**Business Meeting Minutes**

**April 9, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 pm. Present were Commissioner Chair Molly Olson and Commissioners Doug Rupp, Jason Lavinsky and Kate Hayes. Also present were Chief Eric Andrews, Asst Chief Ernie Walters, MSA Joe Simmons, Battalion Chiefs Brandon Vargas and Scott Coulson, and Karen McPeters (recorder).

**Public Commentary:** No public commentary

**EXECUTIVE**

**Radio Upgrades:** The county upgrade to the radio system has been delayed due to an unstable controller. The upgrade progress to radios continues as the actual change over date will probably be in May. New paging transmitters have been installed that have improved paging alerts.

**Incident Activity:** The district has discontinued posting of the standard EMS calls on Facebook and directed citizens that wish to see activity to use Pulse Point application. Larger incidents and updates will continue to be posted to the Gold Bar Facebook group.

**SCEMSA:** The new County EMS office (now called SCEMSA) has started this month. Chief Johnson from Fire District 5 was elected to represent our small agencies, referred to as the 6th caucus. There is a seven-person board that will oversee the new SCEMSA.

**Mobes:** DNR will hold its annual pre-fire season seminar on April 15th where we cover fire preparedness for the upcoming season. Chief Andrews will speak on NW region fire defense. So far, it is looking good in the legislature for more money for prepositioning of resources in the state for predicted weather events that will likely produce extreme fire conditions.

**Dispatch:** Our dispatch center (Sno 911) is making good progress on the new dispatch facility that will be located just down the street from the current center. This is a large improvement to current facilities. They plan to have an open house for agencies to tour the new facilities. The schedule will be shared as soon as it is published.

**Academy:** A concern was brought forward about certain training techniques used at the fire recruit academy. This prompted an investigation into the circumstances around this complaint. Immediate changes were implemented to ensure no further such instances occurred. A Loudermill hearing has been scheduled for one member and other corrective action is taking place to ensure the district's policy and procedures are followed.

**OPERATIONS (Chief Walters)**

**Station 54:**

The HVAC system at station 54 is finally fixed and working properly. The control board and the thermostats were the issue.

**AFG Grant:** No word yet on the micro grant that was submitted for four thermal imaging cameras.

**Apparatus:**

Walters is currently attending the FDIC conference in Indianapolis for the week and will be looking at apparatus and equipment that we are planning on purchasing in the future.

**New Br-54:** Work on the new brush truck is still ongoing. The flatbed is mounted and we have placed the skid unit (water/foam tank and pump), hose reel and storage boxes on the truck. We will be mounting them next week.

**New B-54:** We are waiting on the canopy and deck storage system for B-54. We will be sending it up to Mount Vernon for decaling, striping and installation of the emergency lights. We have received the paperwork for it and will license it next week.

**EMS ( Chief Simmons / Chief Parrish)**

**Continuous Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance (CQI/QA)**

All ESO electronic health reports (EHRs) have been assigned to the QA team through March

Code Stat is caught up, and all Cardiac Arrest and Advanced Airways have been annotated.

Added Lifenet Pro, which is a Code Stat lite program for more immediate feedback on high acuity calls.

**SCEMS-** Transition to new organization

**AEMT Class -** Initial planning for EMT and AEMT are ongoing. This includes:

Building relationships with Providence Hospital

Securing Clinical sites

Defining Schedules

AEMT starts early August

EMT is Late August

Both Classes finishing in early December.

**CPR Training-** No Report

**Stevens Pass-** Final shift of 24/25 season is April 20

**Personnel-** No update

March ALS coverage 91% (64 hours not covered out of 744 total hours)

**TRAINING / SUPPORT SERVICES (Chief Coulson / Chief Thurston)**

**Training:** Members completed 1st Quarter Training assignments; 2nd Quarter has been assigned in Vector. We added training on the Electric Vehicle blanket the district recently purchased and suppressing energy fires.

**Wildland/IMT:** SVF was successfully awarded the Phase 1 grant from WA DNR for wildland firefighting equipment and PPE. This resulted in 50% payment by WA DNR or grant award of about $3300 which we used for new hose, headlamps, radios and PPE. Chief Coulson, with help from Karen, was able to register our department for the WA Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to procure surplus equipment at little or no cost. Our first procurement was (10) BK Portable radios, batteries, chargers, antennas etc. with a total value of about $15,000, at no cost to the district.

**Recruiting:** The academy has completed week 5 and is now focusing on search and rescue techniques this week. We held interviews for a couple of applicants for our department with Chief Walters and Chief Vargas. Nathan Flath has been hired as a new member of our Part-Time Staff. Nathan has experience as a PT Firefighter/EMT and Driver with SCFD #4 for many years and is a wildland carded Engine Boss. He will have an abbreviated onboarding process due to his experience but will still work through our probationary process for his first year.

**IT:**

We have purchased a cellular booster for Station 54 that will work for all carriers. We will see how it improves coverage and consider expanding to other stations. The boosters on our vehicles work well.

**Secretary’s Report:** The EMAC reimbursement is still pending, but everything has been submitted. Tanielle has been reviewing all the accounts reconciliations from last year and will be caught up to the current month shortly. This second review of the reconciliations prior to the chief’s final review was a request from the auditor.

Budget: Currently at 35%

Minutes: Molly moved to approve the March minutes. With a second from Kate, the motion passed unanimously.

Vouchers: Molly moved to approve vouchers 25-140 for $6,962.35 and 25-141 through 187 for $126,602.80 and voucher 25-02 for $6,925.12 from the apparatus fund. With a second from Kate, the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: Kate moved to approve payroll in the amount of $179,485.56. With a second from Doug, the motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

**Performance Reviews:** Commissioner Hayes shared recommendations from the WFCA conference regarding performance reviews. There was discussion of systems of performance evaluation and pros and cons of different methods. Commissioner Lavinsky offered to do some research and come up with some recommendations for the May meeting.

**Old Business**

**Skyko 911 Project:** The proposed project amount has been reduced.

Next regular meeting is May 14, 2025. The public is welcome to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04