**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**October 2, 2014**

1. **Call to Order**

Vice President Sagers called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. at Gig Harbor Fire & Medic One located at 10222 Bujacich Rd NW, Gig Harbor, WA. The following were present:

Pat McElligott, Tacoma FD Jim Sharp, WPFR

Mitch Sagers, WPFR Paul Tinsley, WPFR

Eric Norton, WPFR Jay Sumerlin, WPFR

John Burgess, GHFMO Eric Watson, GHFMO

Steve Nixon, GHFMO Eric Waters, GHFMO

Tom Sutich, GHFMO Pat Donovan, CPFR

Brian Caldier, CPFR Judy Murphy, CPFR

Ed Hrivnak, CPFR Guy Allen, PCFD 16

Hal Wolverton, PCFD 16 Bob Vellias, SPFR

Chris Grant, SPFR Ryan Baskett, GFR

Todd Jensen, GFR Lowell Porter, PCDEM

Scott Heinze, PCDEM Warner Webb, PCFPB

Joe Quinn, Attorney Andrew Neiditz, SS911

Frank Washburn, TPCC Denise Menge, Recorder

1. **Flag Salute**

Chief Burgess led the flag salute and welcomed everyone to Gig Harbor. Things are going well, in the heart of budget season. Working on revenue side, how to become more involved with impact or mitigation fees. Looking to become more involved in that process. Also, working with Mr. Quinn to start billing for non-service calls. Glad to have everyone here.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Chief Caldier and seconded by Chief Christianson to approve the September 4, 2014 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Ryan Baskett reported: Beginning balance of $7,263.55, revenues of $0.14 interest expenses of $975.00 for an ending balance of $6,288.69, EMS total is $4,830.71. The grand total account balance is $11,119.40. It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Correspondence**

No correspondence at this time.

1. **Unfinished Business**
2. Mutual Aid Agreements – Guy Allen stated he has no report at this time.
3. **New Business**

Meeting sign up for 2015 was distributed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS - Overview:**

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

Todd Jensen reported we will not be having live music entertainment this year. Looking for a Chaplain for invocation. If have one that would like to be involved, please let Todd Jensen know by the 15th. Master of Ceremonies is also open. If interested, let him know by 15th of this month as well. Fliers to come out once the pricing is nailed down, hoping to keep right about the same price as last year. December 4th at Tacoma Golf and Country Club.

1. **Nominations Committee**

Vice President Sagers received a report from Chief McDonald. Open for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, nominations were closed. Slate of Officers:

President – Mitch Sagers

Vice President – Ryan Baskett

Treasurer – Bob Vellias

Trustee 1 – Guy Allen

Trustee 2 – Eric Watson

Trustee 3 – Ed Goodlet

Immediate Past President – Keith Wright

It was moved by Chief Christianson and seconded by Chief Burgess to accept the slate of officers as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **UASI Committee**

Pat McElligott reported Roger Edington is in Canada. No report.

1. **Emergency Management Committee**

Guy Allen stated he had no report.

1. **Impact/Mitigation Fee Committee**

Bob Vellias reported there were 2 committee hearings over the summer and amendments presented died in committee. Last Tuesday County Council meeting attended to express the need to have the amendments added. Problem if amendment Gig Harbor sent in doesn’t go through, will lose 2 years as it is only reviewed every 2 years. Will be attending future meetings with PALS to attempt to get the amendments in through them. Please get CFPs done by the end of the year. Review will happen next summer and approved Fall of 2015, if not able to get amendments added will have to wait 2 years to get Impact fees. Will get representative at the PALS meeting. Warner Webb – planning commission mandated to do a SEPA, convince Joe to put a letter to the Council in regarding what items were docketed and shouldn’t have been docketed. Every change to the comp plan from here on out should have a SEPA on it and should be able to comment on it, etc. He will help out as much as he can. Bob Vellias stated if anyone has any connections with anyone who sits on the County Council, encourage to touch base with them on this subject. Chief Burgess commented first off, there was support of one of County Council members, secondly, District 5 is moving forward with SEPA process. Going full throttle on this and hope won’t be the only ones.

1. **CISM COMMITTEE**

Chief Caldier reported they had their first meeting on Tuesday. Looked at prior documents and no need to reinvent the wheel. Focusing on updating, refreshing and modernizing the program. For example, social media wasn’t around like it is now. Frank Washburn has graciously offered to support this program. There is some new stuff that is out there and we don’t want to force this program on any agency. CPFR uses SFA as their first step, Tacoma has SMART program they use. This is meant to supplement what agencies already have in place. Don’t have a lot of experience with CISM, picked some facilitator for the program – Chief McIntyre from CPFR and Chris Galbraith with Tacoma Fire. A lot of experience with. SMART program that Tacoma has – Chris Galbraith reported it uses CISM model developed specifically for Fire Service. Has worked really well, have improved it over the years. Have seen in 15 years part of team, participated in numerous debriefings. Training to recognize when need additional help. Need to make sure what we’re doing is the right team for our people. Looked at several different programs and came up with what were already doing, worked best for them. One of big things did was publicize the team in the department to educate what they do, etc. Chief Caldier reported the next steps is to go through old policies and contacting agencies to see who is interested. Also, funding issues to be addressed as well.

