

**SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING  
with San Juan County Public Hospital District #1  
July 28, 2020**

**Chair Jarman called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.**

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Albert Olson, Frank Cardinale and Bob Jarman.

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Fire Chief Norvin Collins, Assistant Chief Noel Monin, Interim EMS Chief Karl Kuetzing, Administrative Officer Carolyn Hudson plus San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 Board Members Everett Clary, Anna Lisa Lindstrom, Trish Lehman, Gail Leschine-Seitz and Kyle Loring, SJCPHD #1 Superintendent Pamela Hutchins and SJCPHD #1 Board Recording Secretary Nathan Butler, and the public via call-in.

**ELECTION OF A JOINT CHAIR:**

- Chair Jarman **MOVED** to appoint Commissioner Lindstrom as the joint chair for the meeting. Commissioner Lehman **SECONDED** the motion. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY** by both boards.

Introductions were made and then Town Administrator Duncan Wilson was recognized as the moderator.

**History** - Nathan Butler said that the steering committee has met about 12 times since they began meeting in April 2019. The committee includes Butler, Town Administrator Duncan Wilson, Fire Chief Norvin Collins, Interim EMS Chief Karl Kuetzing, a representative from each board, which included Commissioner Cardinale with the Fire Board and Rebecca Smith until she left office and passed it to Commissioner Lindstrom for the Hospital Board and Chuck Dalldorf as a representative from CAG (Citizens Advisory Group). The committee discussed annexations of Town and the outer islands, as well as other integration topics, but has not met since the onset of Covid-19. Chief Collins said they would have reconvened for any time sensitive issues and that the committee is still active.

**Integration** - Commissioner Lindstrom said that their Board's focus is healthcare and EMS and asked what a combine agency would look like.

Commissioner Jarman suggested that the Boards receive guidance from the steering committee and the Chief, looking at all of the aspects of integration – staffing, capital assets, deployment, funding, cost to the taxpayers, etc.

Chief Collins said he will work with Chief Kuetzing to propose a combined budget, which includes a three- to five-year capital budget and a one-year initial budget. Other subjects to be addressed include: what buildings are needed, what apparatus, what equipment, how are the two different agencies combined with staff, volunteers and an

existing bargaining agreement, how is reflex time optimized, what will operations look like and what will a combined budget look like.

Chief Kuetzing added that they will also be reporting and reviewing annexations, licensing and more.

Chief Collins said that staff needs to bring back information so that the governing boards can make informed decisions.

**Steering Committee Membership** – Commissioner Lindstrom wanted staff members on the steering committee, such as members of EMS, a paramedic, a member of fire. It was also suggested that Dr. Corsa and Pam Hutchins be added to the steering committee.

After some discussion, it was determined to maintain the current makeup of the committee and add Dr. Corsa and Pam Hutchins. Some commissioners, as well as Duncan Wilson, thought that adding any more people than that would be too cumbersome and reduce efficiency.

Commissioner Lehman said that the agencies need to be equal partners in the process and that it should be board driven and not chief driven. Commissioner Lehman said that she feels like the process is being driven by the Fire District. She said that EMS is a tremendous organization and that it's going to be the majority of the combined agency.

Commissioner Cardinale said that he is tired of the abuse and derogatory comments focused on Chief Collins for months now. Commissioner Cardinale said Chief Collins, who has over 30 years of experience as a paramedic, was elected to be the leader of the steering committee and is the perfect person to do so. Commissioner Cardinale added that it was EMS that suggested integration first.

Commissioner Loring said that the bickering should stop, and people should move forward.

**Steering Committee Tasks-** After discussion from the Commissioners, the Commissioners directed the steering committee to develop a Gant chart with dates, timelines and tasks on how to proceed forward. Chief Collins said that the steering committee could have that report by the end of August. The committee mostly has the structure and lists but will review the priorities.

**Reiteration of Steering Committee Membership** – Duncan Wilson began reviewing the steering committee member list – Pam Hutchins, Dr. Corsa, Chief Kuetzing, Chuck Dalldorf, Nathan Butler, Duncan Wilson, Chief Collins and a representative from each of the boards. Commissioner Jarman said that Commissioner Cardinale will continue to be the steering committee representative for the Fire Board.

Then it was overhead that Commissioner Cardinale made a derogatory comment.

Commissioner Lehman said that she was deeply troubled and asked how we can have a meeting with this kind of behavior and that said it was unacceptable.

Commissioner Loring said that the Commissioners cannot have a productive conversation with this kind of behavior.

Duncan Wilson said that attitudes must change across the board and it must never happen again. He said that there is plenty of time to deal with this moving forward.

After more comments from the Hospital Board about the disparaging remark, they adjourned.

Commissioner Jarman apologized on behalf of the fire district and replaced Commissioner Cardinale with Commissioner Olson on the steering committee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **The next regular meeting will be at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.**
- At 5:16 p.m., Chair Jarman **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Olson **SECONDED** the motion. The motion was **APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**.

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Chair Bob Jarman

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Norvin Collins, Secretary