

# CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6

7810 La Push Road · PO Box 2385 · Forks, WA 98331

## Monthly Commissioner Meeting Minutes

October 9, 2023

**Meeting convened** on October 9, 2023, at 13:30, at Three Rivers Fire Hall, by Commissioner Chip Keen.

**Commissioners Present** – Chip Keen, Scott Horton, Tom Rosmond

**Officers Present** – Aleilah P Lawson, District Secretary; Scott Swagerty, Chief

**Other Attendees** – Troi Gale, NOLS; Andrew Chapman, VFF

**Changes/Additions to Agenda** – NOLS bookmobile update was moved from Old Business to before the Secretary's Report.

**Minutes** – Minutes of the September 11, 2023, meeting were read, approved, and signed by all three commissioners.

### **NOLS Bookmobile Update**

Troi Gale, NOLS West End Library Manager, shared that the bookmobile will begin its Wednesday visit to Three Rivers Fire on October 18<sup>th</sup>. Everyone is excited to have the bookmobile provide this important service to our community.

### **Secretary's Report**

1. 2022 AFG update. As of September 28<sup>th</sup> (the latest website update), FEMA has awarded 19 AFG awards to Washington State organizations. FEMA reports that all grant awards have been made and turnaround letters will be mailed soon.
2. County mailing re upcoming levy has been received. Review and signing of the documents are calendared for November 13<sup>th</sup> commissioners meeting.
3. VFF Health Forms. Aleilah presented new forms for physicals for FD06 volunteer firefighters. Chief Swagerty shared there is a private practice medical provider who is available to conduct the physicals for a fee of \$75. Commissioner Keen made a motion to approve FD06 payment of the fees for VFF physicals. Commissioner Rosmond seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### **Financial Report**

1. DNR Q2 updated estimates were reviewed. The increase in anticipated revenue was welcomed by all.
2. Financial Statement. The September 2023 financial statement was reviewed and approved by all three commissioners. It was noted that the Solar Plus grant will need to be included in the 2024 budget.
3. Seven warrants totaling \$3,315.33 were requested on the Claims Payment Request dated 10/09/2023 as follows:
  - \$1,384.05 for vehicle repair
  - \$1,450 for organizational support services
  - \$214.90 for fuel
  - \$202.39 for utilities (2 warrants)
  - \$25.00 for Solar + grant data access
  - \$9.99 for Solar + project domain name annual fee
  - \$29.00 for additional insurance coverage for communications tower

Commissioner Rosmond moved to approve the request. Commissioner Horton seconded the motion. The motion was approved and the Claims Payment Request was signed.

4. Chief Swagerty's timesheet covering the period of 09/11/2023 through 10/08/2023 was approved and signed by Lead Commissioner Keen. A Payroll Certification was approved and signed by the commissioners for submission to the county for processing.

### **Chief's Report**

1. Incidents/Calls. Chief Swagerty reported District 6 firefighters engaged several brush fires during the past month. He noted that Clallam Fire District 2 covered local fire districts for a large brush fire. FD06 firefighters also participated in the search party for the unfortunate occurrence of a young woman who washed out to sea.
2. Training. Chief reported there are four new recruits. VFF applications are to be updated to include contact information for two employer and one personal references. Turnouts will be ordered for new recruits after a six-month period, using available gear in the meantime. If no turnouts are available, they can be ordered before the six-month period ends. Commissioner Keen commended VFF Andrew Chapman and crew for the excellent job of clean up and organization of the fire hall.
3. Equipment. Chief shared the advantages of rescue helmets, Stop-and-Go paddles, and emergency lighting for accidents. Aleilah will order.
4. Other. Chief reported that a washing machine has been donated to the district. He will get an estimate for a 3-phase update. He also described the need for a new cubby/coat rack set up for firefighter gear with individual cubbies for each firefighter. He will get an estimate on the cost for this and report back.

**Mechanic's Report** – Chief reported that annual pump test is scheduled for tomorrow, October 10, 2023.

**Other Reports** – None

### **Old Business**

Commissioner Keen reported the following topics:

#### **I. Communications Tower Project**

The manlift was delivered over the weekend. I plan to wait until the winds are less gusty and more predictable before using it to install the sidearm mount and move the antenna.

At the invitation of Joe Wright, I've been joining the weekly CCARES (Clallam County Amateur Radio Emergency Service) HF radio calls each Tuesday. I've learned that I should be a CCARES member for that, which entails studying for and passing four separate FEMA National Incident Management System courses and passing the requirements to be a Clallam County Sheriff's Department volunteer. I've started that process and hope to have completed it by the November commissioners meeting. My hope is that at least one other Three Rivers volunteer will be interested in joining CCARES as well.

Besides the HF radio group, CCARES also has a 2-meter group check-in on Tuesdays. The HF group uses the 80-meter band, which relies on NVIS (Near Vertical Incidence Skywave) propagation for local communication. The 2-meter band uses repeaters (like Gunderson) for communication where direct radio-to-radio contact isn't available. The radios in our trucks and our handhelds are all 2-meter, but they are restricted to very specific frequencies reserved for fire and police communications. The 2-meter bands used by Clallam County Emergency Management, Olympic Medical Center, Forks Hospital, the Red Cross, and others don't overlap the ones we use for our fire calls.

The repeater we bought from Richmond Radio boosts the signal strength of our fire call radios, but it can't be tuned to use the frequencies used by CCARES. I bought a 2-meter handheld to use for CCARES communications, but so far, I haven't been able to successfully reach the Tuesday night check in with it. If we had a 2-meter radio at the firehall that could be tuned to CCARES frequencies, we could connect it to the 2-meter antenna on our tower using

a duplexer. Duplexers cost less than \$100, 2-meter base stations cost anywhere from \$200 to \$1,200. I'll get advice from my CCARES contacts and report their recommendations at our November 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 2. **Emergency Preparedness – West End Area Meeting**

DART has been officially recognized by the Washington State Department of Emergency Management.

