

Board of Fire Commissioners
Special Joint Meeting Minutes
Lake Stevens School Administration Building Room B
12309 22nd Street NE, Lake Stevens, WA

January 27, 2009

1800 hours

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lorentzen called the meeting to order at 1804 hours.

ROLL CALL

Chairman Lorentzen, Commissioner Elmore, Commissioner Foster, Chief Faucett, DC Lingenfelter, and Laana Larson. Also District 22 Representatives Chairman Taylor, Commissioner Butters, Commissioner Greig, and Chief Hots.

DISTRICT 22 BATTALION CHIEF AGREEMENT

Chief Faucett confirmed the contract has been authorized by all the commissioners. The relationship between our districts is very positive. The Battalion Chiefs respond to various calls and the current agreement is working really well. Financially things are also working out well. Our firefighters have an increased level of security with the Battalion Chiefs on board.

Chief Hots agreed the Battalion Chief program is working really well and he appreciates being a part of this partnership. The Battalion Chief is a risk manager and he is looking out for our people and can see the big picture. This program is a tremendous benefit not just for our district but for the entire region as well. Our contribution is the vehicle and the various upgrades it has been given. We have also been able to raise the bar from a training standpoint and our crews appreciate the Battalion Chiefs. The Battalion Chief was used as a resource regarding the pipeline issue and he brought out Williams Pipeline to solve the problem.

Chief Faucett commented not only our Battalion Chiefs respond to emergencies, but we also have a department Battalion Chief from neighboring departments assisting on major alarms. We are seeing a regional impact. The Battalion Chief needs to be focused on incident command and safety; and this has become a big plus. We are working together with other districts and thinking outside the box for firefighter safety.

Chief Hots commented the run cards have been rebuilt so that we are now following the standard of 1710 in both Getchell and Lake Stevens.

Chief Faucett agreed we have really increased our level of service.

Chairman Taylor commented that all of this has been a benefit.

Commissioner Butters agreed it has to make a difference to the firefighters knowing there is someone out there to back them up.

Chief Faucett confirmed that the Battalion Chiefs' focus is incident command and they cannot get sidetracked from that. They have been offered education in any area they need it; and currently we are committed to going through our Standard of Cover.

Chairman Lorentzen commented it is good to see that this partnership is working. We are a prime example of a working partnership that benefits both parties.

Chief Faucett commented that we try to make adjustments when necessary as we go along.

Chief Hots commented we don't need to reinvent the wheel; it is much more beneficial to share resources wherever we can.

Chief Faucett commented that Zone 11 is working hard on sharing resources so we aren't duplicating equipment when not necessary. It can always get better. Possibly this year we will start working with District 17 on this issue.

Welcome to Chris Greig as Getchell Commissioner and Vern Foster as LSF Commissioner over the last year.

Commissioner Butters suggested that our Commissioner Boards meet every six months.

Chairman Lorentzen invited the Getchell Commissioners to our open house once the Station 82 Remodel is complete. He also commented it is important to us that this is a true partnership and beneficial to both parties involved.

Commissioner Foster commented that as an observer in the very beginning the purpose of a Battalion Chief wasn't clear; however now with a better understanding it is good to see them in place.

Chief Faucett commented the risk is so much greater without a Battalion Chief.

Chief Hots commented we now have someone to manage the risk and look at the big picture.

ADDITIONAL SHARED RESOURCES

Chief Faucett suggested a discussion on how our departments can further partner together. He thanked Getchell Fire for allowing us to do their ambulance billing.

Chief Hots commented that Escobar has done their ambulance billing in the past; however they want to build their partnership with Lake Stevens Fire. It has been approved by the boards and they are now in the transitional phase of turning their ambulance billing over to Lake Stevens Fire. Billing Manager Sonya Dudder has a stack of runs ready to bill for them.

