



PIERCE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION



Established 1985

January 5, 2023 Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order

President Jim Sharp called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom and in person at South Sound 911 located at 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma. According to the Zoom attendee list (3) and sign in sheet (8), there were a total of 11 people in attendance. President Sharp welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending. Thanked South Sound for hosting the meeting.

2. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Chief Morrow and seconded by Chief Swinhart to approve the November 3, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Treasurer's Report – Denise Ross

See Treasurer's Report on the backside of the Agenda. Chief Parkinson moved and Chief Morrow seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Correspondence

Nothing at this time.

5. Guest Speakers – None

6. Executive Board Report

President Sharp stated the intent with the new format is just Fire Chief's in attendance. Can have speakers, but not necessary every meeting. More specific topics, etc. If someone would like to speak to the Association have them contact Vice President Zane Gibson.

7. Unfinished Business

N/A

8. New Business

A. Work Priorities 2023

President Sharp what does it mean to work in this new environment, how to delegate work, what do we want to get done, etc. Intent is to be more thoughtful on work we want to do, prioritize and determine how to manage.

Chief Doan – unintended consequences have with new structure of meetings and how to message that. President Sharp stated did receive some push back with format change. Has responded back explaining the new format and goals, not being exclusive. Want to be more intentional and focused. Chief Doan concerns from Commissioner Sutich feeling of no longer partnering, drifting apart, etc. A way

to not let that happen? Meet jointly quarterly? Discussion followed. President Sharp stated would be willing to attend their meetings quarterly to give updates and keep that line of communication open, etc. Chief Morrow stated likes the idea of staying connected with the Commissioners, doesn't necessarily need to be his burden only. Open to have a joint meeting twice a year. If collective issue to work together on, then would be appropriate. President Sharp to attend their meeting to explain the changes in the structure of this Association, etc.

Calendar invite to this meeting still set up to whole group. Will have Tammy delete the current calendar invite and Denise to set up and send out new calendar invite.

B. Existing Division Work / New Committees

President Sharp stated Ops, Logistics, Fire & Life Safety, Training, EMS, etc. Not expecting to come out of this meeting with everything decided. Work plan evolving and priorities shift. PCSORT, PCHIT not necessarily a Fire Chief Association issue. Need to figure out what's for the Association and what is not. Land on things that effect most and/or or all of us.

President Sharp read off list of topics that were previously suggested:

Ops – PCSORT, PCHIT study and restructure, wildland deployment, SS911 issues, radios replacement of handhelds, data analytics;

Fire and Life Safety – planning and code enforcement. Received email from Ken Rice this week, Emergency Management, EOC stuff, etc. Regional coordinating council – Chief McCurdy. Someone participatory as rep on K-12 group?

Logistics – SCBAs, uniformity of purchasing;

Training – shifted dramatically due to PC Training Consortium;

Volunteer – dis-ban due to so few and they work very close together

EMS – pretty self-sufficient group. Kira stated she's the BLS representative and Russ McCallion is the ALS rep. No clear job description for this. Discussion followed. Understanding and defining of what the work is – Chiefs Association Committee or PC MSO group? Discussion followed. Need to find a replacement for Chief McCallion as he is retiring. Need to figure out and define Chiefs representative for EMS. Chief Green stated need to find right place in structure of finding out changes in EMS, not being involved in the decision making process. Not sure how to do that. Chief Morrow would like for us to insert more formally into EMS, easier, broader way to deploy in an EMS system that is outdated. Find out things that impact us after the fact.

Possible Work Plan Items:

EMS – Discussion followed.

South Sound 911

- OPC – Priority Dispatch and Response Packages

- Priority Dispatch
- AVL
- ICS Training for Dispatchers
- Response Packages
- Call processing standards
- Radio's/Radio System
- County to County connection

Data Analytics

Logistics

Training

Volunteers

DEI/Equity/Inclusion

Legislation

Fire & Life Safety

- Planning
- Code
- Comp Plan
- Impact Fees

Emergency Management

- OHT/IMT-Fire
- Notifications
- Planning – Risk mitigation
- CERT
- EOC
- Reg Coord Council

President Sharp – Executive Board invite EMS to their next meeting to figure out the landscape and guidance regarding MSO group, EMS Council, etc. and then come back to this group with how to engage effectively. Structured that MPD – Clark makes the decisions. He is reasonable, conservative, likes the tried and true processes. Norma is the gatekeeper. PC EMS meets every other month, EMS Council meetings. PC EMS seriously understaffed. Limited understanding of complexity of this.

