



PIERCE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION



Established 1985

Meeting Minutes September 28, 2023

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. President Sharp introduced new Fire for DuPont, Chief Mickey Gillie. He is two months into the job now. Looking forward to working with everyone.

2. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Chief Parkinson and seconded by Chief Medford to approve the July 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 Parkinson moved and Chief Medford 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 they met last week and will share later.

Offline meetings this last week resolution to council over single radio system. Reached out and asked for input. Went to Public Safety on Monday. Will send out once he gets a copy. Asks Executive to work with owners and stakeholders to continue the process to accomplish single governance of single radio system. President Sharp and Chief Espinosa spoke at the County Council on Tuesday – single governance and single system. Vice President Parkinson stated from Public Safety Committee there were 5 council members that mentioned turf wars and need to do away with that. Police Chiefs Association backed out and didn't speak.

7. Committees and Workgroups

A. Audit Committee – Morrow / Parkinson - DORMANT

B. PC Code Revision Workgroup – Morrow

Not present. President Sharp stated Michael Dobbs is now promoted to Assistant Chief.

C. Radio Replacement System – Sharp / Morrow

President Sharp stated the money side of the equation is being worked on. Meeting twice a month. Motorola will have the cost package ready October 2nd. Ownership teams are going to meet to ensure it has everything it needs to. Will be presented at next scheduled meeting on the 16th. Close to seamless transition path. Chief Doan reported looking at Fox Island for site for 800 system. Asking for an FAA exemption but not sure that will go through.

D. SS911 Call Processing Workgroup – Parkinson / Doan / Morrow

Chief Doan stated needs to take the next step. Need to define answering a call process. Chief Parkinson stated there is a disconnect in what SS911 thinks they are reporting. Part of it is vocabulary and part of it is reports. Need good sound data, nothing against Matt. Concern with how performing and need the data. Need concurrence on how time is being measured. Agreement on definitions so all are saying the same thing. More of a policy question and would be good to have Debbie in the room as well to help guide the policy side. The goal a year ago was to see high priority calls dispatched quicker than lower acuity calls.

E. Ad Hoc Committee for FDSU User Group - Parkinson

Reported the working group has a look they've agreed to. The biggest impact is standard symbology. Can be uploaded and not be an impact to organizations to change. Question on rolling into one large contract. Draft ILA haven't worked on the funding portion. Also need to address data-sharing in the ILA. Chief Doan thinks when expanded, could likely absorb the cost for the smaller agencies and break it out for the following year, etc. Discussion followed.

F. State Chiefs / Western Chiefs – Doan

Reported onboarding is next week and has not met yet. Looking forward to bridging the gap between Western and State Chiefs groups. Was active in the Boise Idaho Chiefs groups.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Joint Meeting with Police Chiefs Association

President Sharp stated he has not circled back to Scott to discuss details. Will work on that.

B. Meet with DEM and PCEMS to discuss concerns.

President Sharp stated he had sent out an email with an update. Good meeting with PC Deputy Executive Dan Grimm. Concerns of level of staffing and how there hasn't been any change yet the County has had tremendous growth. Single point. Devolved into the frustrations and examples given. Chief Doan stated a good job was done to not attack. President Sharp did get a response back to him the other day. Jody states that DEM has staff that can do the work if something were to happen to Norma and the State has resources as well. He and Bouchard (CPFR MSO) met with Dawn and Katie at the State. A couple of things came to light – the State (DOH) can step in and provide resources to keep things running. Dr. Waffle is funded by DOH, he is not funded by PC. That is why he works a minimal number of hours due to the minimal amount of funding. County provides the physician advisor with staff which is Norma. She can't certify or decertify. Dr. Waffle is ultimately responsible for certifications. Confirmed that you do have to have the skillsheets. Can be electronic, still has to

represent and be the same as the State's form. No way to attach to Vector Solutions. But can take the forms and build them in VS. Somebody at PCFD 16 might be working on it. Chief Swinhart will check with their EMS Chief for a status check. Create a solution that works for us and meets the intent of the State. Need to circle back at an E-Board meeting. Hoping to continue to move forward but needing to have more conversation with the Deputy Executive. Discussion followed. Chief Doan stated he is meeting with his county council representative, and she is up to date on these issues. The Chiefs need to update their County Council members, especially the republicans so it doesn't appear to be partisan issue. Chief Sharp stated warrants to meet with Deputy Executive again and have more conversation. FC Thirkield asked if we have established a goal of where we want to end up. Trying to work a better working relationship with E911 office to better support what we do in the field. Not trying to get rid of anyone. Need to have a positive working relationship – not getting the run around, things dropped on the eleventh hour, inconsistencies, etc. Suggestion of clear strategy: Predictable and timely process for recertification. Very clear, consistent, predictable, reliable system in place. Modernize the system. Take one issue at a time to focus on – the first and most critical annual problem is recertifications. Another ask is to have a dedicated position, not someone who has split duties. President Sharp to go back and find priorities and objectives initially stated.

9. New Business

A. Vice President position vacancy

President Sharp reported that Zane is now a Deputy Chief of Emergency Management with Central Pierce Fire & Rescue, so he stepped down from the Vice President position on the E-Board. The Executive Board filled the position with Chief Jon Parkinson which led to a vacancy for Trustee. Matt Medford is filling the vacant Trustee position.

B. Nominations

President Sharp stated that all positions are open for Nominations for anyone interested.

C. Banquet Committee Representative

President Sharp stated that Jodi has resigned from Graham Fire & Rescue and she has handled coordinating the banquet. Tammy Lamb and AC Scott Adams will be working with Jodi to transition, take over coordinating the banquet which is the first Thursday evening of December (7th) at Tacoma Golf and Country Club. Will leave the annual banquet open to all Chief Officers.

D. TPCC Dinner in November – sponsor a table

President Sharp reported the Tacoma Pierce County Chaplaincy dinner is held in November – tickets are \$80.00 each or \$140.00 per couple. Fundraiser for the Chaplains. Also do sponsor tables, have done that in the past. Police Chiefs have sponsored a table. E-Board suggests sponsoring a table. Chief Thirkield moved and Chief Medford seconded to sponsor a table for \$500.00 for TPCC Dinner. MOTION CARRIED. President Sharp to send the sponsorship letter to Denise to process.

E. Cancel October 26th meeting due to State Commissioners Conference?

President Sharp stated the WFCFA has their annual conference that week. Chief Green moved and Chief Parkinson seconded to cancel the October 26th meeting. MOTION CARRIED.

10. Good of the Order

Chief Thirkield stated she is the Vice Chair on the Ops Committee. Had an issue with no quorum. Working on cleaning up. Will have at least one At Large position open for the EMS Ops Committee. Matt Waltrip is the Chair. She will send Denise information on when the Committee meets, etc. to send out to the group.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:30a.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 – CANCELLED
September 28, 2023 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
October 26, 2023 – CANCELLED
November 16, 2023 – (3rd Thursday due to 4th Thursday being Thanksgiving) - Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911
December 7, 2023 – NO MEETING – AWARDS BANQUET

2024 Meeting Schedule:

January 25, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave
January or February, 2024 – Joint Meeting with Police Chiefs
February 22, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave
March 28, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave
April 25, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave
May 23, 2024 – CANCELLED – State Chiefs Conference
June 27, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave
July 25, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave
August 22, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave
September 26, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave
October 24, 2024 – CANCELLED – State Commissioners Conference
November 21, 2024 (3rd Thursday due to 4th Thursday being Thanksgiving)– Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave
December 5, 2024 – NO MEETING – AWARDS BANQUET