



Snohomish County Chiefs' Association
Board Meeting
1:00 p.m.
August 28, 2024

PRESENT:	Dave Kraski	President North County Fire
	Shaughn Maxwell	Vice-President South County Fire
	Jim Haverfield	Secretary/Treasurer SCFD 17
	Eric Andrews	Medium Agencies Director SCFD19
	Keith Strotz	Small Agencies Director SCFD19
		Immediate Past President
	Bob Eastman	South County Fire
	Don Waller	SCFD 4

- A. **Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 1306 hours.
- B. **Adopt/Adjust Agenda** No adjustments to the agenda
- C. **Minutes**

Action: A motion was made by Chief Kraski to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Chief Strotz seconded the motion. Minutes were unanimously approved.

- D. **Old Business**

The vote on the County's proposed .2% tax did not pass the general membership (13/7)

Chief Haverfield asked some follow-up questions about the July 15th general membership meeting. Chief Maxwell shared that the taskforce has been working together but they've been struggling to come to consensus on a few things.

Chief Haverfield is disappointed to hear that Dr. Keay can no longer serve as his oversight physician due to her role as the MPD.

Chief Waller shared that the idea of the MPD not being allowed to serve as an oversight physician was in the 5-year plan. Chief Haverfield will follow up with Dr. Keay to clear up any potential miscommunication.

Chief Haverfield also inquired about the funding for Tulalip. Chief Maxwell mentioned that they've been looking at models that might achieve parity with other agencies and their assessed values; to have them pay what the rest of the agencies pay if Tulalip were AV based.

Chief Eastman shared that two Snohomish County Fire Commissioners attended the taskforce meeting on August 27th. It is his impression that they are not supportive of moving forward with the work of the taskforce at the present time. There are questions unanswered, in their opinion, that are critical. Value for dollars, as far as the increase is concerned, has not been clearly delineated.

Chief Waller feels the taskforce is on the right path, but the funding pieces need to be worked out.

Chief Maxwell would like to see more work done around how operations will work.

The rules will change at the end of September and those new rules will affect the work that has been done.

Chief Andrews shared that he feels that this process has not been fair, and people have been attempting to manage it from outside the taskforce. He feels that money and time have been wasted.

Chief O'Brien is disappointed that the process seems to have stalled.

Chief Haverfield did share with the group he doesn't feel like this been derailed by the larger groups and he understands that they may want to slow down due to the large increases they'll see.

The goal was to get this completed by January of 2025, but the Executive Board did note that that was a goal and not a deadline. Chief Maxwell offered that he was willing to bump up the ftes for SCEMS in the interim, while various solutions are investigated.

Chief Strotz agreed that maybe this process has been moving a bit too fast. He'd be fine with moving this ahead to the 2026 budget cycle.

Chief Haverfield would like to see this done right, rather than quickly.

Chief Eastman shared that his board would ask the question "What are we getting for the increased cost (\$500,000k)?" and that, and other questions, have not yet been addressed.

What are the minimum requirements needed to run the County EMS office? (Taskforce will need to weigh in on this as to what the minimums are) SCF feels minimums should be established, to begin with, and then governance can organically grow with the organization, as necessary. Chief Eastman would like to see the group look at the RCWs and go by those minimum requirements.

Are they doing what they need to do to stay compliant?

What is the responsibility of County EMS?

What are the responsibilities of the various county fire agencies?

Chief Andrews feels that a mixed message may have been given to the Committee. He remembers the mission being given to the taskforce as "What type of county EMS office do we need?" He's surprised to hear that the mission is now, "What is the minimum?"

Chief Kraski concurred that there may have been some mixed messaging.

Chief O'Brien is advocating that the groups, SCEMS and SCFCA, should take their time.

Chief Kraski made a motion to delay the vote that had been scheduled for the September 9, 2024, general membership meeting. Chief Haverfield seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

E. New Business

Textile manufacturer Filium/Zenkai Apparel

Chief O'Brien is familiar with a person who runs a business that manufactures PFAS-free cotton-based clothing. It sheds water. Vancouver Fire has been wearing their t-shirts. Chief O'Brien has been wearing one of the shirts to work out and he's found it to be great; no odor and it seems to launder well.

The owner of the company will join us at the General Membership meeting on September 9th.

Public Records and the Open Public Meetings Act

The county fire chief's association is subject to the Open Public Meetings Act. Attorney Richard Davis will attend the next Board meeting to discuss the applicable regulations/RCWs with the group.

F. Committee Updates

None.

G. Announcements/Good of the Order

None.

H. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 1401 hours. The motion was made by Chief Strotz and was seconded by Chief Kraski.

Minutes prepared and submitted by: Susan Bjorling
Executive Assistant, Office of the Fire Chief
South County Fire

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 25th, 2024
1:00 pm

Attachments: