

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #1

Camano Island Fire & Rescue (CIFR)

COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

March 13th, 2023

4:30 PM

MINUTES

Chair Evans called the **Regular Fire Commissioners Meeting** to order at 4:30 p.m.

Comm Yadon led us in the flag salute.

Those in attendance were:

Commissioners

Janice Treml

Jerry Evans

Kelly Yadon

Paul Williams

Fire Department Staff

AC Craig Helgeland

Amy Martin, Board Secretary

Chief Levon Yengoyan

Public- 4 members of the public in-person.

3 members of the public via Zoom.

Comm Kim Williams was absent and excused due to personal business.

MOVED TO APPROVE the Agenda

Ist: Commissioner Treml 2nd: Commissioner Yadon

Discussion: none

APPROVED: Unanimous

CONSENT AGENDA –

- Minutes of February 13th, 2022, Regular Meeting
- Approval of Vouchers: February 27th & March 13th, 2022

February 27th, and March 13th, 2023 Vouchers	
8 EFTs	\$135,070.09
Payroll EFTs	\$253,811.90
Expense Vouchers	\$207,869.49
Trust Fund	\$1,625.00
Capital Fund	\$18,711.09
Totaling	\$617,087.57

MOVED TO APPROVE the Consent Agenda

Ist: Commissioner Yadon 2nd: Commissioner P. Williams

Discussion: none

APPROVED: Unanimous

I. PUBLIC INPUT –

- **Patricia Campbell**, 94 Chick Rd, Camano Island. Voiced her support of a ban on sale and use of fireworks in Island County. Has concerns over July 4th fireworks. Asking for assurances that fireworks won't cause a devastating loss due to fire.
- **Anthony Ford**: 1019 Aqua Vista Lane, Camano Island. Advocated for a ban on fireworks. Also, called admin number for wellness check on an elderly neighbor a few years ago. No one called him back about the wellness check. Was told to call the Sheriff's department. Requested reasons a wellness check wasn't obtained. Chief indicated he'd get contact info after the meeting and follow-up with an explanation.
- **Island County Commissioner Melanie Bacon** (via Zoom, no address obtained) Appreciative that fireworks restrictions are on our agenda. Island County has seen increases in fireworks related fires and ranks high in the region for fireworks related incidents. People are coming to Island County to set off fireworks because they are banned elsewhere. She's happy to work with Camano Fire on a letter from County if needed.
- **Jackie Laester** (via Zoom, no address obtained), *Citizens for Safe and Humane Fireworks*. Seeking safe fireworks usage. Need to look at this issue and make changes. Because there isn't staffing to enforce legal vs. illegal, the most cost-effective solution is to ban consumer fireworks and provides an element of protection for our environment and public safety.
- **Sunny Fitzgerald**: (via Zoom, no address obtained), *Citizens for Safe and Humane Fireworks*: Has a prepared policy document to ban fireworks and is here to see what Camano Fire can do on the issue of fireworks.

Due to public interest in the issue, **New Business, Topic B. Fireworks Ban** was moved up on the agenda to be discussed in conjunction with the public input at this time.

B. Fireworks Ban

Discussion: A discussion occurred regarding fireworks and the associated issues involved.

- Chief Yengoyan indicated that he met with Donna Conner and Jackie Laester from *Citizens for Safe and Humane Fireworks* a couple weeks ago and discussed the issues. Our data indicates that on Camano Island fireworks are causing only a handful of responses annually. Trends back to 2019; 2-3 minor incidents per year. Possible solutions are to partner with Stanwood on local fireworks venues for people to go to. Discussed banning and enforcements sources. Explained Fire Districts outreach efforts with the levy and not wanting to distract from that important issue. Would be a full year until something like a ban could take effect.
- Island County Comm, Bacon reiterated that if a ban were passed this year, it wouldn't take effect until 2024.
- Camano Fire Commissioners voiced:
 - Potential for fireworks impact to homes, pets, and environment.
 - Concern with climate change and dryer summers
 - Issues with enforcement and the inability for the Sheriff to police calls due to low staffing.
 - Fire Marshall's office was abolished years ago and responsibilities divided between agencies.

