**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Meeting Minutes**

**September 5, 2013**

1. **Call to Order**

President McDonald called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. at CPFR hosting the meeting at Puyallup Library Conference Room located at 324 So. Meridian, Puyallup, WA. The following were present:

Bob Hudspeth, Eatonville FD Pat McElligott TFD

Jim Sharp, WPFR Mitch Sagers, WPFR

Paul Tinsley, WPFR Karl Roth, WPFR

Eric Norton, WPFR Dan Rankin, WPFR

John Burgess, GHFMO Eric Waters, GHFMO

Bill Jarmon, GHFMO Tom Sutich, GHFMO

Keith Wright, CPFR Pat Donovan, CPFR

Tim Pierce, CPFR Judy Murphy, CPFR

Brian Caldier, CPFR Ed Hrivnak, CPFR

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

Claudia Jones, PCFD #16 Chris Grant, SPFR

Todd Jensen, GFR Tom Mason, GFR

Steve Richards, GFR Jerry Thorson, EPFR

John McDonald, EPFR Jim Jaques, EPFR

Lowell Porter, PCDEM Warner Webb, PCFPB

Norma Pancake, PCEMS Joe Quinn, Attorney

Denise Menge, Recorder

1. **Flag Salute**

Keith Wright led the flag salute. He welcomed everyone to Central Pierce Fire & Rescue and stated everyone is welcome to take a Washington State Fair Mug and tickets. Central Pierce is doing well and they have been busy crunching numbers for their budget. In November they will have a Facilities Bond on the ballot and are getting busy gearing up to educate the public on this measure.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the August 1, 2013 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

President McDonald reported Treasurer Ryan Baskett was unable to attend today’s meeting. He sent him the following Treasurer’s Report. There is $7,217.55 in the account with the EMS account balance of $8,257.00. The Pinnacle Conference funding has a balance of $6,000.00 for a grand total account balance of $21,474.55. Pat McElligot moved and John Burgess seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Correspondence**

President McDonald reported he received a formal Audit report from the Audit Committee. The audit came back clear with no findings. The committee did have a couple of recommendations. 1 – formalize with an MOU or some other means regarding the procedures for handling the EMS monies; 2 – there were a number of departments yet to pay their 2012 dues. It is understood that budgets are tight, and it could be an oversight. Contact will be made with those agencies; and 3 – regarding lunches, we continue to run in a deficit. We estimate the number of lunches and purchase a set number and then often times have extra’s and/or not everyone pays. This will continue to be worked on. He thanked the committee members for their time and for meeting with Kathy Hale to complete the audit before her retirement.

President McDonald reported he also received a letter from the Pierce County Tacoma Chaplaincy regarding their Annual Benefit Dinner. It will be held on October 3rd at the McGavick Center. For a number of years now, the Association has purchased a table to support this event. It was moved by Pat Donovan and seconded by Pat McElligot to sponsor a table in the amount of $375.00. MOTION CARRIED. It would be really nice for Association members to fill the table this year. Please send an email to President McDonald if you are interested in attending.

1. **Guest Speaker**

Vice President Keith Wright introduced Lowell Porter from PC DEM. Mr. Porter thanked the Association for the opportunity to speak today. He has been involved with Public Safety in a few different positions since 1980. With the Washington State Patrol he has operational and administrative experience. He started with DEM in May and is the newest member at PCDEM. He has been working closely with Warner Webb on information and data and how to use that effectively and analytically, to look at trends and predict, etc. Then get this information back to assist agencies with budgeting and planning. He has been busy working on forming business practices, public policy, use data to analyze risk. He would like to work with you to tell them what is workable for you. DEM is in the same position as everyone else with regards to budget issues, concerns, etc. Grant monies are shrinking. The last EMPG and UASI grants the money is getting tighter and competition is stiffer. They are busy scanning the horizon for other options to benefit the collective. They have experts with grant writing and they are willing to help those that need help. They are well prepared for year to year grants. Recently with a mitigation grant, Pierce County was the only one able to have everything together and able to submit for and ended up getting $410,000.00. Discussion followed on 700 mghtz radios. Approximately 70% of his day every day is spent working on this issue. Broadband microwave is the backbone of this project and it is on schedule to have equipment installed and tested mid-September. Motorola is guaranteeing 97% coverage county-wide with a very robust VHF overlay. We are at a critical juncture with the microwave broadband. 2nd quarter next year is the targeted go-live date. He also works very closely with SS911 and meets weekly with Andrew Neiditz. USAR/WATF-1 recently went through a FEMA readiness evaluation which included a full audit of their books, deployment capabilities, etc. Ours is a top tier task force, 1 out of 5 in the country. We are at our highest staffing levels (191) for deployability and the cache is up to date. Funding for this is tightening up as well. There is an opportunity for a Western Region exercise that may be with full mobex with air support to Alaska next year. Lowell Porter stated he appreciated the opportunity to be here to speak today and looks forward to working with this group in the future.

