



**Snohomish County Chiefs' Association**  
**General Membership**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**March 6, 2023**

**PRESENT:**

Thad Hovis  
Dave Kraski  
Jim Haverfield  
Travis Hots  
Eric Andrews  
Keith Strotz

**President** South County Fire  
**Vice President** North County Fire  
**Secretary/Treasurer** Snohomish County FD 17  
**Immediate Past President** Snohomish County FD 22  
**Medium Agency Director** Sky Valley Fire  
**Small Agency Director** Snohomish County FD 19

Levon Yengoyan  
Mike Calvert  
Dave DeMarco  
John Gray  
Darryl Neuhoff  
Ned Vander Pol  
Glen Albright  
Blake Enges  
Troy Elmore  
Kirk Galatas  
John Cermak  
Chris Dickison  
Joshua Cole  
Jason Hodkinson  
Greg Osborne  
Bill Dane  
Ernie Walters  
Todd Anderson  
John Chalfant  
Bob Eastman  
Joe Hughes  
Jason Isotalo  
Shaughn Maxwell  
Andrew Heller  
John Puetz  
David Wells  
Lori Burke  
Terry Peterson  
Leonard Boche'

Camano Fire  
Everett Fire  
Everett Fire  
Hat Island Fire  
Marysville Fire  
Marysville Fire  
Mukilteo Fire  
Mukilteo Fire  
Mukilteo Fire  
Mukilteo Fire  
North County Fire  
North County Fire  
Paine Field Airport Fire  
Snohomish County FD 4  
Snohomish County FD 4  
Snohomish County FD 17  
Snohomish County FD 26  
South County Fire  
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South County Fire  
South County Fire  
South County Fire  
South County Fire  
Snohomish County Fire Marshals  
SNO911  
Northwest Business Services

- A. Call to Order** Meeting called to order at 1137 hours.
- B. Adopt / Adjust Agenda** No changes or additions to the agenda.
- C. Minutes**
  - **Discussion:** No discussion.

- **Action: Motion** to approve the minutes to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023, meeting was made by Chief Cermak. **Seconded** by Chief Neuhoff. **The motion carried** unanimously.

#### **D. Treasurer's Report**

- **Discussion:** Chief Haverfield reported that SCFCA does not have access to QuickBooks as utilized by the previous administrator. Based on bank statements, everything looks to be in order. The two outstanding invoices from Northwest Business Services have been paid.

#### **E. Old Business**

##### **MPD Search**

This position has been filled by Dr. Ryan Keay. Her tenure began March 1<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Keay will be invited to attend the SCFCA meeting in April.

##### **Wall Wait Times**

Chiefs Maxwell and Hughes are looking at all options to improve wall wait times. It's felt by some that the Nurse Line looks to be promising. Some on-scene telemedicine may also be beneficial in avoiding transport. Research will continue.

The attached memo from CSD Law, commissioned by North County and Chief Cermak, explores different approaches to improving wall wait times. A proactive approach to funding more Community Resource Paramedics could be undertaken by Providence and other area facilities. CRPs could go to hospitals to help with surges, at times, as well. It's widely felt by the group that this issue needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

Some communities around the country have been setting up contracts with CRPs and hospitals where hospitals are billed based on medics' time spent on the walls.

Clark County has a contract set up with Peace Health where CRPs make follow-up phone calls, and they can also make additional visits to patients' home for a set fee. The hospitals benefit from this in reducing their readmissions.

It will be important, moving forward, to forge a strong partnership with area hospital staff to create synergy and improve efficiency. The County Executive's Office has engaged in conversation with both the County Chiefs' Association and area hospitals, which should help to increase awareness.

##### **Snohomish County Fire Training Consortium Further Development for Discussion**

RFP was distributed on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. If SNO911 is unable to answer questions from outside entities, they will request information from the Executive Board. Questions should be submitted electronically, and they'll be posted on the SNO911 website.

## **F. New Business**

### **Spring Training Officers Leadership Seminar**

A funding request was submitted to facilitate the Spring Training Officers' Leadership Academy. A **motion** was made by Chief **Neuhoff** and **seconded** by Chief **Cermak** to approve funding the seminar in the amount of \$7,000. The **motion carried unanimously**.