- Potential for a ban to stimulate a growth in community fireworks event.
- Trends don't indicate a need for a ban and as many complaints come in about burning.
- A recognition of concerns regarding Veteran PTSD and stress to pets.
- Acknowledgment that fireworks are a polarizing issue with groups on the island selling fireworks for fundraisers and groups concerned about impact of fireworks and wanting a ban.
- A collective decision was made that because Island County is the governing body with authority in this area, Island County Commissioners should coordinate any public hearings regarding the topic of fireworks and would include Sheriffs and Fire Commissioners for input.
- Camano Fire offered to assist by providing any related data that might be requested.
- As a governing body, the Board of Fire Commissioners voiced that they have no jurisdiction or ability to create or enforce any laws and took no action regarding the issue of fireworks.

II. CHIEF'S REPORT-attached.

Presentation: Bronlea Mishler, PIO Communications Plan:

- Guided by departments mission and values.
- Proactive and reactive messaging
- Website annual statistics on what people are clicking on and how they are accessing the info.
- How we measure our work: call data collected and shared.
- Social media: active on 5 social media platforms. Track info every 2 weeks to constantly refine our content to ensure it is meaningful and relevant.
- Social Media Commissioner Workshop coming up in April. Mishler requested any specifics Commissioners would like to deep dive so she might prepare material.
- YouTube is effective outreach and growing.
- Example of types of videos explained: "Where should I keep my fire extinguisher?"

Chief's Report: Attached.

- In response to Promotion list noted in Chief's Report, Comm Evans requested Secretary Martin draft a letter from the Commissioners to congratulate the individuals who are eligible for promotion to be signed at the next meeting.

III. PRESS & CORRESPONDENCE – article on a cadet seeing his shadow.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- ICOM –nothing new to report
- Safety/Risk Management –Next meeting June 8th

- Finance-Met to review 2022. Came in at 92.5% of budget for 2022. Will meet in May.
 - SNO-ISLE- met on March 2nd; Wall times are the biggest issues; are looking at alternative solutions.
 - WFCA— Legislative day-they listened to them on the issues. Nurse bill has changed and might be more positive. Seemed to be support for increasing budget from 1% to 3%. It's on the inactive list. Discussed wait times with Rep Paul.
 - Levy-Next press release went out. Working on videos to educate public. Chief is educating our crews. Liz Loomis wants to schedule some spokesperson training with Fire Chief and Commissioners. Chief Yengoyan requested a list of Commissioners to take part. The two on the Levy Committee would be the primary speakers. Commissioner Yadon expressed interest and was added to the list as well.
- Other – none

V. **OLD BUSINESS:** None

VI. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Resolution 2023-03 Surplus Obsolete Equipment

MOVED TO APPROVE the Resolution 2023-03 Surplus Obsolete Equipment

Ist: Commissioner Trembl 2nd: Commissioner Yadon

- ***Discussion:*** A/C Helgeland indicated it was a procedural motion to facilitate disposing of the old chassis from the ambulance remount.

APPROVED: Unanimous

B. Fireworks Ban (moved up on the agenda)

C. Medicare Ground Ambulance Data Collection Survey (GADCS)

MOVED TO APPROVE contracting PC&G at Premium (35K level) for GADCS support.

Ist: Commissioner Trembl 2nd: Commissioner P. Williams

Discussion: Chief Yengoyan explained the requirements of the GADCS and the 10% Medicare penalty for not complying with the requirements. Discussed PC&G contract and GEMT work already conducted by them. Commissioners recommended contracting with PC&G.

APPROVED: Unanimous

D. Flames 50 Year Celebration

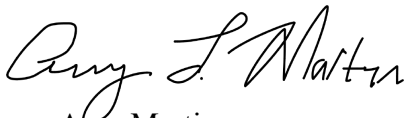
Discussion: Chief Yengoyan briefed on how supportive the flames have been to the Department over the years. Proposed some type of acknowledgment. Commissioners decided to get a plaque in their honor to be displayed in recognition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✓ Next Commissioner Workshop Monday, March 27th, 2023, 4:30 PM, in-person/virtual Admin Bldg. Topic: Dashboard
- ✓ Next Commissioner Meeting Monday, April 10th, 2023, 4:30 PM, in-person/virtual Admin Bldg.

There being no further business, Commissioner Treml moved to adjourn the meeting at 6: 04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Amy Martin
Fire Board Secretary