



# PIERCE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION



Established 1985

## Meeting Minutes June 22, 2023

### 1. Call to Order

President Jim Sharp called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. remotely via Zoom and in person at South Sound 911 located at 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma. According to the Zoom attendee list (2) and sign in sheet (10), there were a total of 12 people in attendance. President Sharp welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Chief Gibson and seconded by Chief Parkinson to approve the April 27, 2023; meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

### 3. Treasurer's Report – Denise Ross

See Treasurer's Report on the back side of the agenda. Chief Gibson moved and Chief Parkinson seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

### 4. Correspondence

None

### 5. Guest Speakers – N/A

### 6. Executive Board Report

President Sharp reported met and will cover everything on the agenda.

### 7. Committees and Workgroups

**A. Audit Committee** – Chief Morrow reported the audit is completed. No findings from previous year. Just one recommendation on having a financial threshold for more engagement with board for large purchases. President Sharp stated there was some language added in the By-Laws. Will discuss more at Executive Board to come up with recommendation to bring to this group.

**B. PC Code Revision Workgroup** – No report, haven't started yet. Chief Morrow stated Kevin Berdan let him know that they have a meeting scheduled.

**C. Radio Replacement System** – Sharp and Morrow.

President Sharp reported PSCOC meeting a couple weeks ago. 3 funding requests brought to the group. 1 funding for Code Red, 3<sup>rd</sup> year request for funding. Available to anyone. Alerting system similar to PC Alert. Not a lot of discussion around. If SS continues to fund it, SS should be the licensed agency instead of a collaboration and a reimbursement system. Line-item recurring expenditure and cleaner to be host

agency. Overwhelmingly supported. Second was Puyallup Radio System to replace end-of-life equipment. Overall adopted with handful of dissenting votes. The last item was PC requesting money for radio system – allocation of money to offset costs. 1.8 million dollars, \$450,000 more than last time. Arbitrary request. A lot of discussion. Voted and it was rejected. The Finance Committee met and had some recommendations to support 2 and deny 1. Up to Board of Directors.

Was meant to be a stop gap until we got to a single system county-wide. Tacoma and Puyallup are 800 cores, outlying smaller agencies are 700. Can't articulate business model or how arrive to numbers have, etc. Weird business arrangement that SS is caught in the middle. Put the question on the table – should individual users be working with dispatch center. Gives more flexibility to the user. Problem is rates have been over \$100 for years, but SS paid them. There's no accountability. Questions haven't been asked. Need to be able to look at real numbers. Discussion followed. Not pay it, pay what paid last year, go to a County Council meeting to address. Police Chiefs Association is in alignment with the Fire Chiefs Association on this issue.

Chief Sharp reported on Single System Project Team meeting. IXP consultant initial meeting. Shared presentation from June 12 meeting. Coverage maps. McNeil Island site is problematic. Looking to move, add site on Fox Island. Continue to explore mobile repeaters to improve mobile coverage in the entire region. Top Hat site in King County originally for Transit, not sure why PC is maintaining, etc. Question posed to keep going and send to Motorola for design costs, etc. Moving forward with so once have numbers on what it will cost to deploy, can then make a decision one way or another. Design and money are the easiest questions, governance will be challenging.

700 and 800 are the same technology and can be on one radio together. Not two disparate things. Basically, Puyallup and Pierce County systems. Separate meetings for workgroup working on determining subscriber replacement will look like.

Chief Parkinson seats on Board – conflicts with what asking. 700 user fees, not asking SS to fix, shouldn't be a part of. Ultimately saying don't go to SS for this money. Not going to fix itself. Has to be deliberate thought on strategy. Subscribers of the system (us) deal directly with Pierce County. Sharp 2 very clear points once decision made – understand accountability as customer and understand why charging these rates. 2. Lends to reinforce our concerns and desire to move into a single system environment.

#### **D. SS911 Call Processing Workgroup**

Chief Parkinson reported working with SS and just received a dataset with call processing times for Alpha through Echo. The underlying goal is to get some good data. Chief Doan wants better data on call answering and call processing. Met with Matt. Be able to have a goal, set a standard, be able to monitor the data and measure. Time from dial 911 to when answered. SS911 to fire or police time. Set of definitions would be good to have.