**DIVISION REPORTS - Overview:**

1. **EMS**

Judy Murphy reported last month talked about some of issues facing with mental health. Updated, facing higher call volumes and lower resources. December 26th is deadline for ED boarding to no longer take place in this state. Group met with Dr. Waffle to discuss this issue. We go on hundreds of voluntary, involuntary commits, etc. Truly the ED is not the best place for them. No risk of harming themselves or others, not really a medical issue, etc. Asked what can we do? It’s a different world from 2002 with regards to mental health, resources have changed. Short, medium and long term goals looked at and how can we better manage this population. Mental health and law enforcement issue, not EMS and hospital. Much like position taken in 2004 with divert where it was a hospital issue. Take a very hard stand on this, unless mental health patient that is uninjured or no medical component to it, we are not going to take them. We don’t have the resources to do this anymore. First meeting is November 4th, regular divert meeting and inviting mental health people to. Dr. Waffle put it to take back to our bosses to say if we make this big of a stand, EMS in PC not going to transport mental health patients if there is no medical or traumatic component, are we ready for possible backlash on this? Don’t know if it will look exactly like that or not. Will report back at November meeting.

Tremendous amount on the news on Ebola – CDC specific for EMS providers. Texas case, patient went to doctor’s office and didn’t recognize and then called 911 several days later. Keep in mind it is not airborne, waterborne or food borne – it is blood borne. It is not easy to catch. Symptoms are flu-like, raised red rash with a fever. Comes from direct contact. If people have these symptoms, question has to be asked if recently been to South Africa.

D68 is another one 48 states now, respiratory, seeing paralysis in Colorado and 5 other states now in children. Don’t know what causing. Biggest thing – virus, wash your hands. October, get your flu shots.

Bob Vellias question on mental health, will we and law enforcement be meeting and coming up with a script or something. Have to work it out at the street level. If sheriff agencies not on board, in the end, will be prompted to say what needs to be said to get the transport. Todd Jensen stated Law Enforcement is invited to the meeting on the 4th as well. Vice President Sagers suggested Joe Quinn be involved on our part as well.

**16 A. Metro Training**

No representative present.

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

No representative present.

**16 C. Training – TEW Equipment**

Vice President Sagers reported he has received requests from Districts 16, 21, 5, 6, PCHIT and PCSORT. Deadline to get to the County is the 10th. Contact today if you have any questions, etc.

1. **Fire and Life Safety**

Eric Waters met last week, been talking about new radio system and how that will impact us relative to in building radio communications. Digital audio quality, fire code address signal strength – are very different. Research done as a group, decided not making any recommendations to any changes to fire code. What that means to us good probability going to get some push back from building owners. Here on the peninsula, signal strengths are not anywhere close to what the fire code states. Making sure SS911, etc. are aware of where those weak signals are. Ed Hrivnak, at CPFR, audio quality in building was adequate, but the signal strength was low and building owner was faced with a $30,000 bill to address.

Private gate inspections, right now model if go out on behalf of PC Planning and Land Services and check gate function, you are then to send a bill to PALS for those services.

Many went on 9/18 to Vancouver, sprinkler summit – theme was getting connected. All that went, did its job. Water purveyors, building, fire service. Key note by CA State Fire Marshal. Need to spend time with water purveyors to change industry standard for residential sprinklers. PC going to reach out to PC Water Purveyor group to start developing that relationship.

Many experiencing tight budgets, losses in safety prevention programs – child passenger safety technicians – to help meet that need, grant program available, information has been sent out. If considering, don’t have resources to train up a technician, please contact for more information on this.

Talked about efforts to take to address butane sales for production and refinement of hash oil. CPFR working down the legislative path. Unregulated industry and significant hazard. Going to continue to work on. Training powerpoint West Pierce offered, linked to last meeting minutes. Encourage having operational folks watch.

Vice President Sagers stated regarding gate inspection – is there a model invoice template? Warner Webb stated CPFR sent a bill, sent it to PALS and they paid it. Form needed for inspection, not billing information though. If do an inspection, send the bill to Warner and he will get it to PALS to get it paid. Ed Hrivnak – contractor calls us, we go out, they have permit from the County, we sign it’s been done and complete and the County is billing $380.00 per gate. Invoicing back to PALS $80.00 per inspection. Have our finance folks list permit number so PALS can track and reimburse us. Chris Grant asked how came up with $80.00? Ed Hrivnak stated CPFR set a standard rate based on their DFM rate. Chris Grant asked would the Chiefs rate be appropriate for that? Warner – not sure at this time. Rate hasn’t really been set at this time yet. Working on making it uniform. Ed Hrivnak stated CPFR has a fee for service rate approved by their Board of Commissioners. Eric Waters stated the committee had reviewed, discussed and agreed on the flat standard rate of $80.00.