## **G. Reports**

1. **Sno911** Exec. D Kurt Mills - The SNO911 facility renovation effort will kick off on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March.
2. **Fire Commissioners** Chief Waller was unable to attend the March 6<sup>th</sup> SCFCA meeting, but he did email prior to, and he shared that he attended the last Fire Commissioners' Meeting. He is looking forward to providing more information at the next SCFCA General Meeting.
3. **Fire Marshals** Lori Burke - The County Fire Marshals have had difficulties having scenes secured. The Marshals would appreciate having some board up companies sent on call outs. They'd also like assistance in securing scenes. Some agencies have encountered various board-up companies declining work. SNO911 has asked to opt out of the contract management regarding this issue and each department will be handling this for their own agency. This issue will be placed on the next Executive Board Meeting agenda. for further discussion.
4. **Fire Resources Coordinator** Chief Hots - No Fire Defense Board Meeting has been held recently and no deployments have been necessary.
5. **DEM** Director Lucia Schmitt - absent.
6. **Fire TAC** Chief Andrews - There will be a special meeting held on April 19<sup>th</sup> at SNO911. There was a Fire TAC meeting held the last week of February regarding 60-second wait times.
7. **Legislative** Chief Maxwell - Chief Eastman, in Chief Maxwell's absence, provided an update that the legislative bill to move fire service from under the umbrella of WSP had been doing well until the last hearing. It remains to be seen as to how it will play out.  
  
The bill regarding CRP funding is being closely watched by Chief Maxwell who will report back with any subsequent information.  
  
The nursing staffing bill has also been discussed and its progress is being monitored.
8. **Fire Prevention** FLSE Shawneri Guzman - absent.
9. **EMS** Chief Roger Vares - absent.
10. **Training Consortium** Chief Rob Fisher - absent.

**11. Training Officers/Safety** Chief Elmore -The group met on February 14<sup>th</sup>. EVCC has established for JTC to suit Snohomish County Fire Departments. They've been working with South County Fire and SRF on upcoming EMT programs as there will be a great need. DEM has purchased tabletop exercise kits for fire/EMS/HazMat emergencies. Krystal Kraig is the contact. Jason Schechterle with Burning Shield will be speaking on May 25<sup>th</sup> at the Mukilteo Rosehill Community Center, presenting the Spring Leadership event. Safety officers will have their first Officers' Training Meeting on March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**12. Special Ops** Chief Ruddell - absent

**13. Policy / Procedure Review Committee** Chief Andrews - no report.

**14. Washington State Fire Chiefs** Chief O'Brien - absent.

## H. Announcements/Good of the Order

Chief Darryl Neuhoff introduced the new Marysville Fire Chief, Ned Vander Pol who has relocated from San Diego.

Chief Vander Pol shared with the group that he has felt sincerely welcomed by folks in the area. He extended an open invitation to the county Chiefs to meet for coffee or lunch anytime. He's looking forward to becoming acquainted with people and our community.

Paine Field will be having their annual tabletop drill on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Chief Cole shared that he's looking forward to working with the group.

South County Fire is looking for evaluators for their MSO testing on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. The opportunity is open to area MSOs and/or captain-paramedics.

Mike Hudson was introduced as the new health/safety DC with South County Fire. Chief Curtis will work into logistics for South County. BCs Heller and Puetz were introduced as special guests.

While sharing that the March 6<sup>th</sup> meeting would be Chief Neuhoff's last official SCFCA meeting, President Thad Hovis expressed his appreciation for Chief Neuhoff. His guidance, mentorship and friendship have been much appreciated through the years.

Chief Kraski also shared his gratitude with Chief Neuhoff.

Chief Cermak stated that he values Chief Neuhoff's honesty and willingness to stand up and share his thoughts.

Chief Neuhoff expressed that he first started attending Chiefs' meetings in 1987. He has, through the years, seen a great deal of growth and he will truly miss the meetings and the people with whom he's worked. In his words, "Covid was a bad thing, but it also drove some good things. Things have gotten better for residents in many ways." At the end of the day, Chief Neuhoff would like everyone to remember that helping "Mr. and Mrs. Smith" should be the priority. He sees the Chiefs' group moving forward in a good way. One thing he has learned through the Fire Service is that he's never had a bad day, as he's never had to bury one of his children. He has also developed a lack of fear in sharing his thoughts and opinions.

He encouraged the group to avoid dancing around things. He shared that he isn't afraid to be the person in the room who will address issues that others may avoid.

He started his service in mid-June of 1983. He will be just a few days short of 40 full years in the fire service upon his retirement date. He reminisced about one of his first calls: He saw a plane over Sunday Lake that appeared to be doing aerobatics. Of course, he recalled, they were not doing aerobatics, but they had had an issue while dropping off skydivers. He remembers sirens sounding from all directions. He and a friend, offering help to the sheriff and a local farmer, were told there wasn't much help that could be offered. He, unfortunately, approached a scene where there were no discernable human remains. He said that, while that scene was gruesome, he knew that he would be working for the rest of his life to help people get through their worst days. He expressed sincere gratitude and appreciation for his time with the group.

### **1. Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn proposed by Chief Hovis, **seconded** by Chief Cermak, and **approved** unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1233 hours.

**Minutes prepared and submitted by:**  
**Susan Bjorling - Executive Assistant, South County Fire**

**Next Meeting:**  
**April 3, 2023**  
**1130 hours**  
**Shawn O'Donnell's / Zoom**

**Attachments:**  
**Memo – CSD Law**  
**RFP Bid Call – Sno911**