Chief Faucett commented he is confident that both Sonya and the software have the ability to make this happen. Our local accessibility allows the citizens from Getchell to call or stop by and see Sonya if they have questions. We also hope to get Getchell Fire a better return financially by increased follow up on the billings. Chief Hots can see Sonya at anytime if he has questions throughout the process.

Chairman Lorentzen commented that deductibles and copays are hard for many people to understand.

Chairman Taylor asked about considering additional transports such as those to Colby Pacific from another hospital or taking patients home from the hospital.

Chief Faucett commented it would create additional revenue and offers an increased level of service. It would definitely increase the call volume and we would have to be sure we have the staff to handle the calls.

DC Lingenfelter commented we had a BLS car in the past and it worked reasonably well. It would take a lot of work to put together a program that would be successful.

Commissioner Elmore commented the contract for Colby Pacific is usually bid on and there is a potential problem when you have the large private ambulance companies involved. If we pursue this, we could consider aid transports as the first level of the firefighters job and then graduate them on to the next level when new hires come on board.

DC Lingenfelter confirmed that we have told the Everett Clinic we want to be their transport agency. We don't want to bring the private ambulance companies out here if we can help it.

Chief Faucett commented that we could consider serving our citizens when they need service outside of Lake Stevens. This would have to be initiated by the citizens themselves.

Chief Hots commented that our recent weather event made it clear we are ill prepared (i.e. not enough tire chains or rock salt; many areas we couldn't get into due to the road conditions). Getchell Fire now has on hand three sets of chains; 15 bags of rock salt; extra shovels; and a snow plow to place on front of the brush truck in order to keep the station clear. He is considering clearing other station areas as well and they look to sharing this resource.

Chief Faucett commented another item to consider is vehicle maintenance. We really need a vehicle maintenance facility. We have a great mechanic with currently one truck bay and we just purchased the computer software to

handle our maintenance data. We are looking for a vehicle maintenance facility in our area in the future and facility maintenance will be yet another area we need to address.

Chief Hots commented that Marysville Fire is looking to shed some of their vehicle maintenance business. They might actually be able to help Marysville by sending their vehicle maintenance business elsewhere.

Chief Faucett commented if we own the maintenance shop we get to set the rates. The city is potentially interested in sharing resources in this area of vehicle maintenance as well.

Chairman Taylor asked if it would work for our departments to share IT resources.

Chief Hots commented he is currently meeting with the City Administrator regarding IT Services.

Chief Faucett commented if we use the same IT people, it will certainly benefit us as partners in the long run.

Chief Hots commented he is looking forward to an interlocal IT agreement if approved by the board.

Chairman Lorentzen commented it would be great to see a joint maintenance facility.

Commissioner Elmore commented we had talked about potentially using Station 81 as a maintenance shop.

Chief Faucett agreed it would be a logical decision if we were to move out of Station 81. The City of Lake Stevens is not so in favor of placing a maintenance facility in that particular location. They would like us to move into the Hartford area if possible. If they could give us the land it might become more affordable.

Chief Faucett also commented we just received notification that our Administrative Director is leaving and we are currently advertising for a replacement. Another thought might be to consider Getchell's part-time finance person going full-time to work under our Administrative Director.

Chairman Taylor suggested that we schedule another joint commissioner meeting in six months.

Chairman Lorentzen commented we are working on better representation on the regional level. He agreed we should schedule another joint commissioner meeting within six months.


GOOD OF THE ORDER

No additional comment.

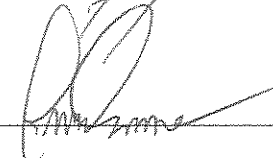
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 1945 hours.
Motion by Getchell Chairman Taylor and 2nd by LSF Chairman Lorentzen.
Vote Unanimous.

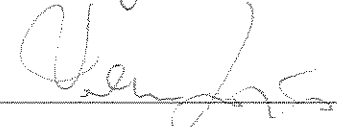
Minutes respectfully submitted by Laana Larson, Communications Director.



Chairman Dan Lorentzen



Commissioner Troy Elmore



Commissioner Vern Foster