1. **Logistics**

Eric Watson stated Brian Caldier had to leave for a bond meeting and asked him to report the Logistics Chiefs are continuing to share information.

1. **Operations**

Steve Nixon stated they have not had a meeting yet.

1. **Volunteer Services**

No representative present.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

1. **South Sound 911**

Andrew Neiditz reported brief update on transitional efforts. Gearing up for some significant transitional changes with 2015 budget. Have a fire division budget that accounts for Fire Comm and Tacoma Fire dispatch and includes a director position that is yet to be filled. What means for 2015 – county regional wide complete. All 5 PSAPs – no longer a gap in County – 41 agencies served. Partnerships in place, gearing up so can directly impact here, having contracts that 13 user agencies of WPFR Fire Comm, essentially assigned to SS911. No change in service in terms of personnel or location, etc. Only difference will pay bill to SS911 who will in turn be paying WPFR. CPFR transitioning between the two. 3 fire entities who are served by Fife – Buckley, Crystal Mountain and Greenwater. Talks about transitioning them to Fire Comm. Discussions to follow. Organizationally integrating working through issues to unify the communications operations of WPFR Fire Comm and Tacoma Fire Dispatch. A lot of transitional steps ahead. In negotiations for facility site. CAD work is going on now. Radio front – very pleased cutover of 700 system and 800 system being scheduled and radios are being delivered. Still a goal of a single system, not implemented until after 700 and 800 projects. Another immediate part of radio project – going to have to pay maintenance fees, airtime, etc. Concern about costs. SS911 not a radio system owner, we have no authority to dictate what the charge will be. Are taking assertive stand or position to coordinate an approach that ought to be consistent.

1. **Department of Emergency Management**

Warner Webb introduced new Deputy Director, Scott Heinze. Gave brief background. Been at PCDEM since December, came in as a special advisor. Excited to be here, all about collaboration.

1. **Pierce County EMS**

No representative present.

1. **Fire Marshal**

Warner Webb reported beginning of this week hired on last DFM, fully staffed now. Missed life safety meeting 2 weeks ago. Anybody who has re-rating come up, let know, can get data from to help get through the rating.

1. **State Chiefs**

Vice President Sagers reported President Wright was unable to attend today’s meeting, however, he provided an update – working on legislative issues top 5 – all risk mobilization, raise EMS cap to $0.75, Regional Fire Authority work, vehicle weight limits, and funding for state academy tower/drillground. .

1. **Puget Sound Clean Air Agency**

No representative.

1. **PC Fire Commissioners Association**

Dan Rankin reported Russ McCallion was their speaker presentation on EMS issues. No October meeting as they will be at the State Conference.

Early registration extended for Community Paramedicine conference in November.

1. **Department of Natural Resources**

No representative present.

1. **Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy**

Frank Washburn reported they have taken the lead on CISM training and Chief Caldier will be handling communications, facilitator, Chris Galbraith, Andy McAfee, Chaplaincy part of mental health component. At a great path headed down the road.

MOU policy and procedure audit in Chaplaincy – make sure have updated MOUs. 3 ACLU challenges over the years. Have won them all.

Thank you for supporting their banquet tonight. Great speaker, former Miss American during 9-11. Still have a few seats available.

1. **Good of the Order**

Judy FYI state auditor financial audit – focused on controlled substance. First fire district in state for their accountability audit. 25-30 hours into.

Pat Donovan – fire service GIS users group – if interested in participating, first meeting at CPFR Station 60 on October 27th at 0900. Will send out an email through Denise.

Lloyd Christianson introduced BC Sumerlin, Training, this is his first meeting.

Jim Sharp – distributed copy of quick information – 2012 Federal government funded FirstNet – nation-wide broadband – entails designing plan for each State, etc. For us in WA state, presenting to Governor. WA One Net to manage. Starting to go out and meet with the State and have stakeholder meetings, etc. First stakeholder meeting in WA state = October 16th all day session for public leaders, anyone that has stake in FirstNet. If would like to attend and be a part of, this is the place to voice concerns, issues. Free. Google WA One Net will get you to links for registration. Will also send something out through Denise. Pat McElligott knows nothing about. Who is Office of Information Officer? Jim Sharp stated it is through the Governor. Been in existence for some time.

Guy Allen announcement Bob Hudspeth called and is no longer the Fire Chief of Eatonville so his Zone 6 coordinator is now vacant. Bob Vellias stated he is the interim chief contractually through the end of the year. Has tickets for TPCC banquet tonight.

1. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 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