

Pend Oreille County Fire Protection District No. 2
Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Board of Commissioners on August 25, 2008

Meeting called to order by Chairman Rick Stone at 10:00 at the Administrative Office. Present were: Commissioners Norton, Durand and Stone, Chief Pollock, Deputy Chief Doughty and Administrative Assistant Rumelhart.

Approval of Agenda:

- **Commissioner Norton moved to approve the agenda as sent. Commissioner Durand seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.**

Guests or Public Appearances:

- None.

Payment of Bills:

- The outstanding bills were reviewed and discussed. **Commissioner Norton moved that the following vouchers be approved for payment:**
 - General Fund (646-002-010)
Voucher numbers: GF08-134 through GF08-145, totaling \$3,819.39.
 - Rescue Fund (646-002-020)
Voucher numbers: RF08-239 through RF08-246, totaling \$2,767.42.
 - LOCAL vouchers to Quality Steel Buildings totaling \$22,630.97.**Commissioner Durand seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.**

- After a discussion of the progress of Quality Steel Buildings on completing the contract, **Commissioner Stone moved to approve the LOCAL voucher to Quality Steel Buildings in the amount left in the LOCAL loan fund (approximately \$5,300.00), with the balance of the invoice (approximately \$17,300.00) to be paid after the contract is completed. Commissioner Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.**

Correspondence:

- Information on the annual WFCA conference was received.

Reports:

- Administrative Assistant
 - Current fund balances were given.
 - Station 23 phone numbers – The station 23 phones will be connected shortly. The numbers will be 442-2311 (voice) and 442-2323 (fax).
- Commissioner Stone
 - Station 23 (Tiger) – Still working on the finishing details.
- Commissioner Durand
 - Nothing to report.
- Commissioner Norton
 - Nothing to report.
- Chief Report
 - The District received a letter from the County Department of Emergency Management detailing proposed changes to the radio system. It would require the District to reprogram all the radios, but would result in better communications.
 - An update of vehicle status was given.
- Deputy Chief of Operations Doughty
 - Deputy Chief Doughty will start purchasing equipment for the new paramedic vehicle..

Old Business:

- Communication System Meeting with County Commissioners – A discussion was held on which issues to bring up at the meeting.
- Ford Expedition Bid Opening – Two bids were received, one from Tom Addis Newport Ford for \$28,201.82 and one from Wendle Ford for \$28,587.32. Deputy Chief Doughty and Chief Pollock reviewed the bids and Chief Pollock recommended to the board that the bid be awarded to Wendle Ford. **Commissioner Durand moved to award the purchase of the 2009 Ford Expedition 4x4 SSV to Wendle Ford for the bid of \$28,587.32. Commissioner Norton seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.**

New Business:

- Seattle City Light Contract – The County would like the District to bring the District's Seattle City Light contract under the County's agreement. After some discussion, it was decided the District would be better off with the current arrangement. An additional discussion was held regarding the impact fees that Seattle City Light pays to the County. Commissioner Norton is going to investigate the feasibility of District collecting 10 years worth of back impact fees that should have been paid to the District.
- Lone and Metaline Contract – Now that Station 23 is in service and fully equipped with apparatus, **Commissioner Norton moved to send letters to both Lone and Metaline stating that the District will discontinue the contracts at the end of this year. Commissioner Durand seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.** The wording of the letters will be reviewed at the next meeting.

The meeting was recessed at 11:53, to be continued at 12:30 at Commissioner Stone's residence.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:30 for the drive down to Newport, WA. Present were Commissioners Stone, Norton and Durand, Chief Pollock and Administrative Assistant Rumelhart.

- A discussion was held on problems with the communication system.

At 2:00 PM the Fire District Commissioner meeting was continued as a joint meeting with the County Commissioners in the Pend Oreille County Commissioner meeting room in Newport, WA. Present from the Fire District were Commissioners Stone, Norton and Durand, Chief Pollock and Administrative Assistant Rumelhart. Also present were County Commissioners Ken Oliver, Laura Merrill and Dean Cummings, Clerk of the Board Chris Mylar, Emergency Management Director JoAnn Boggs, Chief of Communications Steve West, Fire District #8 Chief Chris Smith and Steve Fontaine and Matthew Morrison with Day Wireless.

- The Emergency Management Department is working on FCC licenses for separate frequencies for the North, Middle and South parts of the County. This will enable the power of the Abercrombie radio repeater to be increased from 5 watts to 50 watts. The licenses are in the final stages of the approval process at the FCC. Once approval has been received then new antennas will be ordered and installed and the radio repeaters will be reprogrammed. The Fire District will have to reprogram all of its radios to the new frequency. These upgrades should greatly improve the radio coverage in the north end of the county as well as reduce radio traffic jams when multiple incidents occur within the county. Day Wireless will contact the FCC and find out the status of the frequency request and then inform Commissioner Merrill. If needed, Commissioner Merrill will contact Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers for assistance in speeding up the process so that the upgrades can be completed before winter. If necessary, Commissioner Stone will also contact Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers.
- The problem of duplicate pages was discussed. The Emergency Management Department had not realized that the Fire District still had the Metaline Falls cell tower and Station 24 pager repeaters turned on. The Fire District did not realize that the pager repeaters should have been turned off. The repeaters are bouncing the pages back and forth resulting in duplicate pages. It was decided that Day Wireless will be scheduled to come up and make sure that turning off the repeaters will not result in dead spots in the pager coverage. It may end up that the repeaters are needed to eliminate dead spots and the duplicate pages will have to be tolerated.

- The problem of ghost pages was discussed. It appears that no one has any idea of what could be causing them. Day Wireless stated the new mountain top pager equipment has the ability log transmissions and maybe the logs could help track down the problem.
- The frequency of the required identifier tones on the radio was discussed. Various solutions were explored, with the proper programming of PL tones being the best solution.
- Also discussed - acquiring redundant fiber optic cables in the county, and the lack of cell phone service in the north end of the county.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 PM. No District business was discussed on the drive back from Newport. The next regular meeting will be at 10:00 AM on Monday September 8th at the Administrative Office.

/s/ John Rumelhart, Clerk of the Board