Tory – County rates have to be based on something, not arbitrary. Fewer users on 700 system versus 800 system. Structure is always going to be an issue in the current environment. Sharp no real motivation or need to change is a piece of the frustration. Second piece, more problematic, lack of trust due to not being given any information

on how arriving at a number. Have asked for accountability and information and have not been given. Cost, coverage and customer service. Puyallup is a subsystem of Tacoma. Discussion followed. Single system is less about the technology and more about the governance. Need single governance which will drive single system technology-wise and unified pricing structure with equity in the rates.

#### **E. Ad Hoc Committee for FDSU User Group**

Matt Gilbert from EPFR Prevention Division reported a LT with CPFR on days assigned to work on FDSU – pre-fire plans, community connect, etc. Started reaching out to those already using FDSU. Then talk about county-wide efforts. Now 7 agencies are using FDSU (First Due Size Up). Need direction on how committee should proceed. Can do an ILA amongst the 7 agencies so can share FDSU. 1 person holds the contract and agencies billed from that agency to participate. Suggest SS911 hold the contract. How does that roll out? Discussion here to gauge what the interest is. Formality in the committee. Call volume, geographical size and number of users. Discussion followed. Justified expense if have to pay more than currently due to interoperability if respond in another jurisdiction. Core product: dispatch, routing/mapping, pre-fire plans and community connect. Would be good to know the following: What is each agency paying now, if single user and different payment models, etc. to make an informed decision. Based on number of buildings that require pre-fire in jurisdiction. Not just commercial, gets data from Assessor Treasurer. FDSU will update symbols, etc. Inspection module is additional. Several agencies use Streamline.

Would like to figure out how to formalize the plan specific to symbols to be used, any changes to go through the committee, etc. This association can approve much like Tac Ops Manual in the past. Doesn't mandate, can deviate from if want.

### **8. Unfinished Business**

#### **A. Joint Meeting with Police Chiefs Association**

President Sharp reported E-Board discussed have a joint meeting with Police Chiefs. Used to prior to COVID. Met with them and they are receptive. They meet at Farm12. Working with them on date and location. Ideas on speakers or topics – DEI, homelessness, emergency management, IMT, mental health. Suggested Behavioral crisis response. Looking to have in the fall. Likely a lunch meeting with a couple speakers and network opportunity.

#### **B. Meet with DEM and PCEMS to discuss concerns**

President Sharp reported not happened yet. Wanted to get through PSCOC meeting first. Regionalized OTEP plan Bouchard with CPFR is working on and Norma is onboard with. Might be a good starting point to meet and then can ask what we can do to help, etc. and get the dialog started. Originally talked about Norma, Dr. Waffle and Jody at meeting. E-Board discussed and felt it might be better to just meet with Norma and Dr. Waffle for the first conversation. Working on putting that group together and setting up meeting.

Chief Wernet asked to be involved if it involves the consortium. Currently, the contract with Graham, which is with Consortium, how will that affect his agency that is not with the Consortium. Didn't know about the Training Consortium, was not talked to about,

etc. Sharp how OTEP thing came about was talking about within Training Consortium agencies aligning and then Norma had reached out to Bouchard about selecting one plan and then agencies signing on to use that plan and then can expand to everyone in the County. Chief Wernet just wants to make sure smaller agencies aren't left behind and uninformed. Chief Sharp stated not going to be mandated. Has not met with Norma yet. Optimistic.

**9. New Business**

Nothing.

**10. Good of the Order**

Chief Wernet - Larry Spohn retired Assistant Chief memorial service at L726 hall on Saturday. He passed about 6 months ago, line of duty cancer death.

**11. Adjournment**

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Submitted by:

Denise Ross  
Recording Secretary

**2023 Meeting Schedule:**

January 5, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

February 2, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

March 2, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

April 27, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

May 25, 2023 – CANCELLED due to WFC Conference

June 22, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

July 27, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

August 24, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

September 28, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

October 26, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

November 16, 2023 – (3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday due to 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday being Thanksgiving) - Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911

December 7, 2023 – NO MEETING – AWARDS BANQUET