1. **Unfinished Business**

President McDonald stated Treasurer Baskett had wanted it mentioned that there is money available to reimburse agencies that sent people to the Pinnacle Conference. Please submit documentation to Ryan Baskett and he will work on getting the reimbursements processed.

1. **New Business**

Ed Hrivnak stated burn bans were discussed at the last meeting and he would really like to hear how are others are dealing with this issue. He stated that CPFR receives approximately two (2) burn complaints a day, every day. Discussion followed. Chris Grant stated they are trying to work with Fire Comm to pass them on to PS Clean Air, etc. Clean Air has offered to come out to education the communities on this, etc. Guy Allen stated they give one (1) strike and then send them to Clean Air.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Audit Committee**

No report.

1. **Banquet/Awards Committee – DORMANT**

President McDonald reported that Randy Stephens is off of this committee. Is anyone willing to assist Todd Jensen with this? Todd Jensen reported Jody at Graham Fire will be assisting with as she has in the past. He welcomes any additional help. The banquet will be the first Thursday of December (5th) at the same venue as last year - Tacoma Golf and Country Club. They are looking for entertainment and a Chaplain. Please let him know if you have any ideas or suggestions. If you are interested in being on this committee please email President John McDonald.

1. **Nominations Committee**

John Burgess reported they have not met yet. President McDonald asked if anyone is interested in participating on the Executive Board please forward information to Bob Vellias, John Burgess and/or Jerry Thorson. President McDonald opened nominations from the floor. There being none, nominations were closed. All current Executive Board members are interested in continuing on.

1. **UASI Committee**

No report.

1. **Emergency Management Committee**

Guy Allen reported there have been a number of mobilizations they’ve been dispatched to. Central Kitsap had called for notification and then not required. That happens from time to time and he appreciates everyone’s understanding. We are now transitioning from wildland to flood season. President McDonald stated he works on a Task Force and PC has a reputation state-wide of being exceptional. He appreciates everyone’s efforts.

1. **Impact/Mitigation Fee Committee**

Joe Quinn reported the Fire Chiefs and Commissioners are working jointly on a committee on this. He thanked Warner Webb for coordinating a meeting with the County Planners. It was a productive meeting. There has been a lot done on this in the last couple of years on this issue. A memo was distributed to agencies that he knows is interested in being involved with this. See attached copy. The Capital Facilities Plans (CFP) need to be being worked on now. Chris Grant stated he has a contact person for getting growth for their District from the 2010 census. Joe Quinn urged everyone to complete their CFPs in the next few months. President McDonald stated this committee was started by this Association and we need to move forward with developing our CFPs and take the initiative to implement impact fees. Please take the time to look at this seriously even if you’re not planning on implementing impact fees. This may take two or three tries to get adopted at the County Council, the more united on this we are, the better chance we have. John Burgess stated his initial response was that he was unsure on participating due to much of the growth being in the city of Gig Harbor. It is an important step to work collectively in the County to later then work with municipalities on other issues, etc. Warner Webb stated the CFP is statutorily mandated under the Growth Management. Sewer, water, fire are required to have them and the Urban Growth Boundaries can be effected by not having a CFP, etc. President McDonald again encouraged everyone to work on this as well as making sure your Boards are aware of what is going on with this issue.

