending for Pierce County? Perhaps an update quarterly or at least mid year. This would be your best guess without being held accountable until the true numbers come out in August.

Billie O’Brien – Yes, there is opportunity to provide updates throughout the year. They currently do a monthly regular trend when they are looking at sales. She would like to see their website cleaned up and perhaps have a sign in process to give districts access to information, etc. She recognizes the difficulty with budgeting, etc. Also, another thing to keep in mind is getting close to the 5.90 and for districts to include language in their resolutions to protect the 25 cents, etc.

Mike Lonergan – Budgeting information is needed early so you know whether the numbers are going up or down. You should have better access to the information needed to make informed decisions for your budget preparations. He is looking forward to a new day and a new partnership of working together.

1. How does I-747 apply to the AV when numbers begin to trend upward? For most of Pierce County the highest AV totals occurred in 2008 and currently values are down over 30%. Does the 1% limit apply before or after a district reaches its highest lawful amount (per REC 84.44.005) as the housing market begins to rebound?

Mike Lonergan – It is not limited to 1% over last year, but the highest regular non-voted rate since 1985.

Billie O’Brien – Mike is correct. Will have the option of catching up again, what will change is the capacity will increase.

1. What is your view of using foreclosures to estimate fair market value of properties that are not in foreclosure?

Billie O’Brien – Department of Revenue said one and a half years ago that foreclosures and short sales could be used, which they have not done yet. They do look at them and look at statistics. Not every foreclosure or short sale is outside the market range when they sell. We are lucky that they are not our only market.

Mike Lonergan – It is determined by State law and regulations and using foreclosures and short sales is a distortion and should be avoided unless we are required to use them. The assessor is the entrusted representative of the public and should pay exactly what is fair.

President McDonald asked Billie O’Brien with regards to the last question, what is the tipping point for using foreclosures and short sales? Billie responded there are 18 appraisal areas in the county, when foreclosures become the only market. With regards to foreclosures, would they be all in or all out? If they were the only market, they’d obviously be all in, but she doesn’t see that happening. Often they sell at what the AV is and/or what the market value is. Title 84 has to do with it being structured in law what values are set at, etc.

Doug Willis stated that he and several others had met with Dale Washam back in July and he had told them at that time that foreclosures were being used in some neighborhoods. Billie stated that it is her understanding from talking to the statistician that they are not being included.

President McDonald thanked Billie O’Brien and Mike Lonergan for speaking to our group.

1. **Unfinished Business**

No unfinished business.

1. **New Business**

President McDonald reported the Tacoma Pierce County Chaplaincy dinner will be held on November 1st. Doug Willis made a motion for the Association to sponsor a table, Paul Tinsley seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED. There are 10 seats at a table, if you would like to attend, send an email to Denise. This is a very nice event and a good cause. If there is overwhelming interest in attending, we will have a lottery drawing. Doug stated that a Fire Service Chaplain will be honored as Chaplain of the Year.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Audit Committee - DORMANT**
2. **Banquet/Awards Committee**

Todd Jensen reported the Banquet will be held at the Tacoma Golf and Country Club. The committee is meeting in 2 weeks to go over the menu, etc. Fliers will be coming out next month.

1. **Nominations Committee**

Reggie Romines reported nominations were opened at the last meeting. He has not received any nominations at the meeting or since then. Nominations are open again at this time. Hearing none, nominations were closed. It was recommended to re-elect the existing slate of officers:

President - John McDonald

Vice President - Keith Wright

Trustee1 - Gary McVay

Trustee 2 - Eric Watson

Secretary - Mitch Sagers

Treasurer - Kathy Hale

Doug Willis moved and Lloyd Christianson seconded to re-elect the existing slate of officers as recommended. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **UASI Committee**

No representative present.

1. **Regional Communications Committee**

Keith Wright stated he had nothing to report and this could be removed from the agenda.

1. **Code Committee**

Fire Marshal Warner Webb stated he had nothing to report.

1. **Emergency Management Committee**

No representative present.

1. **Impact/Mitigation Fee Committee**

Scott Casebolt reported they met and they are moving along.

**DIVISION REPORTS:**

1. **EMS**

Judy Murphy reported the Divert Committee is still convening every quarter. Divert was at 0.47% for 2nd quarter and trauma was up a little at 3%. The question was asked if they needed to continue to meet and it was decided that they do. They have decided to look at the charter group and see what else they can do and what other things they could look at, etc. With regards to mental health services, let her know if your agency would be interested in having them out to speak and/or train on what they can do, etc. Also, a reminder that a BLS representative for the EMS Council is needed since Andy McAfee is resigning from his position.

