

CLALLAM COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NO. 6

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

Monthly Commissioner Meeting Minutes

May 13, 2024

Meeting convened on May 13, 2024, at 13:30, at Three Rivers Fire Hall, by Commissioner Chip Keen.

Commissioners Present – Chip Keen; Tom Rosmond; and Scott Horton

Officers Present – Aleilah P Lawson, District Secretary; Scott Swagerty, Chief; Lt. Andrew Chapman

Other Attendees – None

Changes/Additions to Agenda – New item re the County's Revenue Advisory Committee (RAC) added to agenda, to be discussed before Secretary's Report

Minutes – Minutes of the April 8, 2024, meeting were read, approved, and signed by the commissioners.

RAC Discussion – Commissioner Horton shared background information on how RAC came to be. There is a special meeting scheduled for this afternoon for consideration and response to the Trust Land Transfer application by the City of Port Angeles. This application is regarding the timber harvesting in the Elwha Watershed. There are three elements to be considered: 1) Revenue potential – high; 2) Is this area suitable for other uses – no; 3) is this proposal a good fit for this program – no.

The commissioners discussed the need to protect the watershed and also compensate junior taxing districts such as Fire District 6 for loss of income. There was general agreement on the continuing financial squeeze experienced by the junior taxing districts and the effect less revenue has on the districts. Commissioner Rosmond made a motion to write a letter of non-support for the Trust Land Transfer application. Commissioner Keen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Report

1. Aleilah reported that the first cost-recovery payment has been received. There are two additional ones outstanding.
2. Aleilah further reported that the first quarterly stipend payments will be issued and given to FD06 volunteer firefighters this week. She shared the process for calculating the payout amounts.

Financial Report

1. Financial Statement. The April 2024 financial statement was reviewed and approved by all three commissioners. Aleilah shared that a \$75,000 payment was received from the

WA Department of Commerce for reimbursement of expenses associated with the Solar Plus Storage Grant.

2. 32 warrants totaling \$9,616.84 were requested on the Claims Payment Request form dated 05/13/2024 as follows:
 - \$68.75 for operating supplies and firefighter gear (two warrants);
 - \$967.00 for fuel (two warrants);
 - \$2,830.30 for communication devices (four warrants);
 - \$3,032.97 for election costs, organizational support, and website creation costs (four warrants);
 - \$350.00 for dispatch services;
 - \$251.54 for utilities (2 warrants);
 - \$16.28 for monthly fee;
 - \$2,100 for quarterly stipends (16 warrants).

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

3. Chief Swagerty's timesheet covering the period of 04/08/2024 through 05/12/2024 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 one rollover accident and a few minor calls. It was a fairly quiet month overall.
2. Training. Chief reported there are now five fully certified drivers in the department. The crew will work toward additional certifications as time permits.

Lt. Chapman reported that five crew members have received their red cards and are fully certified to fight brush fires. An additional 3-4 crew members will be certified in May. Wildland firefighting gear will need to be obtained. DNR may hire crew members out to work nearby fires. There is an annual recertification class required to stay current. It was agreed by all that last year's fires made it abundantly clear how necessary Red Cards are.

3. Equipment/Mechanic. Engine 61 had a missing hub cap on the officer's side. Both front hub caps were replaced and a small oil leak was repaired.
4. Other. None.

Commissioner's Report – Commissioner Keen

1. Radio Communications

A joint DART and CCARES radio services exercise is scheduled for the Sekiu and UIL airports Sunday, May 26. Ed Bowen plans to have airband radios available to test ground-to-aircraft communications. On Friday he and I installed an ADS-B receiver in the upstairs meeting room that sends data to ADSBexchange.com.

I met virtually with Mickey Cassar from the Pacific Northwest Seismic Network on 4/24 to discuss options for improving communications from the Quillayute Airport. We met in person on 5/7 so that I could show him Signal Hill, which is off the 5000 road and owned by the City of Forks.

I met Ed Bowen at the firehall on May 10th to install an Automatic Dependent Surveillance – Broadcast (ADS-B) receiver upstairs for a DART exercise scheduled for Sunday, May 26th. (See: https://www.faa.gov/air_traffic/technology/equipadsb/capabilities/ins_outs) The receiver upstairs is being used for proof-of-concept. Depending upon results, WADOT may supply state-of-the-art equipment to mount on our tower. www.adsbexchange.com provides real-time tracking of all aircraft flights in the U.S. The 3 Rivers Fire receiver enables tracking of low-level flights (e.g. Life Flight, private planes) that hasn't been available. The DART exercise on the 26th will include ADS-B tracking with ground-to-air and 2-meter HAM communications. Ed hopes to provide us with ground radios.