If the Department of Transportation needs to be contacted during an emergency operation, their direct line is (253) 538-3300.

LaPush has lost their HAM radio operator. If we have enough interest from our volunteers to support a CCARES technician class training for 3 Rivers, LaPush is interested in attending.

AT&T has a nationwide First Net program to provide cellular communications to first responders at a discount. CCEM is currently performing a beta test of it.

The City of Forks has signed a lease agreement with Verizon and T-Mobile for a cell tower.

The NPR radio station at the ONRC is on a generator now, so it can broadcast during an emergency.

The Great Washington ShakeOut drill is scheduled for October 19 at 10:19 AM. The tsunami sirens will be activated in the "real" mode rather than the "test" mode.

## 3. **Solar + Storage**

9/12/23 - Kick-off meeting with the ProtoGen team. Completed and submitted the DOC Solar + Storage grant intake form. Sent the communications tower Geotech report to Aaron Trebing and others at ProtoGen. Sent an email to Samantha and David at CenturyWest introducing them to Aaron and the ProtoGen team and requesting that she share the AGIS location report with them. Sent email to Mickey Cassar introducing him to Aaron et al. and asking for his assistance in providing solar exposure data with them.

9/25/23 - Email from Adam Morse asking questions related to the CenturyWest study, NOAA, and emergency management regarding expected and potential load requirements. I send emails to Dwight Williams at NOAA and Ron Cameron. Ron replies right away, saying that he'll put the question on Thursday's agenda.

9/26/23 - Dwight Williams replies, saying "the NOAA loads are considered critical. The ASOS equipment is currently connected to an emergency generator, and we plan on putting the Upper Air launcher on the generator in the future as well." I reply (cc to Adam and others) asking if he can provide kWh figures for the building and the launch unit. Adam calls to say that he and his team at ProtoGen can be available for a call with CenturyWest on Friday, requests that I set it up with them. I sent an email to Samantha by selecting "Reply" to her email of 9/13/23. I let her know that I've heard from Dwight, so she doesn't have to respond to the NOAA load questions. Email from Mark Steele at CenturyWest re. AGIS survey and saying he's available on Friday. Reply to him thanking him. Email to Adam asking him to set up the conference call and suggesting he just send out the invitation to get the ball rolling.

9/27/23 - Email from Tom with link to Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) data. Raw data is available for a fee. (775) 674-7010 and/or wrcc@dri.edu. I called and left a voicemail and follow up with an email.

9/28/23 - MS Teams call with Clallam PUD. I emphasize that even though my primary reason for the grant is emergency resilience, that UIL is a Forks community asset. Currently, grid resilience is a detracting factor (the power was out for a day last week). The airport is unique in the amount of available acreage and its status regarding FAA flight rules, which are less restrictive than in most airports. Ideally, the microgrid will make the facility more attractive to a light industrial / manufacturing tenant with links to aviation and/or NOAA interests that could provide employment opportunities. We will want to keep the 3-phase power at the airport to support these plans. Afterward, I sent an email to Colin with the meter IDs, addresses, and kWh totals for 2022. I also question the number I have for the kWh on the well and suggest it might also be powering the NOAA equipment in the vicinity

of the well. Aaron is the data scientist at ProtoGen. They plan to develop a synthetic load curve for the proposed project since they can't just base the load curve upon load history. The microgrid will be used by the PUD for "peak shaving" which contributes to grid resiliency. There was some discussion of the communication protocols the PUD may use for drawing on the batteries and regulating the microgrid's connection to the PUD grid – cellular, wireless, internet, satellite, fiber.

9/29/2023 - Call with ProtoGen and CenturyWest. Before everyone's checked in, Kevin tells me that yesterday's call with the PUD was the most successful call of its type that they've ever had. David and Mark from CenturyWest are on the call but not Samantha. Rod joins as well. The call runs the full hour. Aaron and Adam say that they've gotten what they'd hoped to. Mark is going to provide the raw data for the survey to Aaron with the proviso that there are no guarantees for the accuracy of the report(s) that he gleans from it. Received hourly data from WRCC, forwarded to Tom for further analysis.

10/2/2023 - Email from Dwight Williams at NOAA: "Chip, I just got the latest utility bill, last year our total kWh was 65,060 and this year looks a bit lower. I believe that is the total between our two meters so I'd have to assume that's our total. Keep in mind, I believe that reading is for the entire building, not just the equipment in it, the electric baseboard heat will add to the load for sure. We currently have a leased line for the ASOS that goes through the FAA and our Balloon system is 4G. We do have a DSL backup for the balloon system as well. Not sure who the Hughes Dish belongs to but it's not us. I'm not sure what our future load would be but I don't expect it to change significantly in the near future."

**New Business**

1. **Chimney Sweeping Resources.** Commissioner Rosmond initiated a discussion about the lack of currently available chimney sweeping services. The previous sweep has retired. There is a company in Sequim that provides services but the travel costs are prohibitive.
2. **Propane Supply Line Upgrade.** Commissioner Rosmond shared that the current generator propane supply line is inadequate. It needs upgrading to one-inch inside diameter pipe. The change out requires a plumbing professional. Commissioner Rosmond will contact Nate at the Spartan Plumber to make the upgrade.

**Announcements – None**

**Next Meeting – October 9, 2023, 1:30 pm**

Meeting adjourned at 14:58.

Read and approved on October 9, 2023, by:

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Commissioner Chip Keen

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Commissioner Scott Horton

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Commissioner Tom Rosmond

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District Secretary Aleilah P Lawson