



PIERCE COUNTY FIRE CHIEFS' ASSOCIATION



Established 1985

Meeting Minutes November 16, 2023

1. Call to Order

President Jim Sharp called the Pierce County Fire Chiefs Association meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. remotely via Zoom and in person at South Sound 911 located at 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma. According to the Zoom attendee list (6) and sign in sheet (7), there were a total of 13 people in attendance. President Sharp welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

2. Approval of Minutes

It was moved by Chief Parkinson and seconded by Chief Swinhart to approve the September 28, 2023; meeting minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

3. Treasurer's Report – Denise Ross

See Treasurer's Report on the back side of the agenda. Chief Parkinson moved and Chief Swinhart seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Correspondence

None

5. Guest Speakers – N/A

6. Executive Board Report

President Sharp reported they met last week and will share later.

7. Committees and Workgroups

A. Audit Committee – Morrow / Parkinson - DORMANT

B. PC Code Revision Workgroup – Morrow

President Sharp stated still ongoing.

C. Radio Replacement System – Sharp / Morrow

President Sharp stated going to defer down to New Business.

D. SS911 Call Processing Workgroup – Parkinson / Doan / Morrow

Chief Parkinson stated any update is waiting to set up a meeting with SS. December 8th after PCEOC meeting.

E. Ad Hoc Committee for FDSU User Group - Parkinson

Reported still working on it. Has a draft Interlocal Agreement.

F. State Chiefs / Western Chiefs – Doan

Reported met yesterday for Western Fire Chiefs. Most significant thing was the federal wildland mitigation final report to Congress on Wildfire. Will get a link out to everyone. Important to be aware of and know about. Will keep updated as it moves along. First meeting at 10:00 today for the State Chiefs.

G. Banquet Committee – Tammy Lamb / AC Scott Adams

President Sharp reported things are moving along. Reps from both groups have met and worked through all of the standard procedures. Announcements have gone out. The menu has been received and finalized. A big concern with the annual banquet is getting the RSVP’s in. Have 15 in, deadline is next week. Need a minimum of 30 more to cover the costs. It’s coming up fast. The E-Board has received some nominations for the Dan Packer COY award. They are working on that.

8. Unfinished Business

A. Joint Meeting with Police Chiefs Association

President Sharp has not circled back with Scott yet. They have a meeting today at Farm 12. Will get something set up early part of next year.

B. Meet with DEM and PCEMS to discuss concerns.

President Sharp reported first goal talked at last meeting was to build a predictable, timely process with recertifications. The first way to try to work through that was to have a PC Fire Chiefs OTEP Plan that is county-wide. Rebrand it from today and roll into a new branding of PC Fire Chiefs Plan and then any agency that wants to be a part of can point their plan to the Chiefs OTEP Plan. CPFR AC Joe Bouchard has been working on this. A bit of a holding plan. Point to a current plan that is already adopted by PC EMS, As changes come can rebrand at that time. That way doesn’t miss an opportunity for any organization to change to a new plan. Meeting today at 1:30 and hopeful to start moving that forward.

9. New Business

A. Nominations/Elections

President Sharp stated that all positions are open for Nominations for anyone interested. The current slate of officers has offered to remain in their spots. Open to the floor for any further nominations. Nominations are officially closed. No further nominations received.

- President Jim Sharp
- Vice President Jon Parkinson
- Trustee 1 Dennis Doan
- Trustee 2 Dustin Morrow
- Trustee 3 Matt Medford

Chief Wernet moved to approve the slate of officers by acclamation. Chief Swinhart seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

B. 2024 Proposed Budget

President Sharp stated the proposed budget is attached to the agenda and was e-mailed out to those attending via Zoom. No significant changes other than a slight increase to the state filing fee.

Chief Thirkield asked if there is any consideration in increasing the Secretary/Treasurer amount. Discussion followed.

