**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**May 1, 2014**

1. **Call to Order**

President Wright called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at East Pierce Fire & Rescue located at 18421 Veterans Memorial Drive, Bonney Lake, WA. The following were present:

Bob Hudspeth, Eatonville FD Pat McElligott, Tacoma FD

Dan Rankin, WPFR Eric Watson, Gig Harbor FMO

Eric Waters, Gig Harbor FMO Tom Sutich, Gig Harbor FMO

Keith Wright, CPFR Pat Donovan, CPFR

Brian Caldier, CPFR Judy Murphy, CPFR

Tanya Robacker, CPFR Ed Hrivnak, CPFR

Guy Allen, Key Peninsula Claudia Jones, Key Peninsula

Hal Wolverton, Key Peninsula Bob Vellias, SPFR

Zane Gibson, Orting Valley FR Todd Jensen, GFR

Steve Richards, GFR Jerry Thorson, EPFR

John McDonald, EPFR Russ McCallion, EPFR

Ed Goodlet, EPFR Jim Jaques, EPFR

Rick Kuss, EPFR Garry Olson, Elbe

Mike Ferguson, Crystal Mtn Lowell Porter, PCDEM

Warner Webb, PCFPB Chuck Frame, DNR

Andrew Neiditz, SS911 Frank Washburn, TPCC

Doug Walker, EPFR Denise Menge, Recorder

1. **Flag Salute**

Chief Thorson led the flag salute and welcomed everyone to East Pierce. They are running an M&O Levy in August. The original 3.1 mill 2 yr levy has been bumped up to a 4 year levy - 4.7, 4.8 2 yrs and 4.9 the 4th year. Working very hard on this. Working with Graham for consolidated message since they are doing the same thing.

President Wright stated he needs to leave the meeting at 10:30 and if the meeting is still going, Bob Vellias will cover the rest of the meeting.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the April 3, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Ryan Baskett was unable to attend, Todd Jensen presented the Treasurer’s Report: Beginning balance of $9,877.14, ending balance of $10,777.14, EMS total is $6,925.71. The grand total account balance is $17,702.85. It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Correspondence**

No correspondence at this time.

1. **Guest Speaker – Mike Lonergan, PC Assessor-Treasurer**

Bob Vellias introduced Mike Lonergan and thanked him for coming to the meeting. Mike stated he wasn’t aware of the history that his predecessor didn’t attend these meetings. The error he made was he didn’t realize there would be so many outside agencies in attendance so copies of handouts may need to be shared. Yesterday was the deadline date for first half of taxes. County keeps about 10% for general fund, rest goes to county agencies like libraries, park districts, school and fire districts, etc. He has 77 people working for now. 6 year rotation to cover the entire county. This year they are working on areas across the bridge – Key Peninsula, Fox Island, Gig Harbor, etc. Re-value every single year – done through a trending process that is scientific based. Statistical team likes to get it right and it’s a process they go through. Distributed a handout – 2013 residential reevaluation report. 75 different taxing districts in the County so there are a number of overlaps. 152 different tax calculation areas in PC. Each one is slightly different. Distinction in PC – we have the highest average tax rate county-wide in the state of WA. Historical information on hand out. Most of the County bottomed out and have started to increase. Next hand out of maps that show how they do their work – overlaid with fire districts, cities and towns as well. 1st page = commercial appraisal areas (9). 2nd map is the residential appraisal areas – 18 areas count for. 2 months sending out notices to the public for what their valuation for 2014 is. That is the basis for taxation for 2015. Next handout shows 18 residential areas, yellow highlighted = mass calculation done on. Percentage change from last year to this is higher. Try to hit at 90% of value, last year was at 88%, having them build in a little higher this year. Several Districts partly in different areas such as CPFR. Able to see we are on an upswing. Their job is to value all of the properties in the County as of 1/1 of this year for next years’ taxes. Takes time to go through inspection process, calculation process, etc. At peak of housing bubble, valued at 92 billion dollars for PC. Today at 72 billion dollars. Heading in the right direction and starting to accelerate. Remember handout doesn’t include commercial, only residential. Still some sluggish response in economy. Value based on earning potential of those properties. Interestingly, next step is new construction in June, July and August. Trying to get building permits in a timely manner, have 1 year to add new properties to the tax rolls. Look at building permits for those things that impact the value of the building to capture. Last year was a really good year, 1 billion dollars value of new construction tax added. Year before was 600 million. John Burgess thanked for being here – ideally, what is goal with new construction how quickly added to tax rolls? Mike Lonergan stated they can bring on with partial completion. Value as of July 1st. Portion this year and then the remaining brought on the following year. Been interpreted different ways. Brian Caldier asked about the #s on the back of the handout, there is a correlation matrix, predictive value of what the numbers mean. Mike stated the trend over 2013 of value increase over that years’ time. Overall average increase for the County. Looking at various coefficients and how accurate they are – statistical team working hard on.

