**Business Meeting Minutes**

**June 11, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm. Present were Commissioner Chair Molly Olson, Vice Commissioner Chair Pat Sample, and Commissioners Doug Rupp, Jason Lavinsky and Kate Hayes. Also present were Chief Eric Andrews, Asst Chief Ernie Walters, MSA Joe Simmons and Battalion Chief Rob Thurston.

**Public Commentary:** None.

**EXECUTIVE**

**Radio Upgrades:** The new dispatch center move took place with no issues. The facility looks great and will allow growth into the future.

**Budget:** Revenue at 60% for year, expenditures at 50% for the year.

**Pre-Fire Season Planning:** Snohomish County DEM held a public meeting at the Startup Event Center for input into the countywide Community Wildfire Protection Plan. The plan is proceeding in its mission with hopes of having it completed before year end. DEM also hosted an online summer hazards meeting for agencies, which was mostly fire related hazards coordination. NW Region Fire Defense meeting was already held, so all the pre-fire season meetings should be complete.

**District Consolidation:** We have official requests out for information for costs that will be affected in a consolidation / merger. Sno 911 has been requested to provide costs for dispatching, our insurance carrier has been asked for cost with inclusion of King 50, and Brian Snure has been working on the taxation issue for the EMS tax. The EMS tax is a complex issue. There are examples of other agencies that have merged and/or annexed across county lines, and it appears they have not followed state law and/or not followed the state Department of Revenue’s guidelines. It is also possible that, at the time of the merger, they were told different things. There is a case court order that deals with uniformity of taxation. Then the legislature made an RCW specifically for the city of Milton that annexed across county lines in King and Pierce counties that exempts them from tax uniformity of the EMS tax only. Brian’s opinion is that the state constitution states uniformity for the taxpayer not uniformity for the taxing authority. He is pushing for this interpretation from the legal team at the DOR. I have a conference call with him tomorrow. It has been suggested that we consider having a special meeting with FD 50, FD 5 and Brian to talk about consolidation options. This ensures that you are hearing from a non-biased legal standpoint.

**Administrative Assistant:** I have not completed this detail as of this writing.

**Wildland:** Fire season is upon us. We have sent Scott Coulson to Alberta, Canada as part of the Type 3 IMT as Ops Section Chief. We currently have a brush engine and crew on the Red Bridge fire in Kittitas County. Last night Tumwater Canyon had a large fire (there was no mobe request as of this writing).

**ISO Rating:** The District's new ISO rating is in full effect, which includes the City of Gold Bar. This reduced our rating to class 4 from class 5. The Town of Index remains a class 5 rating due to their poor water system at time of rating review. The town is currently completing a significant upgrade to the water system, at which time we will ask for a re-rate of Index by the Washington Survey and Rating Bureau. A class 4 rating for a small community like the city of Gold Bar is rare and something we all can be proud of. This shows the dedication and work that all our personnel have put in to staff, equip and train our agency. While a Class 3 rating is a large jump that would require significantly increased staffing, we will continue to work toward improving. Unfortunately, while this is helping our citizens reduce their insurance costs (although not all insurance companies factor in the ISO rating), significant increases by the insurance industry as a whole are being felt. In the past, homeowners saw reductions in homeowner’s insurance after an improved rating. Now nearly everyone is seeing increases and are unaware that our rating is saving them in insurance costs. Many may have seen even higher increases had it not been for our improved rating.

**OPERATIONS (Chief Walters)**

**Facilities**

**Station 53:** The texture is completed and I will hopefully be priming and painting this next week. The goal is to have the painting and flooring complete prior to the EMT/AEMT class.

**Station 54:**   We posted the generator bid and received two bids (1 was received late) for the installation of the generators at Station 54 and 55. We are reviewing the bids and references and will have a recommendation for you to consider at tonight’s meeting.

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

**Apparatus**

**New Br-54:** The striping and decaling is completed and the truck is now at Gardner Electronics having the lights and sirens installed. It should be completed by the end of the month and will be in service for the summer.

**New B-54:** The canopy and deck storage system is in place and the striping and decals are installed. Lights will be installed after Br54 gets back.

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

**Continuous Quality Improvement/Quality Assurance (CQI/QA:** All ongoing QA projects are caught up. We are transitioning to EMS one, and Code stat 12.

**EMS Training:** Initial EMT class has been approved by DOH with 13 students currently. We are still awaiting DOH approval of the AEMT course.

**CPR Training:** No update.

**Personnel:** Actively recruiting paramedics.

**May ALS coverage:** 92% (60 hours not covered out of 744 total hours).

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

**Training:** Isaac Wood completed his Driver Operator task book. Ryan A Johnson completed his probation. Staff completed Swiftwater Awareness training in preparation for the summer.  Staff completed 452 hours of training in May for a total of 3,491 for the year.

**Wildland/IMT:** We were awarded the DNR PPE and equipment grant of almost $21,000 and have already received the check. Still waiting to hear on the $100,000 operational grant for a new brush unit chassis.

We completed Q2 Fire multicompany. Training involved rural tender water supply operations, KCFD50 sent 3 firefighters to attend.

Starlink mini was installed on Br53 to assist crews with communication, Wi-Fi calling, downloading maps, and keeping touch with those back home while on deployment.

**Recruiting:** The academy has completed their FF1 and FF2 testing; the recruits completed all their FF1 testing on their first try. One recruit has to repeat the FF2 test. The recruits were praised by the testing staff for their preparation for testing. Graduation will be June 29th at the Startup Events Center at 1500.

The SAFER grant has opened this year, and we are asking for funding for 3 career positions. We expect to hear back in late August, early September time frame.

We have 8 candidates testing for various positions on 6/22/25. Our current position count is as follows:

Admin – 8 Personnel, 1 Open Position (PT Admin Asst)

Career – 1 Personnel, 2 Open Positions

PT Operations – 16 Personnel, 16 Open Positions (This number will shrink when we add career staff, currently we have 3 entry level Firefighter positions open)

PT Paramedics – 16 Personnel, 0 Open Positions

Volunteer Operations – 33 Volunteers, always open

Lieutenant testing will take place on June 25th and is open to all full-time, part-time and volunteer staff that qualify.

**IT:** No updates.

**Secretary’s Report:** No updates

Budget: Currently at 50%

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

Vouchers: Molly moved to approve vouchers 25-239 through 275 for $96,319.92 and 25-276 through 282 for $16,841.17. With a second from Pat, the motion passed unanimously.

Payroll: Molly moved to approve payroll in the amount of $183,637.94. With a second from Doug, the motion passed unanimously.

**New Business**

Jason proposed waiting until fall to meet with Snure and D50 and D5 since both of the districts are down one commissioner at this time.

**Action Item**

Molly moved to award the generator bid to Farmers Electric for $291,173. With a second from Jason, the motion passed unanimously.

**Old Business**

**Skyko 911 Project:** $1 million for this project has been included in the state budget and signed by the governor. Doug is still talking to Ziply but the scope of the project will need to be changed.

**Chief’s Review and Contract:** Evaluation template and contract were reviewed. Action will wait for the July meeting, when there will be an executive session to discuss the chief’s performance review.

Next regular meeting is July 9, 2025. The public is welcome to attend.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15