

SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT No. 1
Board of Commissioners
Special Joint Meeting with FD #3 and Town of Friday Harbor
Wednesday, April 4, 2018

SJCPHD #1 Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Warren Appleton
Commissioner Michael Edwards, Chair
Commissioner Anna Lisa Lindstrum
Commissioner Mark Schwinge
Commissioner Rebecca Smith

Others Present:

Pamela Hutchins
SJCPHD #1: Superintendent

Jerry Martin
SJIEMS: Chief

By Phone: None

Absent: None

Farhad Ghatan

Town of F.H.: Mayor

FD #3 Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Frank Cardinale
Commissioner Robert Jarman
Commissioner Albert Olsen

Duncan Wilson

Town of F.H.: Town Administrator

By Phone: None

Absent: None

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Edwards called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm. Immediately following, Chair Jarman of San Juan County Fire Protection District #3 (herein "FD #3") called their meeting to order. The Town of Friday Harbor (herein "Town of F.H.") sent two non-voting representatives as they contract for fire protection from FD #3.

SELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING: Although each board must conduct its votes independently, one person was chosen to facilitate the discussion and conduct the agenda previously agreed on.

ACTION: Chair Edwards nominated Chair Jarman to serve as joint meeting chair, seconded by Commissioner Smith. ALL AYES; MOTION PASSES 5-0. FD #3 concurred.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

The floor was opened to public comment, with comments per person limited to 3 minutes. Maureen See read from a statement, submitted in writing and attached as Exhibit A. Jack Cory said he was "in favor of combining when possible," and encouraged commissioners to look to the future. Richard Grout asked whether the "residents will be better off after the merger than before."

SPECIAL MEETING/WORK SESSION BUSINESS:

Board introductions: The board introduced itself and its recording secretaries (Chief Creezy as Secretary pro tem for FD #3) to the public and each other.

Discussion: The board discussed the potential benefits to the community from changes to the delivery of Emergency Services, worked to identify paths forward, potential challenges, and steps to be taken next. Full audio of the discussion is available on the district website.

ACTION: Commissioner Smith moved, and Commissioner Schwinge seconded, to move forward with an evaluation of some type of consolidation with a proviso of up to \$5,000 for legal/accounting consulting and form a citizen's advisory group. NO DISCUSSION, ALL AYES; MOTION PASSES.

FD #3 then separately passed an equivalent motion.

Citizen's Advisory Group: The board then discussed what form the citizen's advisory group would take.

ACTION: Commissioner Smith then submitted the following description of the Citizen's Advisory Group (CAG) as a motion:

Purpose: To bring community perspectives to their district commissioners, enhance communication and increase interaction between boards and their local residents.

Overview of the Group's Responsibilities:

- Meet frequently to gather, analyze, and discuss information concerning possible integration of San Juan Island Fire District 3, Town Fire, and San Juan Island EMS.
- To work with subject matter experts in drafting recommendations to the boards of FD 3, PHD 1, and the Town.

Anticipated role of the Citizen Advisory Group:

- To learn about FD 3, Town fire and SJIEMS, thereby becoming knowledgeable representatives in our community
- To bring forward objective, balanced, and accurate community perspectives and concerns regarding possible integration of these organizations.
- To work collaboratively with the FD 3 and PHD 1 boards and town representatives to research various aspects of their departments' integration, including reasons for consolidation, governance, administration, command and control, costs, outer islands' service, legal process, financial forecasting,

- billing, liabilities, tax rates, employee/volunteer training, and strategies for accomplishing tasks.
- To consider and research specific topics at the request of FD 3, Town, and PHD 1 commissioners, thus providing substantial public input to decision-making.

Interested parties should email, call, or deliver their information to the fire department. Five members will be chosen from the pool of applicants: one by FD 3, one by PHD 1, one by Town, with the additional two chosen by the first three members.

This Motion Amended by Commissioner Schwinge, and seconded by Commissioner Appleton, to set a deadline of April 23rd for applications. NO DISCUSSION, ALL AYES; MOTION PASSES.

The amended motion describing the role of the advisory group with a deadline of April 23rd was then voted on. NO DISCUSSION; ALL AYES, MOTION PASSES.

FD #3 separately passed an equivalent motion.

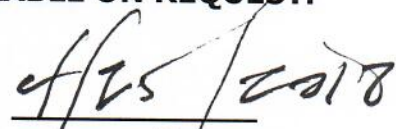
The two boards agreed to have all of the applications submitted to the Fire Department by email or in print, instructions to be released to media and onto respective board websites. The FD and PHD boards will select their choice at their regular meetings.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 5:15 pm, and FD #3 then did the same.

ALL EXHIBITS AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.


Signed by Chairperson


Date

The original document is retained at the San Juan County Pubic Hospital District #1 Office at 849 Spring Street, Unit B-5, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 in San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 permanent proceedings file.

Attest: Nathan Butler, Recording Secretary

Exhibit A
Statement by Maureen See
Read in open session during public comment

The possible merger between Fire and EMS is complicated and needs to be more fully understood by the people of SJI. If our citizens were not following the story closely they would have missed the Report to the Board of Commissioners provided by the staff of Fire District 3. Some very good points were made in this report, and yet as it is directed to the Board of Commissioners it is not easily understood by citizens trying to make sense of the costs of this possible merger. If the merger is being forced on Fire it will not succeed. Questions about who will lead the combined districts must be addressed.

My two points are:

1. We need a clear and objective breakdown of the costs and benefits of the merger. Residents need to understand what impacts the merger may have on services and what the associated costs will be. This cannot be about whether Fire and EMS will be better off if they merge, it has to be whether the public will benefit from a merger, and HOW they will benefit.
2. Plans regarding a citizens advisory committee. This seems to be tantamount to any consideration of a merger. This is the most important step in the discussion and the one least promoted. If our citizens are not included in this decision I believe the possible merger will be met with great resistance. If the FD and PHD and the Town and the County each produce one advisory committee member, then the remaining majority should be from the community and independent of affiliation with Fire and PHD.

Maureen See
4/4/18