



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 17, 2009 at 0900 hours
City of Seattle Joint Training Facility
9401 Myers Way South
Seattle, WA 98108

Call to Order

Chief Lee Soptich called the meeting to order at 0900. He welcomed all and thanked Chief Dean for the use of the facility.

Roll Call

Roll call of each Agency was held in an effort to help all get to know each other. The roll call roster is attached to these minutes.

Spotlight:

Each month a Fire Chief will be in the spotlight to speak about him/her self professionally, their department, the direction of their department, and/or a personal note to share.

Chief Mike Marrs, Fire District 2, was in the Spotlight this month. His department is comprised of two cities, approximately 40,000 - 42,000 people. They recently passed a bond to build two new fire stations. North Highline touches them to the north; they also touch Seattle, SeaTac airport, and the City of SeaTac and Des Moines. Chief Marrs has been the Chief for 12 years. He worked for Seattle as a life guard in high school and college, grew up in west Seattle. His parents lived here for 48 years. He worked on computers – a company named Wand Labs, until Microsoft almost put them out of business. He started volunteering, learned, took the test, and was hired. He has been with Burien ever since. Chief Marrs is married, has a daughter and son, and enjoys the outdoors.

Action: Next month Chief Dave Crossen will be in the Spotlight.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: Deputy Chief Merritt moved to approve the meeting minutes from the December 16, 2009 meeting. The Motion was seconded by Chief Dean and approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Chief Laatsch presented the Treasurer's Report for December 1, 2009, through February 17, 2010. The balance in the checking account is \$1,488.95. The balance in the savings account is \$8,998.04. The total

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of the two accounts at February 17, 2010 is \$10,487.57. Chief Laatsch made a request for dues outstanding.

Motion: Chief Dean moved to approve the Treasurer's Report for the reporting period of December 1, 2009, through February 17, 2010. The motion was seconded by Chief Daniels and approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Draft Scenes of Violence Model Procedure

Deputy Chief Merritt explained that a group was assembled from the Police and Fire Chiefs to develop the Model Procedure that is included in the Agenda packet. It is guiding principles for situational awareness for first responders.

Motion: Chief Church moved to approve the Model Procedure. The motion was seconded by Chief Crossen and approved unanimously.

Action: Deputy Chief Merritt was asked to pass on the information and appreciation to those who did the work on the Model Procedure.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting Day / Time / Place / Frequency

Chief Tubbs stated the Executive Board decided to bring this back to the body. Traditionally, the Association met at 1030, every other month; he asked the body for preferences. Chief Crossen stated he felt the Association needed to meet more often, Chief Dean agreed. With infrequent meetings, the work of the Association is not getting done. The Association discussed:

- Time: Members preferred an earlier start time rather than later, and to meet monthly.
- Where: The City of Seattle Joint Training Center is available every other month at this time. Discussion ensued over one or two places to meet, possibly a trade off for traffic flow. One place to meet works, so one can plan accordingly, somewhere central to all.
- Frequency: It was agreed that meetings should be held monthly.

Action: The KCFCFA will meet monthly, the third Wednesday of the month, at 0900 hours. Chief Dean will check with the Seattle Joint Training Facility for monthly availability.

Committees: Liaisons / Reports

Chief Dean stated the Executive Board discussed the committees that KCFCFA has representatives attend and the reporting venue. The following Divisions are appointed by the President and serve during the term:

1. Training/Safety – Deputy Chief Merritt
2. Fire Prevention/Public Education – Deputy Chief Olson

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3. Fire/Rescue Operations – Deputy Chief Merritt
4. EMS – Battalion Chief LaFave, Deputy Chief Merritt

Association Committee appointees made by the Executive Board on an as needed basis:

1. EMAC Committee – Chief Tubbs
2. Safety – Representation is at the state level with re-write of the WAC.
3. WSRB – Chief Dean
4. MEPG – Deputy Chief Merritt
5. USAR – Deputy Chief Bill Hepburn (Three representatives sit on the USAR Policy Board: Tubbs, Hepburn, Chief Jack Andren, Ruth Obadahal)
6. Medic 1 – Interim Division Director Michele Plorde
7. Law Enforcement /monthly meetings – Chief Mike Marrs
8. Hazmat Ops – Deputy Chief Merritt reported the group meets quarterly, and this may be an opportunity to receive feedback. It was suggested the Hazmat Ops group should live together with Operations.
9. KC Fire Marshal (ad hoc) – should the Association form?