2. Emergency Preparedness – West End Area Meeting

Elwha bridge closure is expected to be nine days starting in late June or mid-July.

Funding for the new Emergency Operations Center is on track. They're currently working on the interior design details. They expect to start construction next year.

Anne Chastain is retiring at the end of this month. Justine will take over her position. CCEM is advertising for a new hire.

On Thursday, May 23rd there will be a tsunami exercise that will include communications with FEMA, sirens, and Everbridge notifications.

A 125-ft radio tower is planned for the ONRC. It will host the two NPR stations, boosting their signals from 400 to 600 watts.

I inquired about availability of funding for purchase of dry suits for swift water rescue team members. There are no grants available at this time. We could explore community members forming an auxiliary organization for fundraising purposes. Perhaps a regional non-profit designed to support local fire departments in our community.

Other Emergency Management Meetings

The second Clallam County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation / Climate Resilience Steering Committee meeting was held on April 29th. The group validated the lists of hazards and climate concerns then rated them from many perspectives.

Anne Chastaine gave a Wildfire Preparation presentation at the Congregational Church on May 4th.

I attended the TEAMS meeting for Fire District Aviation Training on Thursday the 9th. There are three more trainings available, all on the remaining Thursdays in May.

3. Solar + Storage Project

I presented the Quillayute Airport Feasibility Study results to the Forks Chamber of Commerce on May 1st. We had two dozen attendees, one of whom was Thomas Sewid, who spoke encouragingly of his experiences building air traffic and tourism in Haida Gwaii over the past several decades. I also collected some handouts for our door-to-door from the Red Cross representative at the Forks Wildfire Preparation presentation. The website is work in progress.

Other Reports – None

Old Business

- 1. CrewForce.** Chief Swagerty reported the CrewForce is up and running on the new tablet. It gives much more complete information both for assessing and responding to calls as well as creating incident reports after the event.
- 2. Class B Uniforms.** Chief Swagerty reported that the first shipment of Class B uniforms has been received. There are two more shipments on their way.

New Business

- 1. Parking Spaces.** Three Rivers Resort has requested 10 employee parking passes for the summer season. There are six spaces available for parking at \$40 per space. Employees are requested to park first at the space nearest to La Push Road, then park back toward the fire hall. It was agreed that gravel would be a good addition to the parking area.
- 2. Olympic Region Fire District Summit.** Commissioner Keen reported the DNR Olympic Region Fire District Summit on Wednesday May 8th in Forks was well attended. Much of the focus was on wildfire preparation. DNR has 7 “overheads” (helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft) in the region. All told, DNR has 38 overheads of their own plus hundreds of private contractors they can call upon. Forks has 3 engines staged here plus an excavator and a dozer. HB 1498 enables fire districts to call for aerial support without incurring financial liability but each district must have completed beforehand.

Missy Burr presented descriptions and handouts for DNR’s Casual Hire Finance Guide and the Washington State Wage and Equipment Rate Guide.

Nick Cronquist (360) 480-2700 described the numerous grants available through DNR. \$20,000 is available for wildland PPE, \$500,000 is available for wildland equipment repair, which includes transport, travel costs if needed to upgrade surplus equipment (e.g. trucks) to DNR standards. Up to \$4,000 is available to individual districts for computer upgrades.

DNR grant opportunities are listed at www.dnr.wa.gov/FireDistrictAssistance. Nick also recommends monitoring the availability of Federal surplus equipment. An easy way to see what’s available is via www.ironplanet.com. The site is geared towards contractors, but government agencies get top priority.

Nick says that 14 to 17 engines were supplused last year. He expects 20 or more this year, recommends watching DNR Fire District Assistance starting in late June for award in the Fall.

Surplus listings have to be renewed every three years. If ours has lapsed it can still be used to speed the process of renewal.

Announcements – None

Next Meeting – June 10, 2024, 13:30 pm

Meeting adjourned at 14:55.

Read and approved on July 8, 2024, by:

Commissioner Chip Keen

Commissioner Scott Horton

Commissioner Tom Rosmond

District Secretary Aleilah P Lawson