**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**Business Meeting Minutes**

**February 5, 2015**

1. **Call to Order**

President Sagers called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at Graham Fire & Rescue located at 23014 70th Avenue East, Graham, WA. The following were present:

Alan Predmore, Buckley FD Eric Skogen, Buckley FD

Jeff Jensen, Tacoma FD Jim Sharp, WPFR

Paul Tinsley, WPFR Eric Norton, WPFR

Dan Rankin, WPFR Steve Nixon, Gig Harbor FMO

Eric Waters, Gig Harbor Keith Wright, CPFR

Baron Banks, CPFR Brian Caldier, CPFR

Judy Murphy, CPFR Cliff McCollum, Browns/Dash Point

Guy Allen, Key Peninsula Bob Vellias, SPFR

Chris Grant, SPFR Zane Gibson, Orting Valley FR

Ryan Baskett, GFR Todd Jensen, GFR

Steve Richards, GFR Jerry Thorson, EPFR

Russ McCallion, EPFR Ed Goodlet, EPFR

Garry Olson, Elbe Jay Wiggins, Anderson Island

Joe Quinn, Attorney Denise Menge, Recorder

1. **Flag Salute**

Chief Baskett led the flag salute and welcomed everyone to Graham Fire & Rescue.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved and seconded to approve the January 8, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Bob Vellias presented the Treasurer’s Report for January (copy attached). Beginning balance was $5,464.76, revenues of $1.45, expenses of $0.00 for an Ending balance of $5,466.21. EMS Account had a beginning balance of $5,330.71, revenues of $500.00, no expenses and an ending balance of $5,830.71 for a Grand Total Balance of $11.296.92. It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED. Reminder Dues Invoice have been sent out, they are also available on the website.

1. **Correspondence**

None at this time.

President Sagers stated he needs to change the Agenda slightly.

**Unfinished Business**

1. **Mutual Aid Agreements** – Guy Allen reported there was some concern with smaller agencies being charged for services. The need for having individual mutual aid agreements with neighboring agencies. The other concern is several Districts that currently are not signers. What if a District chooses not to sign? Does that then cause them grief with the State Auditor if they were to give and/or receive mutual aid? If all sign this one, is it necessary to have independent signed agreements? Attorney Quinn stated he has a list for those that are currently on file. He has the originals on file from 1992 or 1993 and not everyone signed at that time. Theoretically RCW 43.09.210 – interlocal agreement, auditor one of findings was couldn’t tell if near equal – if it is reciprocal and equal? Since then, told clients to try to be mutual and reciprocal. No agreement, inequality could be a finding if caught. If grossly unequal, even if there is an agreement in place, it is a problem. Want to have the ability to say no, even if there is a signed mutual aid agreement county-wide. Put in language to allow saying no. The other concern was money, Section 5 added for compensation. Mutual Aid generally there is no money exchanged, substantially equal, etc. However, if compensation is needed wording was added to do with natural disasters, declaration, etc. See draft Mutual Aid Agreement. Jim Sharp commented that it may need to be even broader provisions for those that come in and assist so that they can get reimbursed from the Federal Government, to capture responses to Federal Lands. Discussion followed. 1993/1994 agreement, amended once for military language added, but not all signed the amendment. Has a list of signers. Ryan Baskett also stated concerns with unincorporated lands. If not all signers on this and respond outside of jurisdiction and don’t have an individual mutual aid agreement, would there be issues with insurance if someone got hurt? Attorney Quinn stated he’s not sure there would be if there are interlocal agreements in place. Before sending people outside of District, make sure you are covered to do so. More worried about liability exposure and workers comp than insurance. Is it necessary to have independent agreements with neighboring districts? Attorney Quinn stated that is the point of the County-wide agreement. Would still want to have individual agreements with neighboring jurisdictions if across borders, county-lines, etc. Guy Allen and Attorney Quinn will work on updating the Mutual Aid Agreement and redistribute for review.