Chief Thirkield moved to amend the budget to increase the Secretary/Treasurer payment \$50.00 totaling \$550.00 per month to match what the County Commissioner's Association pays. Chief Wassall seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

Denise thanked the Chiefs for the increase and stated she'll amend the budget accordingly.

C. Work Plan for 2024

President Sharp reported it was discussed at the last E-Board meeting to when restructured the association it was decided to have a work plan. For 2024 came up with a focused list to work on. If everything is a priority, then nothing is. The following is being proposed to this group as the 2024 Work Plan:

1. Develop a PCFC OTEP Plan and continue to work with PC EMS to improve relationships and how things are managed and how we are engaged in the County and State EMS system. One of the key objectives is getting the County wide OTEP Plan done to bring continuity to working with the same set of rules.
2. Call Processing Time with SS911 – decide on the words and define them so they mean the same thing. Phase 1 is to develop consistent language for call processing time. Can't determine how to improve until we are positive, we are speaking and talking about the same thing.
3. Continue to pursue a single radio system. A key priority that is hopefully close to fruition.
4. Reevaluate/update the county wide mutual aid plan and master interlocal agreement. PCSORT and PCHIT ILA begin done away with and through that discovered a lot of agreements out there and would be good for all of the Chiefs to look at. See if needs any updating, etc.

Chief Parkinson moved to present the Work Plan as presented by President Sharp. Chief Swinart seconded the motion. If not hitting the right priorities, please let know. Chief Parkinson stated he thinks these are the right priorities – the single radio system/radio purchasing is important and with PSCOC making sure conveying this group's interest to that group, etc. Chief Doan agreed with the list and his only thought is to add a name to each of them so that someone is responsible. President Sharp stated that there are people assigned to that - OTEP/EMS = Sharp leading and John back up as well as Joe Bouchard involved with. 2. Doan, Parkinson and Morrow. 3. Sharp and Parkinson and 4. Doan and Sharp. No further discussion. Call for the motion. MOTION CARRIED.

D. Radio Discussion

President Sharp reported so many different radio forums going on right now. PSCOC, regional steering group, etc. Single system has received all information from Motorola. Can be done. Take about 19 months to complete once start. Move from one core to new core, redundancy. Affects everyone on the system at some point in one way or another. Heavy lift, but it can be done. Fairly happy to hear the price, estimated 17-20

million dollars. Glad that it's not over 100 million dollars. Accomplishes – work groups for fire, police, dispatch and each brought in what needs to be changed, improvements needed to be beneficial. Coverage issues, realignment, simulcasting. Major changes on the west side, significant improvements. Intent is to improve coverage and mobility through system with roaming, not caught between 2 different systems. Question if this will turn into Pierce Transit where after 19 months come back and say it will be an additional 17 million? Discussion followed. President Sharp similar to the purchase and build of fire engine. Don't foresee that happening. In the end the cost will be in our radio fees. Good question to ask. Efficiencies in SS with not having to monitor two different systems. Pay for radios and dispatch. Don't anticipate massive ongoing operating costs. Capital expenditure – how does that get done, who pays for that? SS has been putting money away in a radio reserve fund. Next step to happen – technical and engineering plans are nearly done. Next big piece is the governance piece. 3 diff radio system ops Tacoma Puyallup PC. 3 diff interested parties that will want interest in the governance. SS will want a seat at that table as well. What does governance look like and how is it framed? Co-funding a consultant to come in and help guide. Been done before with CCN. Until governance piece is answered, won't have a final determination on single radio systems. A lot of questions to still be answered.

President Sharp stated has head a couple of comments recently – able to articulate this is worth the lift, effort, time, money. Is this still our top priority? Need to be able to articulate that. Still in favor of this being our top priority knowing what we know. Discussion followed. Consensus this is still a high priority that we see achievable. In policy hands to get done. Chief Doan wanted to poll the group / ask where at with county subscriber fees. Rumors are going to get jacked up. Standing strong and not paying anymore? Todd received a contract next year for the same fee as this year. Don't plan on paying anything additional until everyone else has paid their back payments.