**18A. MetroTraining**

Bryan Pearson reported their last meeting was held at Joint Base Lewis McChord and they set the training dates and who will be hosting the training for 2013. There continues to be work on the live fire training WAC and how to achieve it, etc.

**18B. Training – TEW Training/Exercise**

No representative present.

**18C. Training – TEW Equipment**

No representative present.

1. **Fire and Life Safety**

No representative present. President McDonald reported By-Laws for the Fire and Life Safety group were sent out with the minutes last month. They are trying to pull this group back together and Randy Stephens presented the By Laws to the Executive Board at their last meeting. There is a lot of support from the Executive Board to the reformation of this group. Ken Sharp asked if it is routine for Committees and/or Divisions to have their own By-Laws? Discussion followed. It was felt there could be some confusion created with them calling themselves an Association versus a Division, etc. Eric stated when this group got together about a year and a half ago, they wanted to come up with what their scope is, mission, what’s their direction, etc. The By-Laws were simply a framework for that and it is not their intent to conflict with this group, etc. They have not met for the last 4 months or so and any feedback or input is welcome. Some more background for the formation of the By-Laws is that PCDEM and DNR are partners in this Division and in order for them to receive grant funding, etc. it needs to be a formalized group. Discussion followed.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:**

1. **South Sound 911**

Ken Sharp reported this group continues to chug along. They are having monthly policy and ops meetings. The 700 side has been funded. The Executive Director search time table has been put together. They are looking at the position being filled around February 1st. The transition with LESA is going well. There are active discussions with Buckley. There was also a meeting last week with Puyallup talking about radio side and infrastructure, etc.

Gary McVay reported on TEW Training/Exercise – EPFR is hosting an FDNY Fire Command training in Sumner on November 15th with an am and pm session. This is a free seminar.

1. **Department of Emergency Management**

Norma Pancake reported an Open House will be held at PC EOC on October 13th from 12-4 with demonstrations and information on winter preparedness. Also, they are looking at sand and sand bags, please get information in to them.

1. **Pierce County EMS**

Norma Pancake reported it is almost ambulance inspections time and these are unannounced visits. The EMS Conference has been moved from Ocean Shores to the Great Wolf Lodge and will be held February 8, 9 and 10, 2013. There will be a leadership tract offered.

1. **Fire Marshal**

Warner Webb reported the burn ban is still in effect. King County would like to lift the ban. It will remain in effect until further notice. If anyone has any input, please contact him.

They are in the process of hiring two Deputy Fire Marshals and an Inspector. He attended the Impact Fee Mitigation meeting and they are looking into capital facilities that are in place for the schools to see what they did to get mitigation fees, etc.

1. **State Chiefs**

Keith Wright reported they met yesterday in Spokane. They are addressing at the State level this issue of SCBA replacement bottles that are NIOSH approved. They are asking for a change to purchase directly from the manufacturer. Bryan Pearson attended the WAC 396-405 public hearing earlier this week. The three main issues discussed were the mechanics, concerns with language referencing the old NFPA standard, unfunded mandate for live fire training, and change in language regarding management responsibility. No one seems to know where that change came from.

The legislative committee is up and running and meets the second Wednesday of every month. The top 5 things are still on the table to look at. Another plug was given for everyone to support and contribute to the PAC. The No Secrets conference is going to be held in Issaquah November 12-14. Pierce and King Counties are co-sponsoring it. A presentation from I Chiefs was given on the Ready, Set, Go wildland fires training. It is similar to the FireWise training and educates people to be ready, etc. It is a national program and the State Chiefs have adopted it in concept.

1. **King County Fire Chiefs**

No representative present.

1. **PS Clean Air Agency**

No representative present.

1. **PC Fire Commissioners**

Dan Rankin reported the County Assessor Treasurer candidates were guest speakers at their last meeting. They don’t have a meeting in October due to the State Conference in Yakima.

1. **Dept. of Natural Resources**

No representative present.

1. **Good of the Order**

Keith Wright asked about the 2013 meeting schedule sign up. Denise stated she forgot to bring it with her and will email it out to everyone.

Garry Olson reminded everyone of the upcoming fundraiser for BC Tylor. It will be an all day event starting with breakfast, a poker run and then a dinner and silent and live auction.

Ken Sharp thanked CPFR for ladders that were donated for the trellis in their 9-11 commemorative park and reminded everyone that they are welcome to tour it following the meeting.

1. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Recording Secretary Denise Menge

*The next Regular Meeting will be November 1, 2012 at Orting Valley Fire & Rescue*