Municipal roundtable, Attorney Quinn stated he and his son held one and the topic was light duty. Idea was to get Chiefs together as well as Commissioners once a quarter to have discussion. Survey done afterwards and have 6 more ideas or issues to discuss – policy on marijuana now that it’s legal, etc. Concept of having right after PC Chiefs meeting? Or he would like to keep it at the same location – WPFR Station 2-1 located at 5000 Steilacoom Blvd SW, Lakewood. Disability leave supplement on workers comp, etc. Any feedback, let Attorney Quinn know.

1. **Guest Speaker –**

Vice President Ryan Baskett introduced and welcomed Gary Bracket who will be giving a Tacoma Pierce County Economic Overview. See attached powerpoint presentation. Gary Bracket stated he is not an economist but he has worked with economists on forecasts. He writes the executive summary for the report. Chamber of Commerce has for 27 years presented an economic forecast for Pierce County. UPS Professors created the forecast model and PLU professors have taken that and added to it. Entire forecast was taped on PC TV. There is also a national forecast. Previous years, program has been used throughout the year. Income drives the economic index. Relatively flat economy, some growth. Not unlike what it’s been the last two years. Trendline: 2.7% growth. National Trendline is 2.45% growth. $63,000 average income in PC, Snohomish County similar to King County, higher population growth and per capita income is about $47,000. King and Thurston is very similar per capita income. PC Real Personal Income growth is flat growth. Per capita income decline. Employment growth has been good recently. Industries growing are healthcare, education and transportation. Not growing government, manufacturing, construction. Military not counted in employment statistics. If to count military unemployment rate would go down about 2%. Labor force participation rate – eligible to work 16-65 or 66 – been declining. Greatest decline in 16-24 y/o. Lost in labor force 19,000 workers over last 4 years. Housing indices – housing affordability and housing activity. Percent of homes with negative equity 2011 and 2014. Taxable Retail Sales – Jim Sharp stated it is important to be aware of with regards to SouthSound 911 that is tax based. Abbreviated presentation, full presentation is on municipal TV networks - PC TV and Tacoma TV. The 16 page written report is available on the chamber website.

1. **Unfinished Business**
2. Mutual Aid Agreements – Discussed earlier.
3. **New Business**

Nothing at this time.

President Sagers reported Chief Wright has been the Regional Coord Council Representative, President Sagers is taking that over and need an alternate. Meets about 8 times a year at PCDEM for about 1 ½ hours. Chris Grant volunteered to be the alternate.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS - Detailed:**

1. **Audit Committee**

Steve Nixon reported they met the end of last month. Recognized that Chief Baskett had everything in order and organized had no findings or recommendations.

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

No report.

1. **Emergency Management Committee**

Guy Allen reported a lot like last year for forecasting. The Fire Defense Board meeting and there is a shortage of resources in PC. More challenging to get a strike team on the road. It will be addressed when it happens.

1. **Impact/Mitigation Fee Committee**

Bob Vellias stated he has no report.

1. **CISM Committee**

No representative present.

**DIVISION REPORTS - Detailed:**

1. **EMS**

Russ McCallion reported the torch has been passed to himself and Todd Jensen from Judy. Continuing to work with Dr. Waffle on mental health transports to see if a united front to Law Enforcement to have them more involved with transporting psych patients if there is no medical component. Judy stated if agencies haven’t sent any specifics in to Dr. Waffle, to please do so. Senate Bill 5591 strongly supported. Hearing on Tuesday went quite well. State wide ad hoc community paramedic meeting next week on February 11th. Only issue with bill so far is bill specifically limits participation to fire districts. Protocols going back to County. Continue to work on case management with Franciscan group. Serves patient and community well. Other issues county-wide – the Boundtree agreement rolled over another year. Net 10-15% savings across the agencies. West Region EMS conference is February 20-22 at Ocean Shores. Friday, February 20th afternoon meeting will be on roll out of WEMSIS 3. Statewide key performance indicators definitions to be used for quality based reimbursement. EMS Division of PCFCA met and have sent 2 letters to SS911 asking for review of in house dedicated nurse triage program for low acuity calls. Received response back that they will put it on their docket to look at.