1. **Unfinished Business**

Nothing at this time.

1. **New Business**
2. CISM Team – President Wright stated in years past there were teams throughout the County as well as a County CISM Team. He has talked with TPCC about revamping. Sounds like law enforcement is doing the same thing. Interested in discussing that. Looking for 2 or 3 people to work with Frank Washburn and his group on how to put together, training, costs, etc. Pat McElligott stated Chris Galbraith will participate. Brian Caldier asked to be on this committee as well. It was suggested that Keith Wright talk to Kevin McIntyre as he’s involved on the training side. Training class coming up - Stress First Aid.
3. Pinnacle Conference – President Wright asked if EMS is going to want help with financial support to send people again this year? The conference is in the middle of July in Arizona. Last year we contributed $2,500.00. The Commissioners Association is contributing $1,500.00 this year. Also the EMS Committee has funds as well. Russ McCallion and Judy Murphy stated they would like to get support to send people. Distributed conference information. Would ask the Chiefs match the Commissioners contribution and the EMS Fund kick in up to $2,500 to cover the registration costs to send five (5) people. President Wright stated last year, the EMS Committee selected the people to attend. John Burgess asked last year went and came back and gave presentation on number of things going on with healthcare reform act, etc. he is wondering if we need to have some policy level people attending this as well? Would that be appropriate? To get those people educated, etc. Russ McCallion stated approximately 1/3 of the conference is quality improvement, financial reimbursements, etc. Also, WA State Fire Chiefs sponsoring a conference in November at SeaTac. 15 partnering agencies involved – all of the key players. 5 or 6 national speakers lined up for as well. Judy Murphy reported the early registration fees are due by middle of June for the Pinnacle Conference. Eric Watson moved and Pat McElligot seconded to approve $1,500.00 from the general fund and up to $2,500.00 from EMS account be used to help cover registration costs for attendance at the Pinnacle conference. MOTION CARRIED.
4. Guy Allen expressed concern regarding the mobilization delay to the Oso incident. The State mobilization request went out on the day of the event and there was a delay. How do we push this topic forward to get that fixed? President Wright stated this is a higher priority on the list with the State Chiefs to work on. Working the angles now for the next session. Guy Allen asked if it would be a benefit for this association to write a letter to the governor as well as individual agencies? President Wright stated he will email their lobbyist to see.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS - Overview:**

1. **Audit Committee - DORMANT**
2. **Banquet/Awards Committee - DORMANT**
3. **Nominations Committee - DORMANT**
4. **UASI Committee**

Pat McElligott stated Roger sent a message that there is nothing vital. Structural collapse training and Haz Mat suits funding processed.

1. **Emergency Management Committee**

Guy Allen reported there was a meeting last week. There are a few edits being made to the plan. The goal is to have it done and sent to Denise and put on the website by June 1st. Working on coordinating annual pre-season meeting for wildfire second week in June. Strike Team Leader training.

1. **Impact/Mitigation Fee Committee**

Dan Rankin stated he and Warner Webb were at the last meeting. May 8th is the next meeting. Warner reported they are working on Capital Facilities Plans getting turned in.

**DIVISION REPORTS - Overview:**

1. **EMS**

Judy Murphy reported last month mentioned medication and supply storage getting to a critical area for normal saline. County has said to let them know when it’s critical and we are there. Use of lactated ringers instead of normal saline. What we were getting at $1.50 per bag we now having to pay $10.00 per bag to get normal saline from Norway. Supply costs going up due to shortages. Processes in place so don’t use unless have to, etc.

The Health Department is working on putting together to have assigned predetermined bed count in case of MCI. So when big one happens we know ahead of time how many patients each hospital will be taking.

Working with MultiCare to get contract settled for PMs to get additional skills. Scheduling another meeting – intubations in OR or IVs in ED, etc.

Couple of different exercises coming up – Pierce Transit June 12th bus explosion with hostage situation. Contact if want to be involved. 45-50 patients. Potentially some funding still, will find out at meeting this afternoon.

