

CITIZEN'S ADVISORY GROUP ("CAG")
TO
SAN JUAN ISLAND EMS ("SJIEMS")
SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT #1 ("SJCPHD #1")
SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #3 ("FD #3")
AND THE TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR ("TOWN")

MINUTES
Wednesday November 28, 2018
6:30 pm, 849 Spring Street, Suite B-5

CAG representatives:

Chuck Dalldorf, Town (Chair)
Rick Frazer, at large
George Johnson, SJCPHD #1
Dan Paulson, FD #3
Mark Tompkins, at large

Others Present:

Nathan Butler, SJCPHD #1
SJCPHD #1 Board Recording Sec.

Absent:

None

Public Present:

Karin Agosta, Warren Appleton,
Richard Grout

By Phone or teleconference:

None

Call to Order and Roll Call: Chair Dalldorf called the meeting to order at 6:37 pm.

Approve Minutes: By consent the group agreed that the minutes from November 11, 2018 were acceptable.

Committee Reports:

Outreach Committee:

Dan Paulson reported meeting with multiple people including Jeff Sargant who is the new Skagit County Administrator. Per Paulson, Sargant reported that the issue in Skagit was that the Paramedics were employed by the hospitals, but the money came through the county. The county commissioners were reportedly nervous about liability. Starting January 1, 2019, the paramedics will be working for the cities, and upriver in Skagit is private. They will work under the jurisdiction of fire districts. The county will continue to

collect the money and distribute the money to everyone. Initial costs were higher than expected but were mostly one-time expenses.

Paulson also talked to Dean Shelton who is the union rep for the paramedics in SJIEMS. He also represents the Orcas paramedics. Per Paulson, Shelton is worried that paramedics may lose some of their training if they must be cross-trained in fire. Others seem unconcerned about this issue.

Paulson noted that most of those he talked to felt that a combined Fire/EMS service is more efficient, reduces liability, and improves service and response times.

Mark Tompkins talked to Bob Eastman (Snohomish 1) and Dennis Bend (South Beach area). Both agreed that the biggest area of concern is personnel. South Bend lost 12 people during the merger, though they were not the top-quality staff. You will need champions to make a merger happen. Recommending a process is an important to assist the boards in this process. Interlocal agreements can be used to transfer property and equipment. You will need all the elected officials on board and a shared vision going forward.

Legal Committee – George Johnson discussed his work on legal issues. Process is crucial and must be worked out for the boards. Each step in the process must be useful – or at least not negative – should later steps fail to pass. The first two steps were discussed in detail:

1st – FD#3 Annex the town. Both elected officials – Fire Department board must pass a resolution, and Town must pass an ordinance. Then, both residents of the Town and the Fire District must then vote. Johnson had some examples of ordinances and resolutions from MRSC website. Town must decide if it is going to lower taxes to offset the FD increase.

2nd – Remove the outer islands from SJIEMS boundaries in order to line up with the Fire Department's boundaries. There is wildland fire coverage in the outer islands, but how to handle the outer islands would need to be dealt with.

3rd – Decide which form of consolidation you wish to have happen.

Finance – Rick Frazer used a projector to display some preliminary numbers for a combined Fire/EMS service. Numbers are preliminary, but possible savings could be well over \$1,000,000. Further details and numbers forthcoming. There are significant differences between Orcas and SJI, such as the lack of a hospital on Orcas which means more critical care and a longer time of contact.

Outstanding Issues:

The Group discussed how to start drafting the final document. Possible contents include messaging, full list of consolidation options, actual recommendation, process ("how to"), and the reasons for the recommendation. Emphasis should be given to laying out how this is in the interest of the public.

Cost savings and service improvement for both EMS and Fire are the two primary reasons for proceeding. For instance, Fire does not have 24-7 coverage, which can mean significant delays in response, but could be substantially improved in a merger.

The timeframe for the CAG to finish this project was discussed, and an end date of March was considered realistic if a detailed report was to be submitted at the current work rate. A finish date of February is possible with weekly meetings. Before finishing a detailed report, the CAG would like to know from the Fire and Hospital District boards whether a very detailed report is desired.

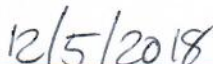
Upcoming Meetings: December 5, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. and December 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment: Warren Appleton and Richard Grout commented.

Adjournment: Chair Dalldorf adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.



Signed by Chair



Date

The original document is retained at the San Juan County Public 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, Board Recording Secretary for SJCPHD #1