



PIERCE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES September 24, 2020

Via Zoom

CALL TO ORDER – FLAG SALUTE

President Tom Sutich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. no flag salute was held due to meeting virtually. He requested everyone mute their microphone so there's not a lot of background sound.

WELCOME and THANK YOU TO HOST

President Sutich thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting.

ROLL CALL – SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

There were 23 people in attendance.

PROGRAM – Mike Lonergan – PC Assessor Treasurer

Vice President Moffett introduced PC Assessor Treasurer Mike Lonergan. Mike stated on behalf of the taxpayers appreciate all of the Fire Departments and their work with all of the recent wildfires. Looking at properties and valuing for property taxes. Figures are also used for FEMA reports as well. Levy Specialist Kim Fleshman is on vacation. Preliminary packets were mailed on Monday to all the Districts. Utilities are done by Department of Revenue and we don't have those yet. New construction, new valuation cards to go out in a few days. June, July, August out inspecting those with building permits. Still added county-wide 2 billion 234 million dollars to tax rolls. Thought would be down this year but was 13 million higher than last year. Ran through breakdown of new construction for each district. MSRC has great resources. Information in packets. Revalue entire county end of June this year, PC is now worth 136.4 billion dollars. Residential properties still healthy increase over last year 8.8% increase. Still a seller's market. Discovered they had been undervaluing mobile homes for some time. 24.5% value increase in mobile homes. Some of those people are appealing. Rightly so. Market is still strong, new homes being built. Residential should continue steady for a while. Some things on horizon – PC Planning – furnish estimated tax revenue from proposed housing developments. Since a fire district has asked for impact fees, etc. Do best to give an approximate amount on what value would be based on current rates, etc. 1 other fire district may be looking at Fire Benefit Charge like Central Pierce. \$1.50 max drops to \$1.00 but then also receive the FBC that is charged against exempt properties as well as taxed properties. Offices still closed by order of the Governor. Have 20 staff of 75 people reporting to PC Annex, a few come in once a week. Quite productions with 55 of 75 working from home. Waiting to see when Governor says more employees to return and to open doors to the public. October 31st due date still stands. April 30th due date extended to June. Not extending October 31st payment except it falls on a Saturday so extends due date to Monday, November 2nd.

Kim's contact information: She's been there 30 years – 253.798.7114 and email is kim.fleshman@piercecountywa.gov

APPROVAL OF AGENDA and TREASURER'S REPORT

President Sutich asked if there were any changes to the Agenda. It was moved by Commissioner Mitchell and seconded by Commissioner Holm to approve the agenda and Treasurer's Report (see copy on the backside of the Agenda) as presented. MOTION CARRIED. Passed unanimously.

MINUTES OF August 27, 2020 MEETING

President Sutich asked if there is any discussion or opposition. Hearing none the August 27, 2020 minutes as presented were passed unanimously.

SGT. AT ARMS – NAME BADGES

N/A

CORRESPONDENCE

Nothing at this time.

REGULAR REPORTS:

a) Regional Representative Report – Mike Cathey

Not present. Commissioner Rankin reported met September 12th. WFCB Board of Directors meet on 21st done by Zoom or in person in Olympia as they are in Phase 3. Classes are out via web-ex. 4 classes to sign up for as well as Snure's class. Healthcare committee met and passed on to the 21st meeting. Getting ready to switch to the new website. Making things easier to find and more friendly to operate.

b) Legal - Joe and/or Eric Quinn

Joe Quinn reported the webinar mentioned in October to replace part of WFCB conference, 4 or 5 attorneys including Eric Quinn on various responses to pandemic situation we find ourselves in such as responding to FEMA and reimbursements, etc. Emergency declarations and various pandemic related issues such as FMLA and other personnel matters. How do you pay employees if quarantined, etc. Have some interesting issues – Dept of Labor investigation of all volunteer district on whether or not volunteer employees and should be paid overtime or are bona fide volunteers, etc.

c) SouthSound 911 – Debbie Grady

Reported couple things interested in – study session on October 21st for SS911 Board for two radio systems in the County to talk about user rates, interoperability. Web-ex invitation has gone out, let know if not received. After first of year another study session from county E911 office to talk about E911 tax dollars in County. Deputy Director Duggan stated updated CAD upgrade – first major upgrade since installed in 2015. Mobile responder app will be able to be used by field responder. November 10th is when upgrade is scheduled.

