

Board of Fire Commissioners Special Meeting Minutes

116 South Granite Avenue, Granite Falls, WA

May 25, 2010

1900 hours

CALL TO ORDER

District 17 (D17) Chairman Gillam called the meeting to order and led everyone in the pledge of allegiance to the flag. Chairman Elmore called the meeting to order at 1900 hours.

ROLL CALL

Lake Stevens Fire (LSF) members Chairman Elmore, Commissioner Lorentzen, Commissioner Foster, Chief Faucett, DC Lingenfelter, and Laana Larson. D17 members Chairman Gillam, Commissioner Hayes, Commissioner Johnson, Chief Haverfield, Jeri James and various D17 members.

DISTRICT 17 AND LAKE STEVENS FIRE RELATIONSHIPS

D17 Chairman Gillam opened up the discussion regarding relationships between District 17 and Lake Stevens Fire.

Chairman Elmore thanked D17 for inviting LSF to have this important conversation and work towards staying in touch with each other.

Chairman Elmore presented a special plaque to past D17 Commissioner Steinke to thank him for his time of service and years of partnership with Lake Stevens Fire.

D17 Past Commissioner Steinke thanked LSF for the plaque and hopes that the Commissioners from D17 and LSF can do what is best for both districts.

Chairman Elmore asked D17 about any past concerns regarding contract negotiations.

Chief Faucett commented it would be good to discuss the following topics: ALS contract, training, Battalion Chief (BC) services, and shared services.

D17 Chief Haverfield commented that training is a top priority for them and they are not training with their neighbors like they should be. It is important that they increase how much they train with LSF & District 22 (D22) and they have discussed this with D22 Chief Hots and LSF BC Huff. Their first six months after Chief Hjelle's departure, has been focused internally on D17.

D17 Chairman Gillam confirmed their Board has been a little frustrated with the ALS contract. He didn't feel like there was a compromise by both parties; however he noted that they signed it and they own the decision. He doesn't want to belabor the issue and he is glad that the Boards are taking the time to meet together.

D17 Commissioner Hayes commented he shares the same frustration as Chairman Gillam. There didn't seem to be any other option but to sign the agreement and it felt like they were taken advantage of.

D17 Commissioner Johnson commented he wasn't a part of the decision making process, although he did do some research on other departments and ran some numbers. He commented they need the service and the ALS contract is just fine as written.

Chairman Elmore commented it is true that we didn't move a great distance during our negotiations. Unfortunately we took the Chiefs out of the process.

D17 Commissioner Johnson commented we are really getting the best deal we can, given this current economy. His research looked at departments in California, Oregon and Washington.

**LAKE STEVENS
FIRE**

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"Touching Lives Today ~ Planning for Tomorrow"

Fire Commissioners:
Troy Elmore, Dan Lorentzen, Vern Foster
Fire Chief Gary L. Faucett

1825 South Lake Stevens Road
Lake Stevens, WA 98258

Chairman Elmore commented he researched Snohomish, King and Skagit counties because it was important to know firsthand that we did not take advantage of D17 regarding the ALS contract.

D17 Chairman Gillam asked about where we were with getting new ALS contracts with our other agencies.

Chairman Elmore confirmed the ALS contract with D22 has been addressed; and they believe their engine response service into our district is "in-kind" for our ALS service to them.

Chief Faucett commented that is definitely D22's opinion. In the beginning we clarified we were looking for a standard formula to use with all the agencies and we ended up with the D17 ALS contract to use as a model. District 16 (D16) doesn't have an EMS levy so we signed a contract for \$1000 per call in a three step plan (\$500, \$750, \$1000) which was equivalent per call to D17's. They are now up to the \$1000 step. We sent a letter to D22 around the same time we were negotiating with D16. We have opted to place District 22's ALS issue on hold until our Operations Chief is hired. At that time we will assess our need for all deployments within our organization and whether any "in-kind" service thereafter should be factored into an ALS agreement. Our goal is to have an Operations Chief on board by August 1st, however it will depend on the individual.

Chief Faucett reminded the Commissioners that LSF started negotiations at 40% of D17's EMS assessed value and during negotiations LSF reduced this percentage to a maximum of 29% for D17.

Chief Faucett also reminded the Commissioners present that LSF has kept its intent to stay within the formula used in D17's contract. D16 has agreed to a similar contract based on no EMS levy which is equivalent to D17's, so this only leaves D22 and we are working with them. Chief Faucett reminded the Commissioners, that just as we worked with D17 on details of their contract, we also work with the other agencies and some move faster than others, some have unique situations which require modifications to the model contract.

D17 Chairman Gillam commented he would like to see the comparables that Chairman Elmore acquired.

D17 Chairman Gillam asked the Chiefs how the operational mechanics of the ALS contract were going.

D17 Chief Haverfield commented there are no concerns whatsoever with the ALS service LSF is providing. They are utilizing PM Keith Terry as their MSA and receiving great service. Also, they appreciate getting notice before people are sent to collections so there is time to try and reach them once more.