Judy Murphy reported on Divert – hospitals have seen highest patient census. Divert is up. Good Sam – EMS intake for lower acuity patients has been tremendous success with. Other hospitals are looking at possibly doing. Mental Health is big problem in county – 3 agencies sent in certificate of needs to State. Allenmore campus site for Franciscan and Multicare. Looking at moving forward with crisis beds. Working with group at Health Department on big scale MCI. All Hospitals have agreed to pre-designate 7 beds at variety of levels. Also looking at urgent care centers taking some green patients. Hoping to get rolling before the 3rd week in June. Redoing the MCI plan. Todd is taking over Divert representation.

**16 A. Metro Training**

No representative present.

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

No representative present.

**16 C. Training – TEW Equipment**

Mitch reported agencies should be contacted for awarded equipment. With taking over regional county position, Tony Judd will be taking over TEW Equipment.

1. **Fire and Life Safety**

Eric Waters no report. Next quarterly meeting March 25th at DEM.

1. **Logistics**

Steve Richards reported they met last month and talked about agency updates to make sure to get specs and RFPs on Logistics website. If need access, please contact and let know. Graham is purchasing SCBAs.

1. **Operations**

Ed Goodlet stated he has nothing new to report. Tactical Operations Manual has been posted on the website. Hasn’t heard anything back. Need to adopt that at some point.

1. **Volunteer Services**

Erik Skogen reported still a need to have this group represented. Struggle they have is getting everyone to participate. Going to try something new prior to next meeting and do a web based meeting. Will contact Denise to get an email out there to schedule meeting, etc.

1. **Good of the Order**

Mitch asked if Doug Walker is the correct contact person for Metro Training and Tom Mason for TEW Training/Exercise. Encourage them to attend to give updates.

Keith Wright reminded everyone of legislative day next week. State Chiefs website has documents to help with what to talk to legislators about. Email blast today from State Chiefs for GEMT regarding Medicaid reimbursements. It’s a Federal program and an entitled program. Great incentive to our State. Would bring in a minimum of $20 million to our State. Great traction. New revenue without impact to our taxpayers. Good opportunity. President Sagers stated he was at a meeting on that and sounds like the State seems to be anxious to get this through. It takes about a year afterwards to get implemented. Keith stated it is retro to when the governor signs. Does support private ambulance companies as well if have contract with them. President Sagers stated there is also potential reimbursement for prehospital stabilization as well.

Steve Nixon shared with everyone recent situation organization experienced – Sunday 25th one of their members suffered a sudden cardiac arrest at drill. Significant event for organization. No deficits. Still some hurdles to clear. In hospital almost one week. Thanks WPFR, Tacoma and for support.

President Sagers stated many may have read or heard there is another member among us to be retiring, Jerry Thorson, April 30th.

1. **Adjournment**

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

Submitted by:

Denise Menge

Recording Secretary

**2015 Meeting Schedule:**

Jan. 8, 2015 (1st is a Holiday) – General – Tacoma FD – 2124 Marshall Ave.

Feb. 5, 2015 – Business - Graham Fire & Rescue – 23014 70th Ave E

**March 5, 2015 – General –Buckley Fire Department – 611 So. Division**

April 2, 2015 – Business – Browns Point / Dash Point –

May 7, 2015 – General – Orting Valley Fire & Rescue – 401 Washington Ave SE

June 4, 2015 – Business – East Pierce Fire & Rescue -

July 2, 2015 – NO MEETING

Aug. 6, 2015 – NO MEETING

Sept. 3, 2015 – Business - CPFR hosting @ Puyallup Library 324 So Meridian

Oct. 1, 2015 – General – Gig Harbor – 10222 Bujacich Rd NW

Nov. 5, 2015 – Business – WPFR -

Dec. 3, 2015 – NO MEETING – ANNUAL BANQUET