



Clark County Fire & Rescue Board of Fire Commissioners Meeting Minutes

February 12, 2014

Meeting called to order by Commissioner Jon Babcock at 3:00 p.m.

Flag Salute led by Commissioner Babcock

Present: Commissioners Jon Babcock, Larry Bartel, Dave Town, Bob Johnson, Jerry Kolke. Chief Dennis Mason, Assistant Chief Dan Yager. Recording Secretary Maureen Groat.

CALL FOR LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS

Larry Bartel requested to add the Strategic Plan for discussion under Late Additions. Chief Mason requested to add the Mutual Aid agreement with Cowlitz County for discussion under Late Additions.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Kolke to approve the consent agenda as presented. Town Second. Bartel questioned whether the boat fuel receipts were covered by grant funds. Chief Mason responded that fuel was not covered by the grant. He questioned whether the water damage sustained at Station 25 will be covered by insurance monies. Mason answered that it would be. Town questioned cell phone stipend expenses. Mason explained that different individuals receive different amounts based on their job functions. Phones are personal property, with the Department paying for add-on functions as necessary for each individual. No further discussion. Motion approved unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Mason reported that he cc'd the Board on an e-mail received from Travis Smith on Feb 10th in regard to the Maunu arbitration with the City of Woodland. He suggested an executive session to discuss the status of the issue. Babcock suggested Travis Smith participate in the session. Babcock reminded the group of the SWFCA meeting on February 20th to be held at Station 151. There was discussion on whether the meeting was still on. Babcock will confirm and inform the Board. He reminded the group of the RFA meeting scheduled for February 25th at 6:30 and Station 21.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

None.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Fairgrounds Fire Facility Board

Met on January 9th. Chief Mason reported that the CCSO has committed to taking over the vacated offices of Dr. Wittwer. This leaves them with a 51% share of the building.

Clark County Risk Management Group

Will meet next month.

Finance Committee

No meeting. No report.

RFA Committee

Meeting scheduled for February 25th.

Chief's Report

Chief Mason reported on the snow storm last week. It was a very significant day for the Department. The Emergency Operations Center was in use in Battle Ground. Together with volunteer and paid staff we had approximately 50 crew members on duty. Our crews responded to two MCI's occurring on I-5 between Gee Creek and La Center. Statistics are still being gathered on the two incidents. By next meeting stats will be compiled to present to the Board. Chief Yager reported that CCF&R staff did amazing work. BC Konkright reported there will be an After Action Review on the 21st. He added that the two incidents occurred within five minutes of each other. We had no reports of injuries and our crews were very well prepared to respond in the inclement weather.

Chief Mason reported that the new Rescue Boat has been pulled out of the water and returned to the factory. Crews discovered a hair-line crack in the sea chest. Attempts were made to have the repairs done locally, but in the end it had to be done at the factory. The delivery charges for the boat were \$1,800. Transport back to the factory, coupled with overnight accommodation charges due to bad weather, equated to a large expense for North River Boats. Chief Mason is confident that they will make every effort to make sure the repairs are done adequately to ensure there will be no further repairs needed.

Chief Mason reported that final touches are being made to the Battle Ground engine. It will be presented at the March 3rd Battle Ground City Council meeting and will go into service for the Department the following day. He reported that the Columbia County Sheriff's Department received a grant that will cover the purchase and installation of a Dash Cam for the new boat. The camera will automatically turn on every time the boat is turned on. Film can be saved as needed.

Board of Commissioners Policy 511.10.01

Bartel reported he had asked to have the Board of Commissioners Policy 511.10.01 put on the Agenda for discussion. He stated that compared to the policy, he sees that the Board has been very loose on the subject of telephone conferencing. He suggested that the Board either needs to revise the policy or tighten up to follow the current policy. Babcock suggested that current technology could be utilized and board members could log into the meetings through Intovate when absent. Purchase of iPads and options for using the Intovate system were discussed. There was also discussion on whether changes would be required pertaining to the restriction of the number of times a member is allowed to be present through telephone conferencing and what constitutes a quorum. The Board requested that Chief Mason come back at the next meeting with his recommendations in addition to pricing on individual iPad purchases.

Commissioner Compensation Policy 511.11.01

Bartel reported he had asked to have the Commissioner Compensation Policy 511.11.01 put on the Agenda for discussion. Bartel questioned what meetings are approved to put in for compensation and what should be turned in. Discussion on how and what should be compensatory and how items are approved. Babcock stated that events/meetings are approved on a case by case basis. Kolke stated he felt that compensation has been a bit loose recently. It was stated that it is possible for a board member to decline compensation for events other than regular scheduled department meetings if they feel so inclined. It was decided that anything outside regular scheduled meetings should be referred to the Board Chair and the Board will access to determine whether compensation should be given.

OLD BUSINESS

Bartel stated that Union negotiations will begin this summer. He would like to have the board meet in executive session with the negotiating team for the purpose of setting general policy prior to the start of negotiations. Chief Mason stated that the negotiating team would welcome any input.

Chief Mason reported that there is an opportunity for the Board of Commissioners to form a group for participation in the Veba program. He stated it would have to be an all or none participation. Chief will provide further information.

LATE AGENDA ADDITIONS


Bartel stated that he felt that the Department's Strategic Plan is out of date. He questioned whether there should be a workshop to update the plan; stating that having a plan that is out of date and/or not being followed is ineffective. Chief Mason questioned how in depth he would like to see the revisions going. Chief Mason stated that re-doing the plan is a very time consuming undertaking. He suggested that, with the restarting of the RFA planning, it might be better to hold off until a few meetings have been held and the direction we are going is clearer. The RFA meeting is scheduled for February 25th at 6:30 at Station 21.

Chief Mason stated he has a new copy of the Mutual and Automatic Aid Agreement between Clark County Fire & Rescue and Cowlitz County Fire Agencies. He asked for the approval of the Board to sign the agreement. Bartel made a motion to approve. Johnson second. No further discussion. Approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Moved to executive session at 4:00 to discuss the Maunu arbitration with the City of Woodland. Anticipated length of session less than 30 minutes. No action anticipated. Meeting resumed at 4:30.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30.



District Secretary

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