D17 Chairman Gillam asked about quarterly reporting.

D17 Chief Haverfield commented they still need the first quarter report for 2010.

Chief Faucett confirmed the report will be forth coming.

D17 Chairman Gillam commented he appreciates having the Chiefs involved in the continued discussion regarding the ALS contract. They are glad to reopen the communications and review some of the data that has been collected. Overall it has been hugely beneficial for the D17 citizens and he thanked LSF for providing the service.

Chief Faucett commented we try to work together and there is no reason why we shouldn't be able to do more training together. Once the new Operations Chief comes in we hope this can happen.

D17 Chief Haverfield commented once the LSF Operations Chief is on board we can take additional steps. He looks forward to standardizing things throughout the county one day; as every district is different and joint training will make us more effective on the emergency scene.

D17 Commissioner Hayes commented it would be good to work with policies and procedures as well.

Chief Faucett agreed and commented inevitably this will happen when we start training together.

D17 Chairman Gillam commented this seems like a great goal and it would be beneficial for both parties involved.

D17 Commissioner Johnson agreed we will be able to stabilize the incident quicker when working together.

Chief Faucett commented a common BC between the two agencies will also lead to a more efficient response. We appreciate the opportunity for our BCs to arrive on the emergency scene, as they want to be of service and we hope that we can continue this into the future. Chief Faucett commented he is confident that our firefighters are safer on the scene because of the BC/Incident Commander.

D17 Chief Haverfield commented he appreciates having them on the fire scenes. There are times when they have the staff and then the BC becomes the Safety Officer. The help is appreciated.

D17 Commissioner Johnson asked about earlier discussions regarding the BC contract.

Chief Faucett commented the contract was placed on the back burner because there was so much going on throughout the organization. D17 Chief Haverfield has placed us on automatic aid on certain emergency scenes.

D17 Commissioner Johnson commented they may consider readdressing this issue.

Chief Faucett commented there are benefits to what we can offer; it really was a timing issue.

D17 Chairman Gillam asked if there were any questions about shared services.

Commissioner Foster commented he really wants to see us get together and work well together for the benefit of our citizens. He appreciates the open and honest communication.

Commissioner Lorentzen commented it is about the emergency services and it is important that our crews see all of us getting along. We all had reasons for becoming elected officials and it is important for us to build relationships between us.

Commissioner Foster commented the public doesn't know the difference between us; and transparency at the public level is working for everyone.

D17 Chairman Gillam commented earlier in the year they had an open session to hear from everyone within their department and they are open minded to almost anything at this point. He suggested a quarterly meeting system and developing a pattern of communication.

Chairman Elmore offered carpooling to upcoming Sno-Isle meetings.

Chief Faucett asked about future plans for the D17 Fire Chief position. He commented LSF has a desire to share and consolidate as many services as possible and now seems like a logical point in time. He asked if there would be an interest by both Commissions in performing a study to see where it would be beneficial to consolidate. He offered the study to be done by an outside neutral party and facilitator. There is influence in larger agencies; and unless smaller districts start merging, we will be left to the larger fire district's determining how county fire service is operated.

D17 Commissioner Hayes confirmed Chief Haverfield is currently their Fire Chief. They have yet to have the conversation with him on where they are going with this in the future.

Chairman Elmore commented it is all about maximizing our resources. We know we will have to do a study going through the strategic planning process. There is no obligation for D17 if D17 wants to join in on the strategic planning process.

D17 Commissioner Johnson commented they want to make sure everyone in Granite Falls gets the best service; and he is interested in this process as it would make their job easier.

Chief Faucett commented the D17 and LSF crews can work together; it would be great to see the both Boards grant the possibility of a study.

D17 Chairman Gillam commented they are open minded and his Board needs to have a serious discussion about this matter. Their goal has been to heal the morale within the department over the first six months and they commend Chief Haverfield for what he has done as he stepped in at an extremely difficult time.

Commissioner Foster asked D17 to consider this potential study during the next couple of meetings and let us know the decision.

Chief Faucett confirmed we will have to bring in a facilitator for the strategic plan anyways. It would be a separate issue from the strategic plan to consider how our agencies could be more efficient working together.

D17 Chairman Gillam asked about potential joint meeting dates in July and everyone agreed on 7pm July 7th as the next Joint Commissioner Meeting at Lake Stevens Fire.

D17 Union President commented it is excellent to see the Boards working together.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

No additional comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

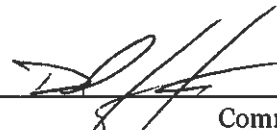
ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2025 hours.
Motion by Chairman Elmore and 2nd by Commissioner Lorentzen.
Motion Passed.

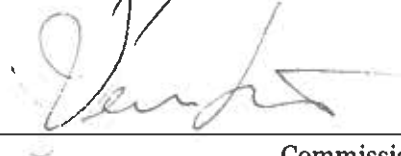
Minutes respectfully submitted by Laana Larson, Communications Director.



Chairman Troy Elmore



Commissioner Dan Lorentzen



Commissioner Vern Foster