**16 A. Metro Training**

EPFR – update Walker working on By Laws. Metro group have suspended remainder of years training – revamping. More multi company instead of individual agencies. In past each host agency selected the training topic. Focusing more on multi co type drills. Working with Ops folks on tac ops procedures as they get them done.

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

No representative present.

**16 C. Training – TEW Equipment**

No representative present.

1. **Fire and Life Safety**

Eric Waters distributed a draft of emergency access guidelines for knox products. Unincorporated area of county important for engineering, building department to have consistency. Asking to review the draft – would like to finalize at their June meeting and provide to the County as a template for the plan review. President Wright asked the final product sent to him by May 13th so the E Board can review it at their next meeting.

Code consolidation deferred to Warner Webb.

Once live with digital system will begin testing with radios.

PSCAA is looking to change non containment area in PC – concerns are what is done for outdoor burning. He contacted Kathy Strange – maintenance plan that goes in place if change – won’t change current guidelines for outdoor burning. John McDonald asked if they are expanding the non containment area? Warner Webb stated it allows permit burning.

Private gate inspection fees – Ed Hrivnak – CPFR starting to bill Warner’s office $80 per inspection starting April 1st. Working with PALS on how to add the fee. Warner Webb stated it is an educational process with PALS. Ed Hrivnak stated he would like to mention and recognize Cole Roberts from Warner Webbs office – nasty arson fire – arson 1 arrest was made. Cole kept him informed on every step of the process. Cole picked up on some very subtle things initially.

1. **Logistics**

Brian Caldier reported so much of what they do is reactionary, can’t predict when an apparatus will break down. Working on getting processes in place. Pursuing joint purchasing contracts around the country. There is a large master purchasing contract out of Houston, Federal GSA. Looking into. Adding SOP sharing type ideas – requests from out of County. Regional Logistics in PC already starting to expand outside of County. Logistics Meeting will be held after this meeting – coordinate how to assist each other with SS911 radio installation, etc.

1. **Operations**

Ed Goodlet had a file folder added on the Chiefs website for 2014 updates and have documents added to the folder as they are completed. Have about 7 or 8 working on and hope to be completed by the end of the year.

1. **Volunteer Services**

No representative present.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

1. **South Sound 911**

Andrew Neiditz reported SS911 is well on its way with transition forward. Radio upgrade projects system upgrade well on respective ways with implementation dates over next several months. May 14th is the next Ops meeting presentation by both Project persons.

Radio system upgrades to achieve a single system commitment. That will be a major step forward to accomplish interoperability. Will need to convert or migrate from what we have to a single system in early part of 2015. Working on migration steps with Motorola to achieve that. There will be some inconvenience and some disruption, but behind getting through it. A lot of complex steps to be taken. Commitment on behalf of key policy makers to make that happen.

Other capital projects – major CAD project underway as result of several years taskforce work. Contact with Intergraph. First ever combined fire and law enforcement CAD unified platform. Learning challenge for everyone involved. Kick off 3rd week of May invited to participate to see beginning steps of a year and a half process to get where we need to be. End goal is a new facility – 2 years off or so. Formally approved a facility project. Decision on site yet to be made. 85,000 square feet total building size. Finalizing location sites to be proposed. Development team to be put together. Posting RFQ this coming week. On fast track for new campus. Organizational transition – merging together police and fire communications form various agencies – progress is being made. Fire side there is acknowledgement of (Tacoma and Fire Comm) have agreed to merge. Was in the works before SS911 – operational planning process – engaged a consultant – Paula Dillard – to move along operational process.

Not equipped by 1/1/15 to have all ops in one house. End goal is to have a system in place that satisfies as many of the 38 entities as possible. On LE side, 14 entities who pay annual assessment to what used to be LESA – 4 or 5 alternatives to that assessment processed. Fire side obviously a different situation. Fee structure unique to that. Won’t be changed overnight and will take some time to get there. Users and Advisory groups that are actively engaged where concerns can be addressed. Goal to have some economies of scale and offset to the revenues. 25 year tax increase approved – every dollar not spent on radios will be used to offset the costs. Goal is to accomplish that. First step is to merge the budgets. Can’t promise costs will go down immediately. Not adding FTEs. Costs ought to be stabilized. Concern with increase in cost for a small agency and affect would have on their budget. Andy Neiditz stated their goal is for the cost to be fair to all.