Bellevue Chief Eisner expressed concerned that Deputy Chief Warren is being stretched too thin and would like to relook at the chief officers already attending committee meetings.

Committee Reports: Use the electronic Activity Report. If you attend a meeting that is important for this Association to know about, use the Activity Report, or send the Association an email. We will not take time in this monthly meeting to go over reports.

Attendance at Legislative Monthly Sessions

Chief Soptich stated that all should have received the list of representatives, senators, and council personnel; this is in an effort to get everyone to recognize who to build relationships with. The interest is to build awareness, understanding, relationships, and trust level; to help Chief Al Church at the State level. If we want to see change happen, we need to invest the time. What kind of commitment level is there from this Association? Make contact with at least one person on the list; it may be a phone call or email and (re-) introduce yourself (don't know if you know, I am the new fire chief.) Not ask for something the first time you meet, state who you are, and what you are trying to accomplish with your fire department.

The desire is to start to have a formal process – meet with politicians on regular basis. Invite them to breakfast, a banquet, an award ceremony, if the press is in the room; mention them, recognize them. Think out in advance for those opportunities. Chief Soptich invited all to think about an opportunity coming up.

Chief Soptich stated the goal this year is to have two people sign up for each legislative meeting on behalf of the KCFCA, in uniform, whether fire issue or not, and shake hands, say hi. The feeling is if the Association is in a relationship with these folks, they will contact us about an upcoming issue.

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Action: *Reach out to someone on list, commit to attend a legislative session
Chief Soptich to get legislative schedule
Send out the legislative list again, as some have not received (DGB)
Chief Soptich commits for April meeting, Chief Tubbs joined him.*

BREAK

County Code Enforcement, Plan Review, Investigations

Chief Daniels reported that in the unincorporated parts of King County fire inspections and investigations are not getting done due to the deficient in the KC budget deficient and no Fire Marshal. He feels this is an opportunity to offer a solution and help the county. Chief Daniels discussed getting together a group of Fire Chiefs to meet at the County level with the new County Executive and taking the KC Fire Commissioners with them.

Other Chiefs spoke of common challenges; trying to make contact with someone at KC, firefighter safety, public safety, the lack of reports due after inspections, no regular inspections if revenue is not generated for County.

Municipalities have an investigator, but support the initiative to talk to somebody and would like to join in. **Question:** Is this an issue of money, or the authority to do it? **Answer:** Both. It wouldn't cost the District(s) any more, they want the authority. KC does not want to give up potential dollars.

Currently, a committee of Fire Chiefs is working on this issue: Daniels, Crossen, Lipe, Meyers. Timing to deliver this to the County was discussed along with the need to spend the time and outline why KC should move away from their business model to ours; what we can and cannot do, the price, and impact of six people in the County.

A three to four page white paper outlining the issue, background, what the county does when resources are available, from the KCFC views, was discussed.

Action: *Chief Church will send the white paper to Chief Daniels for review and to make sure the issue is still relevant.*

Action for Committee: *Expectation of group white paper; frame what problem truly is, share with all KC Chiefs. When white paper is agreed to by Fire Chiefs, send to Executive County office and share concerns, along with actions to get done. Send the white paper to the KC Commissioner looking to form a committee.*

Action: *Chief Soptich will send a letter off to the KC Commissioners.*

Action: *This should be our number priority this year.*

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KCFCA Top Priorities for 2010

Chief Dean stated the above item is the Association's goal for 2010. He asked for any other areas, where we would have accomplished.

Developing relationships with the legislators was suggested as goal #2.

Look at joint purchasing power for Association; engines, hose, bunker gear. Every time go out to bid, have specific/proper language in bid others can use; maybe post on the web site. It was suggested to decide on one to three items that all would purchase the same, and make that a priority.

Motion: Chief Church moved to adopt the 2010 goals for the KCFCA. A second was offered by Chief Crossen.

2010 KCFCA Goals:

1. FM Office
2. Develop Relationships with Legislators
3. Explore Joint Purchasing Power - Chief Smith take the initiative
4. Amendment: Deputy Chief Merritt asked for greater involvement/representation from the Operation folks. They meet on the fourth Wednesday at 130 on the even months at Renton Station 14.

The motion passed unanimously.

