**Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association**

**General Meeting Minutes**

**May 7, 2015**

1. **Call to Order**

President Sagers called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs’ Association meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at Orting Valley Fire & Rescue located at 401 Washington Ave SE, Orting, WA. See attached sign in sheet for those in attendance.

1. **Flag Salute**

Lt. Ryan Pickering led the flag salute and welcomed everyone to Orting on behalf of Chief Gibson who is in Maryland for a grant writing class. A video was made for their end of year banquet and it has gone viral and all over the news.

1. **Approval of Minutes**

It was moved by Chief McCollum and seconded by Chief Burgess to approve the April 2, 2015 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Treasurer Bob Vellias reported the beginning balance of $11,110.39, revenues of $0.14 interest, expenses of $0.00 for an ending balance of $11,110.53, EMS total is $6,080.71. The grand total account balance is $17,191.24. It was moved and seconded to approve the Treasurer’s Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED. Membership dues update, there are only 3 outside agencies that have not paid dues yet.

1. **Correspondence**

President Sagers received a request from an EMT who is searching for a home to offer volunteer EMS services only, no fire service. If you know of any agency in Pierce County that has only EMT volunteers – McCollum and Gig Harbor both have programs. Mitch will forward the contact information to them to follow up on.

1. **Unfinished Business**
2. **Mutual Aid Agreements** – President Sagers stated the draft Mutual Aid Agreement has been sent out via email for everyone to review. Chief McCollum shared some thoughts on the subject of the proposed County Mutual Aid agreement (see attached copy of Memo he distributed and read). Hoping we take another look at this before voting on. Chief Allen stated he got started on this after the Oso event. Concerns they were faced with issues regarding requesting compensation being denied since they had mutual aid agreements in place, etc. Valid concerns regarding trying to meet everyone’s needs. It was never the intent to set up a smaller agency to be billed by a larger agency. What was shared today is completely valid and supportive of delaying it another month to give this consideration. Chief Predmore stated he agrees with Chief McCollum. In opening talking about – nothing references RCW and doesn’t address private fire departments i.e. Boeing. Section 1 request for assistance – talks about emergency situation and doesn’t define such as unfortunate events and ask other agencies to cover. Command and responsibility – IMT with delegation of authority and overhead team – defer to Joe on accepting transfer of command to overhead team or delegation of authority. Finally, eligible reimbursements on presidentially declared disasters – not sure if there is a way around this or not – CFR is pretty clear on mutual aid agreement in place and operating under mutual aid – may have to think of a different way to handle those type of incidents. Something to talk about in addition to mutual aid agreement. Chief Allen stated there should be a way for period of time mutual aid is applicable – i.e. one operational period such as 12 hours, that’s mutual aid, beyond that would no longer be mutual aid, extended response. President Sagers stated this will be taken back to Attorney Quinn, we want to get it done right the first time.
3. **New Business**
4. **Veteran On-Boarding Process – Larry Saunders -** President Sagers introduced retired Police Chief with JDI Solutions, law enforcement and security consultation business. Passion for finding veterans and has determined a number of veterans with preference for fire departments, etc. He is committed to working with them. Invited Larry to come and share about his passion and willingness to work with other jurisdictions, etc. Larry Saunders thanked President Sagers for the opportunity – building plane as flying it – has several candidates for police and fire as well. Building with police a workshop on JBLM for anyone interested in public safety. They’ll come to workshop, give a mock board, test and PT test and then start a coaching and vetting process. Ride with state patrol, county and Tacoma, middle size cities and small cities before begin application process. Hoping it will be successful. Would like to do the same thing for fire. Business cards left for contact. If you would like to help, please put your department contact information down on handout passed around. Already has two candidates that want to get in to the fire service. Thanked for the time and support and looks forward to working with you.
5. **Agricultural Resource Land Rezoning – Bob Vellias** distributed a handout. This zoning change affects more districts than you can imagine. Lands are going to be affected by this – even Tacoma has land involved. County is attempting through comprehensive plan – dropping agricultural lands from producing to non-producing. 35% of South Pierce and 36% Graham’s land is affected. Permanent and no choice of land/property owner. Even farmers disagree with it because it limits what they can do on their property. Attended a meeting. Unanimous not moving forward with plan as originally submitted. Realization that once the County puts it in it stays that way. Has some damaging effects. School districts are against it as well. Planning commissioner voted it down and now going through SEPA process. If your department has lands in this, please send an opposition letter. Will send link to Denise to send out. The more that send letters, the better as it will be going before the County Council for a vote. Talked to Jim McCune to discuss this further. Capital Facilities Plans – Bethel School District for example – would not be able to build schools on the lands they own. If they have a CFP in place, it would protect those lands. Learned at that meeting that if we don’t have a CFP in place we would be limited. President Sagers thanked Bob Vellias and Ryan Baskett for staying abreast of this issue. Bob stated the Superintendent of Bethel has done a lot of leg work on this. Mitch distribute some talking points to Chiefs. Sharp – do we need any kind of motion to send a letter? Mitch stated a letter has already been done by the Executive Board – went to McCarthy, County Council representatives. Individual contacts with County Council people would be greatly appreciated. Ryan stated he has contacted Attorney Quinn and he is involved with this as well.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS - Overview:**