Radio replacements are becoming a critical thing for everyone. Coming to the end of life. Doesn't mean they don't work anymore. When failing, need to do something to replace them. The steering group's position is lacking a major funding source, it's still purchase as you go, buy as you need. Next conversation needs to have been how does radio replacement look like and - bring up at PCSOC. We know what the maximum cost looks like today, what does that look like – bond opportunity, what does that look like? Explained AFG process, not much money if did regional, county-wide, actually more money for departments to do individually, etc. Politics, legalities behind? SS go to bond for \$\$ - ultimately, it's the County that goes out to bond. President Sharp – any agency that can take on the debt capacity could do a bond for SS911. Not required, just matter of right person, right time, willingness and ableness to do. Discussion followed. Radio replacement not forgotten, deferred due to the single system work.

The third leg of this is 700 users. All the same money. Potentially increases allocations. Taking money of out SS911 – have a relationship with them, Boards on. No relationship with radio owners. Makes more sense to stop sending money to radio operator systems and move that to SS911. Offsets to 700 users so not three times the

cost, etc. The City of Tacoma stopped asking for funding, and Puyallup stopped asking for ongoing funding except for a couple of small specific projects. PC is still only agency asking for large sum of money. Have to acknowledge, no good to divide forces.

A lot of letters went back and forth and gave testimony at county council. Exec put 2.2 million in the budget (1.4 last year, 1.8 and this year 2.2). Still not finalized. A lot of letters back and forth through PCSOC group. Another board meeting coming up for SS.

Chief Wassall asked if a radio has been decided on what they want to pursue? President Sharp stated there's the Motorola and Harris that rose to the top. There's a third one but didn't have all of the features that fire departments want. The Steering Committee and Operators state that any of them will work. From field use the Motorola and Harris. Chief Thirkield asked if there was a cooperative agreement in place for those that need to purchase? Discussion followed. County wide cache of radios? Maybe that needs to be deployed. May already be being done. Another option to bridge the gap is a cheaper radio option. Could be some alternatives for a short-term fix. Need to start having the conversation.

10. Good of the Order

President Sharp for heads up – the Change Conference. As an adjunct to this was the Training Chiefs that used to put on the Change Conference. 1 day with national speakers, well attended. COVID killed it. Have approached PCFTC about seeing that come back. Those that used to run it are in the Consortium. It is on their radar and working to bring back in 2025. Good news is it's coming back and 2025 is the goal.

Chief Parkinson stated it would be good to communicate changes in PCHIT/PCSORT. President Sharp stated – administrative function of it has gone away and ILA is going away the end of the year. Teams are still intact and exist as well as resources. Just not managing as had done previously. Should look or feel the same as it was before. No more administrative board. Mutual aid resource. The Ops Chiefs are getting together to talk about. Sounds like they will lean into the county resource plan as a model. 2 different zones with resources, deployment model, etc. Not sure if that is where they will land. Discussion followed. Operationally it shouldn't feel any different. President Sharp will have Dennis or Oscar send to Denise to send out.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Submitted by:

Denise Ross
Recording Secretary

2023 Meeting Schedule:

December 7, 2023 – NO MEETING – AWARDS BANQUET

2024 Meeting Schedule:

January 25, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave

January or February, 2024 – Joint Meeting with Police Chiefs

February 22, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave

March 28, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave

April 25, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave

May 23, 2024 –CANCELLED – State Chiefs Conference

June 27, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave

July 25, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave

August 22, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave

September 26, 2024 – Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave

October 24, 2024 – CANCELLED – State Commissioners Conference

November 21, 2024 (3rd Thursday due to 4th Thursday being Thanksgiving)– Hybrid remotely via Zoom and in person at SS911, 3580 Pacific Ave

December 5, 2024 – NO MEETING – AWARDS BANQUET