1. **Department of Emergency Management**

Lowell Porter – quick update on 700 and radio stuff. Thanks to everyone of their support of Oso. Something that in words of USGS was unprecedented in North America. As part of WATF1 – thank you for all work, support and resources put into that event. New facet for the task force. This was the first non federal deployment which created some challenges in the beginning. A lot of lessons learned for processes to be put in place to leverage resources when needed in the future. Procedurally or legally didn’t have the mechanisms in place to deploy. Policies and procedures will be built with looking at lessons learned and after action reports, etc. Again, thank you for all of the help provided. Totally tapped out all of resources of WATF-1. It was a 27 day deployment. Never happened before. We used everything to make the 27 day continual operation happen. Very complex organizational piece to make happen.

Communications – 700 system – cut over day of May 17th. Planning to have done 3 weeks ago. Sparpole site huge interference piece has been resolved. All metropolitan and sub systems brought up at same time to test. Coverage acceptance plan and make happen – end of June or first of July bring rest of County on. Very complex. VHF overlay – one for 410 corridor moving forward. Hope to have up and running by end of year for Green Water and Crystal Mountain areas.

UASI grant – sits on core group – more detail information, if interested in seeing, let him know and will provide. Funding stayed pretty stable.

Continue to plan for IMC event EMI is going to present. Conducted here and not at EMI. Bigger event than anticipated. Will keep posted. End of June.

President Wright stated before he leaves he wanted to give his reports - State Chiefs – not a lot to report – conference is coming up in 3 weeks. A lot of good topics this year and being held in Richland. #s are down this year around 70, encouraged everyone to attend. Top 5 legislative issues will be gone over. Keep in mind new laws – have to post agenda for public meetings on your website starts in July and elected officials training for open public meetings and records.

President Wright stated with regards to the Oso incident, the Darrington Volunteer FF Association has set up a fund for FF Seth Jefferds who lost his wife, granddaughter, home, everything in the mudslide. The Commissioners Association approved to donate $500.00 at their meeting. Ed Hrivnak moved and Pat McElligot seconded to approve donating $500.00 to the DVFA for the FF Jefferds fund. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Pierce County EMS**

No representative present.

1. **Fire Marshal**

Warner Webb reported code consolidation meeting today with developing engineers – EVA standards are pretty much documented out. Compare over to EVA reference number as county street and road standards had to match. Several updates to their manual and now to point to send to fire and life safety group to give chance to weigh in on.

Next week Fire Investigators conference in Leavenworth. 296-305 for whether or not investigators have to have air packs on during investigations – hoping information on this will be discussed.

White River exercise - thanks for those that participated in that. Great success. Learned a lot of things. Tactical radios don’t work in gymnasium in that building. Fire code should be able to help out with that.

1. **State Chiefs**

See earlier report.

1. **Puget Sound Clean Air Agency**

No representative present.

1. **PC Fire Commissioners Association**

Dan Rankin reported that a Commissioner suffered traumatic injuries in the Oso mudslide. Haven’t heard yet what the family needs. Association through State, Roger, is trying to find out what they need. Next Commissioners Association meeting will be at Orting on May 22nd. Chief Gibson will be the speaker on his trip to South American regarding Lahars.

1. **Department of Natural Resources**

Chuck Frame reported they are ramping up training. Boundary readjustment will double fire load in their region. 4 more engines to deal with. A little busier. Also inherit an inmate camp. Dispatch wanted to bring to attention – very little feedback on red cards has been received yet. Please get that information in as soon as possible. If want an email request sent out again, let know. Also would like experience and training records in so they can keep their system updated. They have had a Dispatch Supervisor out since December with serious medical issues. They will be filling a position temporarily.

1. **Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy**

Frank Washburn thanked for ability to partner with. They also had people at Oso. Involved in sponsoring Oso community chaplain had a tribute for 400 people that showed up. A lot of churches involved. Today is national day of prayer events all over county to participate in.

1. **Good of the Order**

Bob Vellias – thanked Mike Lonergan again for attending. Would like to see him as a standing speaker every May to come and share the information that he shared today. It was very helpful information.

1. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Submitted by:

Denise Menge

Recording Secretary

**2014 Meeting Schedule:**

January 2, 2014 General - City of Buckley

February 6, 2014 Business - Graham Fire & Rescue

March 6, 2014 General - Eatonville Community Center

April 3, 2014 Business - East Pierce Fire & Rescue

May 1, 2014 General - Orting Valley Fire & Rescue

**June 5, 2014 Business - Key Peninsula**

July 3, 2014 NO MEETING

August 7, 2014 NO MEETING

September 4, 2014 Business - Central Pierce Fire & Rescue

October 2, 2014 General - Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One

November 6, 2014 Business - West Pierce Fire & Rescue

December 4, 2014 NO MEETING – ANNUAL BANQUET