ACTION: President Sharp to reach out to EMS to meet with Executive Board to get better understanding of issues, concerns to bring back to next meeting.

Comp Plan – Eric Waters retired and Chuck King stepped in, he's retiring in March.

Can't do everything. If everything is a priority, nothing is. Take advantage of structure already in place. Identify what want fixed/done and be uniformed/united. Sharp and Morrow have been attending SS911 meetings. Association come up with priorities to be addressed. Priority Dispatch is coming like it or not and should be in the hopper. Standard of cover work issue is call processing standards.

Priority Dispatch – list of set number of items – hit the bell/tone the call. Get the right resources to the call. Narrow 1000s call types down to 25. AVL downrange. Critical call dispatching, refining call types – can that be done? And response packages built around call types.

AVL – send the closest resource. Replaces station order. Need it, want it, what does it take to get there?

ACTION: Presentation on Priority Dispatch to better understand how it works, etc.

President Sharp – radios/radio system is currently being worked on. Purchasing radios is well on its way. Large governance discussion on single radio system. He and Morrow are involved.

C. Audit Committee

President Sharp stated typically done by the Trustee's. Chief's Morrow and Parkinson to coordinate with Denise to get the audit done.

D. Legislative Report

President Sharp distributed a copy of 2023 Legislative Priorities from the Washington Fire Chiefs (copy attached). Apologized for those on line, will get it emailed out. Their next meeting is February 17, 2023 in Olympia. Encourage everyone to be a part of that. Any local issues that anyone is aware of? Parkinson stated they meet twice a month via zoom.

9. Good of the Order

President Sharp – provide names to Ken Rice for Code Adoption work? Has someone that can put on but don't feel right agency to represent since don't affect them. Chief Morrow to check with AC Berdan.

Regional Coordinating Council (RCC) – someone to represent on K-12 group? Chief McCurdy is willing to do it. Agreed for her to do so.

Chief Doan – FF that passed away, L&I for PTSD – denied death benefit due to time line. Can't find anything in RCW regarding timelines. Working political angles with legislature, etc.

10. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Submitted by:

Denise Ross
Recording Secretary

2023 Meeting Schedule:

Jan 5, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
Feb 2, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
Mar 2, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
Apr 6, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
May 4, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
Jun 1, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
Jul 6, 2023 – NO MEETING
Aug 3, 2023 – NO MEETING
Aug ?, 2023 – Joint Meeting with Police Chiefs - TBD
Sep 7, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
Oct 5, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
Nov 2, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
Dec 7, 2023 – NO MEETING – AWARDS BANQUET



Washington Fire Chiefs

2023 Legislative Priorities

- **EMS & General Health Care System Coordination**
 - Support legislative efforts to address hospital capacity issues and ER wait times
 - Support funding increases for co-responder programs, including a request from the Co-Responder Outreach Alliance for \$2 million to develop crisis intervention training for fire/EMS agencies
 - Seek opportunities for possible increases in state reimbursement rates for both non-transport treat-and-refer incidents and general Medicare/Medicaid services, while continuing to work with the Health Care Authority on changes to the GEMT program through federal CMS policy updates.

- **Wildland Fire Mitigation and Response**
 - Seek to renew authorizing language in the 2023-25 Operating Budget to allow for up to \$500K of the fire service mobilization account to be used for repositioning of resources
 - Evaluate operational limitations in conjunction with DNR and WSFMO in an effort to improve and expedite the process for approval of aerial assets in early wildfire attack
 - Work with stakeholders to identify unprotected lands throughout Washington State, and to identify strategies for ensuring protection for rangelands and other vulnerable land

- **State Fire Marshal's Office**
 - Support efforts to increase funding for the Fire Service Training Account (086) to expand the JATC program and provide needed account stability moving forward
 - Support WSFMO legislative efforts to create rules regarding firefighter 1 training reimbursement to local agencies
 - Engage in discussions to review the scope of the WSFMO and its proper place within the state's executive branch, seeking to protect the interests of both career & volunteer FFs

- **Lithium-Ion Batteries**
 - Elevate conversations regarding the need for awareness and additional training regarding response and suppression of lithium-ion batteries and other evolving energy systems

- **Volunteer Firefighter Incentives**
 - Support legislative efforts to finalize a multi-year effort to increase the volunteer firefighters' pension

- **Washington State Association of Fire Marshals**
 - Support WSAFM efforts to update recently-enacted laws regarding the inspection and testing of fire and smoke control systems and dampers
 - Support WSAFM efforts to strengthen the International Wildland Urban Interface Code