

Consolidation Meeting Notes

Notes from Officers meeting November 16, 2006

Members present:

Mike Oakes	Mike Hansen	Mike DeRousie
Ken Dubuc	Keith Bogues	Freda Tallmadge
Nick Gear	Dave Shideler	Jake Patterson
Allen Hunt		

The meeting was called to order at 1800, at the Port Angeles Fire Department training room.

A number of items were discussed in this meeting. The meeting opened with a discussion about the formation of some sort of volunteer advisory committee. It was brought forward that the four Chief Officers had met and agreed that the formation of some sort of advisory committee should be a higher priority. Officer meetings such as this one have had tremendous value, however it is a cumbersome process to bring this many folks together. It was decided that the advisory committee would consist of six personnel - the three station Captains and one other person selected from the membership of each of the stations. A Chief Officer would also be present at the meetings. The committee would be tasked with bringing forward future issues that arise during the consolidation - such as uniforms, etc.

There was some discussion about how this committee would act in relation to the existing PAVFD Executive Committee. It was decided that this advisory committee should be formed and then, after some time has passed the membership could decide how they would like to proceed with either a combination of the two or perhaps some other configuration.

The name of the new advisory committee would be left to the membership. The rules governing the committee would be drafted and presented to the membership for review.

A question was asked about rig checks. It was suggested that perhaps Volunteer vehicle maintenance could be accomplished through the use of truck squads/split drills. This idea is still on the table and it will be a task for the station Captains to come up with a plan. It was emphasized that participation with these checks, if done outside of scheduled drills by truck squads or something similar - would be voluntary.

We next discussed "event wear," or, in other words - uniforms. One of the tasks of the volunteer advisory committee will be to go to the membership and bring back ideas and suggestions for the implementation of a standard uniform. The uniform would be worn at departmental events such as the Fair, Safety Days, etc. It was also discussed that there

should be some sort of compliant foul weather jacket for use at incidents. The intent is to be uniform and get away from the assortment of department items that are out there.

Next, we reiterated the tones that will be used. There will be three tones - one for each station - east, central and west. Individuals from each station would have the tones for their station, and the option to have the tones for the adjacent station. Officers would have the option to have tones for all three stations. Other could have the same option if approved by a Chief Officer. The intent is to limit "cross area" responses.

There was a very brief discussion about the new numbering system being driven by PENCOR changes. Gales will be station 21, PA will be station 11 and Dry Creek will be station 22. Vehicles from these stations will be use the station number preceded by a plain English identifier. The first-out engine from Gales will be "Engine 21." The first-out medic unit from Dry Creek will be "Medic 22." The truck from PA will be "Ladder 11," and so on. Personnel will have four-digit identifiers.

The subject of "non-combat" firefighters was next. In recognition of the value that experienced personnel bring to the organization, it was decided that up to four slots at each station would be reserved for "non-combat" firefighters. These individuals can drive rigs, operate pumps, fill air bottles, operate status boards, etc. They are limited only in that they cannot perform functions that require wearing SCBA. Criteria for this position will include; the individual must be off probation, in good standing and approved by a Chief Officer. These individuals will be identified on the fire ground by wearing bump hats. The possibility of recruiting "EMS only" personnel in the future has been left open. If recruiting goals are not met, or if there are other changes, the idea may be revisited.

We ended by discussing the "Consolidation Corner" portion of the PA website. The website area is up and running and members are encouraged to check it often for updates on the progress of the consolidation

We adjourned at 1855.