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

President Sagers reported on the banquet survey that was sent out – 50 responses have been received so far. One more call in a month and then he will tally the results and get to the Committee.

1. **Nominations Committee - DORMANT**
2. **UASI Committee**

No representative present.

1. **Emergency Management Committee**

Guy Allen reported pre wildfire season meeting /training is tentatively scheduled for June 10th at station 18. Include someone from NOAA weather for forecasting. Update for resource plan is still in motion.

1. **Impact/Mitigation Fee Committee**

Bob Vellias reported earlier in the meeting.

1. **CISM COMMITTEE**

President Sagers stated that someone is needed to replace McIntyre who has stepped down.

**DIVISION REPORTS - Overview:**

President Sagers had to leave early, Vice President Baskett took over running the meeting.

1. **EMS**

Russ McCallion reported they meet the last Wednesday of even months at Station 2-0. Mental health patients from law enforcement – addressing provider and patient safety. First meeting 14 or more LE officials in attendance – main take is that they don’t have enough resources, etc. Dr. Waffle has stated that all behavioral health emergencies are medical patients. No forward traction at this time, working positively to stay focused on provider safety. A lot of work to do. Important to have Fire Service representation. Dan Beckman commented that the end goal is for PC EMS is to come out with a document that supersedes the memo that come out in 2003 with clarifying language. Russ McCallion reported the MCI Plan is being updated and tying into WATrack. Met with Boundtree representative. They have committed to review usage and improve complete orders being shipped. Continuing to struggle with access to hospitals. Thought trying to change existing contract with MultiCare to get personnel into ORs, etc. Problem is coordinator at MutliCare states to ignore language. We have a tough time signing a contract that has that language in it, however, don’t have any other option. Todd Jensen stated PC EMS is not supporting us in this issue. Starting to cost us some money now with regards to certifications. Community paramedic legislation did pass – great opportunity in this state – need to move forward cautiously and safely. Concerned state-wide a lot of peers hanging shingle out doing community paramedicine without doing the research needed. Working with Physician Network – state-wide work group on how to operationalize and do it the right way. White paper out in the fall on implementation.

**16 A. Metro Training**

Tom Mason reported went through MCO training at JBLM – went great. Huge 3 story dorm building tearing down used for training. Morning and afternoon session. Also talking about Officer Development Academy – working with King County ODA to set up a meeting on May 28th to meet and discuss. Other thing working on as a group is working with Ops Division on the Tac Ops manual updates.

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

Tom Mason reported they met on April 9th. Flyer on PC Response to Violence seminar – 3 sessions being held with the first one on May 28th at DuPont. Other exercise doing – Response to Violence workshop with hands on skills. Not a set date on it yet. Will send out once have more information. Medical Examiner Officer has been approved to do a mass casualty exercise. Select group and not open to everybody. Dr. Clark working with the County EMS office and Emergency Management.

**16 C. Training – TEW Equipment**

Ryan Baskett stated this is dormant until the fall.

1. **Fire and Life Safety**

Ed Hrivnak reported last meeting minor changes to gate testing reimbursement. Make sure have permit number and invoicing PALS. Radio testing have language into Warner and PALS for standards. New high efficiency buildings are really hard to pass on the standard, primarily due to the coating on windows. Eric Waters is working with water companies on standards across the board. Met with Warner yesterday to dive in independent living facilities and assisted living – nothing in there for fall prevention. 92 hospitalizations for fires and almost 3000 for falls. Meeting with architects who design buildings. Number one rise in calls due to aging population. Nanette Tatum stepping down from running the Sheriff’s report – conned Ed into taking over. Focus on reducing non-urgent 911 calls. If you have any topics for departments, let know.

1. **Logistics**

Steve Richards reported there was no meeting last month. Getting together soon.

1. **Operations**

Steve Nixon reported they are still working on Tac Ops manual updates.

