

**SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3  
BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 23, 2019**

Chair Jarman called the special meeting to order at 3:40 pm. This meeting was held in Tulalip, WA during the WA Fire Commissioners Assoc. Conference.

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:**

Albert Olson, Frank Cardinale and Bob Jarman

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Fire District's Attorney Joseph Quinn and Attorney Eric Quinn

**PURPOSE OF MEETING:**

Consulting with attorneys regarding the negotiations with the Public Hospital District; Integration/Administrative Services with EMS; Expanding service area to outer islands; general questions.

**DISCUSSION:**

\*\*Explaining the differences between the Hospital District's service area and the Fire Dept's service area.....expanding service areas and matching that to the Hospital District. The process of petitioning for non-service islands: Decatur Island and Stuart Island. Discussed land owners ("Land mass") as well as registered voters.

Discussion turned to primary concerns about the Fire District providing EMS services and matching the service areas to be the same with legal descriptions to satisfy the County. Further discussion about bringing Fire Service to outer islands for fire insurance purposes.

\*\*The status of the Town of Friday Harbor annexation into the Fire District was discussed. Issues regarding taxation and ways to educate the tax payers regarding annexation. The Town Administrators have expressed being in favor of annexation. Attorney Quinn discussed taxes regarding the Town and Fire Services. There will be need for solid land mass descriptions for boundaries of service areas (which the Hospital Dist. has) and the Fire Dist. will need to match.

**DISCUSSION OF ANY PROPOSED INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT:**

\*\* The Hospital District will have four new commissioners after the November elections and how this will affect any proposed Interlocal Agreement for administrative services contract. The background and history of previously proposed agreements was discussed. The Hospital's Interim Chief Karl Kuetzing has been working with Fire Chief Collins. The goal is to phase in the transferring of services.

The CAG recommendation that the Fire Commissioners' Board be comprised of five members was discussed. Attorney Quinn questioned the need for a five-member board suggesting that "Subject Matter" experts can be asked to bring information to the table as needed. Additionally, to represent the Town and to represent EMS, liaisons with the Fire Department as an "Ex-officio" could be appointed by those entities. An Ex-officio would not have a vote on the Board. Also, Fire Commissioners are elected and anyone can run for those positions.

Attorney Quinn recommended there be a Pre-Annexation Agreement with the Town of Friday Harbor. Included would be a section on Code Compliance and Fire Marshal status. Agreements with the Town and with Outer Islands would have no effect on an interlocal agreement.

Commissioner Jarman noted the Fire Department has stated it would be acting on the citizens' desires whether or not to integrate services and that a letter was sent to the Hospital District stating it would not move forward without full Hospital Board agreement.

Discussed: Four new Hospital Board members to be seated after November election; Hospital's \$350,000.00 fine.

Attorney Quinn suggested to stress that this is not a "merger" at this time. This is an Interlocal Agreement/Administrative Only. These are "Baby Steps". "The Fire Department has the advice of an integration expert". Next: See what the Hospital District comes up with and discuss it in an Open Public Meeting.

#### **Current Change In Public Works:**

\*\*Reviewed a new law recently passed to define ordinary maintenance. Discussion included proper time reporting/allocating hours.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:36 PM**

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Vice-Chair Frank Cardinale

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Chair Bob Jarman, Secretary