



## Pierce County Fire District 13

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www.piercefire13.org

### Minutes Board of Fire Commissioners Regular Meeting April 12, 2016

Present: Commissioners Zuluaga, Ballantyne, and Noll, Chief McCollum, Captain Wassall

Members of the Public and Staff: 5

Commissioner Zuluaga called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### CONSENT AGENDA:

##### Minutes:

*Motion-* A motion was made by Commissioner Noll to approve the minutes of March 8, 2016.

*Seconded:* Ballantyne

*Passed*

##### Vouchers:

*Motion-* A motion was made by Commissioner Zuluaga to approve voucher #12831 for a deposit in the amount of \$4,763.00 for fire mobilizations, donations and refunds.

*Seconded:* Ballantyne

*Passed*

*Motion-* A motion was made by Commissioner Ballantyne to approve vouchers #12832 through #12915 in the amount of \$44,310.36 for payables and volunteer quarterly reimbursements.

*Seconded:* Noll

*Passed*

##### Correspondence/Public Testimony:

Commissioner Zuluaga read a thank you card from a couple of Boy Scouts from Troup 361.

##### Special Reports and /or Standing Committees:

##### April 12, 2016 Chief's Report:

**Calls:** 12 calls, 2 fire, 8 Aid, 2 service calls.

**Staffing and Recruiting:** The new probationary FF's are progressing well. Two are presently in EMT class. We now have 4 lateral FF's that will be attending a mini academy to quickly indoctrinate them into our system. Two have been given conditional offers: FF Olson to Spokane and FF Christner to Moses Lake Airport.

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**Financial Report:** Pierce County Budget and Finance trial balance sheet is submitted for your review. It shows we have \$53,269.64 balance after this month's payables. We paid out the dispatch fees to SS911 as well as the radio user fee to City of Tacoma. We have a training reimbursement receivable of \$4,800.

**Training:** Training focuses around the probationary folks as well as our monthly training schedule.

**SS911:** The annual report was submitted to you for review. Presently there is still much debate on the radio user fees and controlling the costs associated with it. It looks like the building site will be at the old public health site. Negotiations are ongoing with Pierce County.

**Good of the Order:** The Pierce County Fire Chiefs' monthly meeting was held at our District last Thursday. 35 representatives attended as did Commissioner Noll. Committee reports were given and a speaker presented the details of Camp Blaze, a one week fire school for high school ages women to increase the interest in fire careers for women.

#### **Commissioner's Report:**

Commissioner Zuluaga brought up Red card training moving in house. We can now re-certify individuals who have already been certified which allows us to certify 12 months of the year vs. the previous quarterly.

Commissioner Noll asked about the update of the website. Chief McCollum is reaching out to Firefighter Courmier as to the status of the new website and getting the minutes posted. A meeting will be set up on FF Courmier's next shift. Commissioner Ballantyne asked about the public's use of our website. Bob Meyers from the Life At The Points magazine shared that the website will be promoted in the June issue.

Commissioner Ballantyne shared information from speaker Ranger Johnny Johnson of Dash Point State Park who attended the Dash Point Social and Improvement Club (DPSIC) annual meeting this past month. 6 cabin structures were just added to the State Park. Chief shared that we are under contract with the Department of Natural Resources, which covers the State Park. Though these structures require more fire protection, the structures appear to sit in King County.

#### **Old Business:**

1. **Grants:** Commissioner Ballantyne, an engineer and the Chief met, which resulted in the submission of 4 grant applications. The Hazard Mitigation Grant (HMG) is a 12% matching grant. The preliminary HMG grant went to the state and was approved for moving to the next level. We need to have a detailed grant submitted to them by May 5<sup>th</sup>, which is then submitted to FEMA. FEMA ties it to our regional mitigation process and if they decide to fund it, the grant monies to go WA state. With state grants, invoices can be submitted for reimbursements. Commissioner Ballantyne pointed out we will need to do a benefit vs. cost analysis. We need to point out the delay that will be caused by a seismic event. It would impede our response and interrupt our operational standard. Chief McCollum indicated that the biggest impact is with emergency medical services. He added we haven't received any feedback on the power grant that was submitted.

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2. **Needs Analysis:** The Chief reported on revenue/expense analysis. Discussed the 3 year average for 2013 – 2015. Some years grant revenue received that skew individual year pictures. We have averaged bringing in \$50,800 in additional revenue per year. This revenue has helped keep us in the black along with many deferred expenses. This additional revenue is unknown for future years. He posed the question of how long can we continue to defer expenses without impacting the future of the fire district. We will be required to take medical reports on field computers in the very near future for a paperless environment. The Chief feels the funding needing needs to be in the form of a Lid Lift Levy. We are one of the lowest funded fire departments. We provide excellent service and good response times. Our improved insurance rating shows that we are providing the kind of personnel and services that matches non-volunteer fire departments like the City of Tacoma. The Chief is very concerned about sustainability. Commissioner Zuluaga mentioned that he got a Wages & Benefits survey request from the WA Fire Commissioners Association. He is concerned about staffing replacement costs, both paid and volunteer stipends. There is a significant time delay with funding. We have seen costs go up, but revenue can only go up 1% based on the Eyman initiative. He suggested that the regular levy is lifted, leaving EMS alone. We are allowed \$1.50 total for both the regular levy and the EMS levy. We want to consider junior taxing districts that we would impact. We can go to \$1.00 and not impact the other districts junior to us. Maintenance & Operations levys are an alternative. They are for a limited amount of time (max of 3 years) and are for specific items/maintenance. The Needs Analysis needs to quantify our needs. Commissioner Zuluaga pointed out that we cannot expect to solve everything by the Lid Lift levy. There may be the need for a Bond measure for apparatus replacement in the future. A public attendee spoke suggesting that we must show what expenses we can cut. Commissioner Ballantyne suggested we included Dash Point station review in the Needs Analysis. Commissioner Zuluaga reminded us that we are working towards a May 13th filing deadline. May 10<sup>th</sup> will be our next Commissioner Meeting where a motion will be an option and a resolution ready. We will come up with a dollar figure to present to the public at a public meeting. This levy could be moved to a later date via the General Election if necessary, but this would cost the district more money. The Public meeting to be moved to Wed., May 4<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm. Location to be announced. Copy of the motion and the Needs Analysis to be presented to the public at this meeting.
3. **Station 77 Roof Damage:** awaiting bids per the Chief.

#### **New Business:**

1. Commissioner Ballantyne requested a clarification of the two key systems discussed at the DPSIC annual meeting. A) Knox Box System – country wide system. B) Pierce County 8 pin Key system. A form is submitted to Pierce County FireComm. For an emergency, the code is transferred to our Fire District from FireComm. It registers the why and when and who did it. There is no charge to register it with the county.
2. Notifications for the public meeting will be requested of both DPSIC and BPIC for an e-mail blast to their memberships and postings on their readerboards. Bob Meyers with Life At The Points will also put the public meeting information in the next publication.


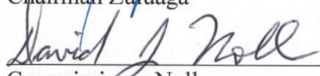


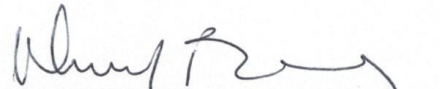
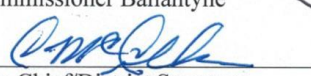
**Announcements:**

The next regular meeting will be May 10, 2016 at 9:00 AM.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 11:06 AM

Approved By:

  
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Chairman Zuluaga  
  
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Commissioner Noll

  
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Commissioner Ballantyne  
  
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Fire Chief/District Secretary