USAR & State Mobilization/Olympics

Chief Tubbs reported at a USAR policy board meeting they discussed the Olympics in Vancouver as British Columbia (BC) no longer has USAR ability; the first folks they will be calling is you.

Chief Laatsch stated we are willing to send people for period, but not five, six, seven day period, making it difficult to send mobilized crews. Using state mob process doesn't occur often and would be an incentive to team members if utilized.

Action: Chief Tubbs will email to Chiefs for yes or no response and compile results.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Deputy Chief Merritt thanked the Fire Chiefs for encouraging their Training officers to attend the meetings; 30-32 are showing up monthly.

If any interest in HAMMER (Hazardous Materials Management and Emergency Response) Training by the State Chiefs, contact Chief Church. This is an opportunity for newly elected officials to learn about the fire service, similar to Fire Ops 101.

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Chief Church stated that while building relationships, one might make a donation to the WA State Chief's Political Action Fund. This helps support actions in Olympia. Donations are optional (they can be accomplished through a payroll deduction.)

Action: *Donation forms will be sent to all for their consideration.*

On March 10th, the Executive Board has been invited to the County Fire Chief Presidents Annual Meeting with the State Fire Chiefs Executive Board in Yakima.

Drawing for gift – A drawing for a duffle bag from Life Line was held. Number 17 was picked: Maple Valley Fire Chief Doerflinger was the winner.

Appreciation was given to Chief Dean for the meeting space and refreshments provided.

The meeting was adjourned at 1106 hours.

Tour of City of Seattle Joint Training Facility

A tour of the 13-acre City of Seattle Joint Training Facility was provided to those that who remained.

Deborah Gober-Beneze
Executive Admin Assistant to Lee Soptich

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King County Fire Chief's Association Attendance Roster

February 17, 2010

Present	Name	Agency
X	Al Church	South King Fire & Rescue (39-Federal Way)
	Bob Oliver	Redmond Fire Department (34)
Excused	Bob Rowe	Snoqualmie Fire Department
	Bob Van Horne	Bothell Fire Department (Sno 10)
X	Brad Doerflinger	Maple Valley Fire & Life Safety (43)
	Bryan Howard	King County (Boeing) Airport Fire Department
	Chris Connor	Fire District 27 (Fall City)
X	Chris Tubbs	Mercer Island Fire Department
	Dave Cook	Boeing Fire Department
X	Dave Crossen	Fire District 20 (Skyway-Bryn Mawr)
Excused	Gary White	Port of Seattle/SeaTac International Airport FD
X	Gregory Dean	Seattle Fire Department
X	Greg Smith	Fire District 44 (Black Diamond)
Excused	Hank Lipe	Vashon Island Fire & Rescue (13)
X	I. David Daniels	Woodinville Fire & Life Safety District (36)
	Jim Knisley	District 50 (Skykomish)
	Jim Schneider	Kent Fire Department (37)
	John Lambert	Fire District 45 (Duvall)
	Joseph Clow	Enumclaw Fire Department (28)
	Kevin Nalder	Kirkland Fire Department (41)
X	Lee Soptich	Eastside Fire & Rescue (10, 38, Car, NB, Issq, Samm)
	Marcus Kragness	Shoreline Fire Department (District 4)
	Mark Peterson	Renton Fire & Emergency Services (25, 40)
	Mark Tessen	Fire District 47 (Ravensdale)
	Matt Cowen	Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue (49, 51)
X	Michele Plorde	Emergency Medical Services
X	Mike Eisner	Bellevue Fire Department (14)
X	Mike Marrs	District 2 (Burien/Normandy Park)
	Nick Olivas	Tukwila Fire Department
	Scott LaVielle	North Highline Fire District (11)
X	Stan Laatsch	Valley Regional Fire Authority
	Tom Weathers	Northshore Fire Department (16)
	Brian Wiwel	SeaTac Fire Department (24)
X	Bill Hepburn	Seattle Fire Department
X	Gordie Olson	South King Fire & Rescue
X	Tracey Wycoff	Fire District 20
X	Keith Taylor	Port of Seattle Fire Department
X	Warren Merritt	Bellevue Fire Department
X	Bill Flora	Renton Fire & Emergency Services (25, 40)
X	Debbie Gober-Beneze	Eastside Fire & Rescue (10, 38, Car, NB, Issq, Samm)