Commissioner Holm asked Director Grady for a summary on subsidy changes coming. Director Grady reported at Board meeting a month ago voted unanimously to discontinue a subsidy to CCN and City of Tacoma to offset user rates for radios in county. Resulted in both radio providers then had to determine change in rates to their fees, etc. Last meeting CCN user fees approximately \$75.00 per radio and City of Tacoma users charged around \$39.00 per radio per user per month. October 21st follow up for both to share joint presentation and discussion with SS911 Board of impact and ongoing costs. Commissioner Egan asked about the new building. On track, on budget and on time for potential April/May move in. A lot of work groups in place to make transition as smooth as possible.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

a) Fire Chiefs Association - Dan Rankin / Tom Sutich

Reported they met via Zoom on September 3rd. Presentation was supposed to be the American Red Cross but they had been deployed. Chief Sharp gave an update on South Sound 911. Their next meeting will be held via Zoom on October 1st at 0900.

b) Legislative - Dale Mitchell

Reported met yesterday and will meet again next month. Ryan presented raising taxes next session. 8-9 million short fall. Not sure what going to do. Going to make sure they don't do anything to impact fire levies. Volunteer pension monies and LEOFF pension funds could be hit by this. 086 funds for training. Income tax is being looked at as well. COVID19 monies looking at as well. FMLA looked at last year, not going to do a lot with that as too many other issues that are more concerning. Look at recruiting and retaining firefighters – special effort on and working with the Chiefs. Educate new legislators. Legislative package will be out mid to end of November. Any ideas, thoughts, etc. let him or Roger Ferris know. Attorney Joe Quinn stated not going to pursue paid FMLA law. Legal opinion to their clients has been: Attempt to make elected officials pay into paid FMLA account is unlawful. use definition in fair labor standards act – Federal law. Excludes elected officials and volunteers. Interpretation of employment security department. It's new to them. See no reason to pay it. Discussion followed.

c) Bates Technical College - Dan Rankin

Reported all classes being done virtually on line.

d) Fund Raising Activities - Ed Egan

N/A

e) Annual Picnic/Potluck – DORMANT - Bill Eckroth and Arlene Dannat

f) Annual Banquet – Mike Cathey

President Sutich reported Chiefs President John Burgess have discussed, Thursday, December 10th will be an Awards Zoom meeting to have some continuity instead of cancelling everything.

g) Scholarship & Education - Tom Sutich / Stan Moffett

Commissioner Moffett stated no report at this time. The way things are going defer into 2021 unless anyone has any suggestions.

h) Awards Committee – Sheila Niven

President Sutich asked if anyone would be willing to take over the Awards Committee as she's not been present for some time.

i) Membership – Kevin Gorder

Not present.

j) Programs – Stan Moffett

Reported speaker for November speaker will be Melissa Assistant Fire Marshal.

k) Sunshine - Arlene Dannat

Nothing to report.

l) NAEFO – Gerry Gustafson

Reported had a meeting this last week. New members State – Montana, Arizona. Good meeting. Webinars coming up. Changed over the last year how things are done so retired Commissioners can be on the Board. Bob Skaggs is the Vice President.

m) Nominating – Dan Rankin / Sheila Niven

Director position up – candidates for 2021

President Tom Sutich

Vice President Stan Moffett

Director Mike Cathey

Mike reported that he hasn't received anything yet for the Bill Jarmon award.

n) Audit – DORMANT - Dan Rankin / Margaret O'Harra Buttz

o) SS911 Committee – Pat McElligott

Not present.

OLD BUSINESS:

By Laws and Nominations – President Sutich thanked Joe and Eric Quinn for assistance in amending By-Laws. Need to vote on the suggested changes.

Quorum is 5 different districts present, which we have tonight. 2/3 voting to pass the By-Laws.

Turn floor to Stan Moffett and Dan Rankin. Stan read the amendment which was sent out by Denise to the membership. Committees recommendation to go forward and amend the By-Laws. Commissioner Rankin had nothing to add. Commissioner Egan moved to approve the amended By-Laws, Commissioner Mitchell seconded the motion. Any further discussion. Any no votes? There being none. It was passed as 100% yes vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Commissioner Mitchell asked if we have a meeting next month or not, next meeting November? President Sutich stated historically have not met in October because of the WFCA Conference. Date would be October 22nd. Commissioner Rankin stated there is a class on October 22nd. It was agreed to keep it as normal and not have an October meeting.

Commissioner Egan as token of appreciation, we've been giving out Challenge coins to our speakers. Vice President Moffett stated he will contact him to get to distribute to speakers we've had this year.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

Submitted by:

Denise Menge,
Secretary/Treasurer

Website: <http://www.pcfirecommissioners.org/SitePages/Home.aspx>

2020 Meeting Dates and Locations:

January 23, 2020 - Gig Harbor – 10222 Bujacich Rd NW

February 27, 2020 – Graham – 23014 70th Ave E

March 26, 2020 – CANCELLED COVID-19

April 23, 2020 – CANCELLED COVID-19

May 28, 2020 – REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

June 25, 2020 – REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

July 23, 2020 – BBQ/Potluck – CANCELLED

August 27, 2020 – South Pierce – REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

September 24, 2020 – REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

October 22, 2020 - NO MEETING – STATE CONFERENCE

November 19, 2020 – West Pierce – REMOTELY VIA ZOOM

(3rd Thursday due to 4th Thursday being Thanksgiving)

December 3, 2020 – NO MEETING – ANNUAL BANQUET-REMOTELY VIA ZOOM