1. **Volunteer Services**

Eric Skogen reported they didn’t meet last month either. Waiting on more information on prices for web design and working with the E-Board. Online meetings – up to 7 agencies represented. Goals working on mass volunteer recruitment drive with website including map of district, etc. hoping to have a proposal together for May 19th E board meeting. Looking at consolidating background checks – regulated by federal trade commissioner and EEOC – regarding what can be shared with multiple agencies, etc.

**OUTSIDE AGENCY REPORTS**

1. **South Sound 911**

Andrew Neiditz reported updated on SS911 fire operations planning process co-chaired with Norton and Paculas (Tacoma) going well on co-location of dispatch. Assignment of all Fire Comm agreements have taken place. Change should be seamless. Significant transition changes – CPFR from Tacoma to Fire Comm. Working with Predmore – Fife Branch to Steilacoom Branch, planning for that to be seamless and positive transition. Radios – continuing to see the roll out of 700 system radios and improvements and upgrade to 800. SS911 not a system owner, not in control of system charges, maintenance charges, warranty work, etc. Coverage issues being addressed. Working hand in hand with system owners. Facilities planning – preferred site – over next 24 months roll out – 2100 block of South Mildred in city of Fircrest. Not a done deal yet – some soil issues being reviewed. Conferencing next week on mitigating steps to move forward on that site. PC is playing financing role. In midst of public workshops or community meetings – 3 in the last couple of weeks. Several more in the coming weeks. Meetings are going well. Upcoming dates May 11th Bonney Lake, 13th Fircrest 14th Graham, 20th, 26th and 3rd. Appreciate support and participation. Ryan echoed that as well as getting information out for the meetings to get community involved in so they understand what is going on.

1. **Department of Emergency Management**

Lowell Porter not present.

1. **Pierce County EMS**

Norma Pancake not present.

1. **Fire Marshal**

Warner Webb not present.

1. **State Chiefs**

Keith Wright reported conference is a week and half away in Tri Cities. Running for Vice President again. Legislatively successes – community paramedicine, all risk mob, bill passed for vehicle weight limits and length, bi-annual budgets, GEMT – governor signed last week or so. Next steps on GEMT is working with consultants to work on state plan amendment. Russ McCallion – looking at 12 months or so on GEMT? Keith - $ in January of 2017 along with retroactive.

1. **Puget Sound Clean Air Agency**

Jessica Landkrohn not present.

1. **PC Fire Commissioners Association**

Dan Rankin reported the County Auditor gave a presentation at their last meeting. Very well put together presentation. Next meeting in Orting, here on 28th, 4th Thursday of month – Andrew and Ken giving presentation.

1. **Department of Natural Resources**

Sean Kibbe not present.

1. **Tacoma-Pierce County Chaplaincy**

Frank Washburn reported high profile accident in EPFR area with youth pastors that were killed. 5 chaplains came together to assist. Out of that implemented for first time where Chaplains ran debriefing, etc. Went really well. Good model moving forward. Thank you to CPFR for senior chaplain that needed a leave of absence. During that time some new faces involved. In the future, more of a team approach so we don’t lose our chaplains. Trying some new things. Learning as we move forward. Thank you for allowing to be a part of. Academy – only approved police and fire chaplain academy in the country – only 30 at a time. Coming up May 17th – 54 hours of training.

1. **Good of the Order**

SS911 some leadership changes – Jim Sharp now Chair, Operations

Keith Wright – last fall passed out Vials of Life – has a box remaining, if anyone wants, please take. Judy Murphy is retiring at the end of the month. Want to recognize her for her years of service and all of her work in Pierce County. AC Beckman is her replacement. McIntyre chose to step down and Woody Juarez is the new AC of Training.

On behalf of PCFCA, Judy, you will be missed. You have done amazing things for Pierce County.

Jim Sharp – renewal of agreement and DSHS changed - $150,000.00 loss in contract for service. Problem in RCWs there are different rules regarding Fire District or municipal, etc. Only recourse was to say no and not go and that’s not viable for at risk population at Western State Hospital. Since then, recently some RCW changes that now language is interpreted, up to assessor, no longer have to go out and do assessment – had some kind of factor to figure out what taxes should be. What this means, adds to the problem, poor language on how to come up with with a contract dollar figure, now potential to not even have AV information to use. Concern is language in RCWs is written so poorly, no latitude or recourse. Would like to propose this group ask the State Chiefs to pursue as a legislative issue to address next year. At minimum to mirror language for fire districts, etc. Keith stated if something is put together, he can take it to the Legislative Committee. Discussion followed. Jim Sharp will put together a list of issues associated with this and Alan Predmore as well, so something to work off of and E Board to put together a letter to the State Chiefs.

1. **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:37 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 – 18421 Veterans Memorial Dr.**

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