**DIVISION REPORTS:**

1. **EMS**

Judy Murphy reported there were several people that attended the Pinnacle Conference last month. They will be presenting more in depth at the next meeting as well as at the September 26th Commissioners Association meeting. She gave an overview of the conference. The Affordable Care Act has a triple aim approach – better care with better outcomes, patient satisfaction and reduced costs. Fee for services is going away. We are not sure what this will all look like for us yet. EMS was forgotten in the process as it is a very small, like 1%, but it drives about 20-23% of costs due to patients taken to hospitals which are expensive versus a doctor’s office, etc. It needs to be worked out where we can take patients. Community Paramedics with a higher assessment role as a community resource is being heard of more. Also, Nurse navigator patient care at Dispatch. There are a lot of opportunities for EMS. There will be more to come on all of this. Chris Grant asked with these changes coming, is there a potential in Pierce County for Multicare to become a junior taxing district? Judy stated there are hospital based EMS modules out there across the country. Joe Quinn stated it would be much like the county-wide flood district issue that came up a few years ago and pro-rationing that would affect and tap into the $5.90. It does happen in Washington in Friday Harbor. The $1.50 monies would be cut into because a hospital district would overlap with. Discussion followed.

Judy Murphy stated new HIPPA Laws go into effect September 23rd.

**16 A. Metro Training**

Tom Mason stated that we no meeting last month.

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

The last meeting was cancelled and don’t meet until next Thursday.

**16 C. Training – TEW Equipment**

No representative present.

1. **Fire and Life Safety**

Eric Waters reported the will be an E911 Educators meeting on September 18th at 1:00 at DEM. He encouraged everyone to send a representative to the meeting.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS:**

1. **South Sound 911**

Jerry Thorson stated they have been working on identifying facilities needs, one versus two buildings, etc. Joe Quinn reported there was a Policy Board retreat last month with a powerpoint that was presented on this topic. He had sent it out to the Commissioners Association, he will forward it to Denise to send out to the Chiefs Association.

1. **Department of Emergency Management**

No report.

1. **Pierce County EMS**

Norma Pancake reported that Dr. Waffle has volunteered to sit on a committee regarding community paramedics. They are also looking at how to change the RCW so this can be done, etc. Recert time is coming up for some agencies. She encouraged them to get their stuff in early. DEM Portal has a new version 2 of map view for tactical maps, etc. Also, please assess your sand and sand bags and let Tom Sharp know if you need any of either.

1. **Fire Marshal**

Warner Webb requested feedback on lifting the burn ban. He is waiting to hear back from Kitsap, Snohomish and King Counties. He is looking at possibly lifting it on Monday. He met with senior management building department and permit activity is still up. It is around the 2002/2003 levels of permits. He will distribute information on what that means. Pat Donovan asked if construction updates can be sent out to Districts? It would help with future planning, etc. Warner asked if he’d like permits applied for, in process and/or issued? He is working on this and will get this information out.

1. **State Chiefs**

Keith Wright reported the No Secrets Symposium will be held in Issaquah in mid November. The next Board meeting is in two (2) weeks. Mike Brown, Executive Director is retiring the end of the year.

1. **King County Fire Chiefs**

No report.

1. **PS Clean Air Agency**

No representative.

1. **PC Fire Commissioners**

Dan Rankin reported their last meeting was August 22nd at the Swiss Park and EPFRs Wildland team members gave a presentation. Their next meeting will be September 26th, Orting is hosting the meeting at Buckley Fire Station. EMS Pinnacle Conference attendee’s will be the program speaker.

1. **Dept. of Natural Resources**

No representative.

1. **Good of the Order**

President McDonald stated the State Incident Management Command Type 2 Teams are always in need of folks for Logistics, Finance, etc. An incident needs people in the background supporting it in these roles. He encouraged agencies to consider participating in these teams. The costs of the deployments are reimbursed. It is all hazards and not all wildland. Application period opens in November. Please feel free to contact John McDonald if you are interested or if you have any questions.

1. **Adjournment**

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

Submitted by:

Denise Menge

Recording Secretary

*The next Regular Meeting will be October 3, 2013, hosted by Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One at 10222 Bujacich Rd NW.*