

**Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association
Regular Meeting Minutes May 5, 2011**

13:45 meeting to order by Chief Wallace.

Roll Call completed by Chief Graham.

Minutes for April 7, 2011.

Motion to Approve: 1st Chief Saltsman

 2nd Chief Jamison

 Motion Passed

Treasurer's Report

General Checking	\$3,035.66
Extrication	\$125.32
Save Cans for Safe Kids	\$977.68
Training and Education	\$2,674.50
<u>CD</u>	<u>\$5,381.14</u>
Total	\$12,194.30

Motion to Approve: 1st Chief Lewis

 2nd Chief Bessler

 Motion Passed

Discussion on dues for 2011. Chief Graham will send out invoices to each member for \$30.00 this month.

Guests/Presentations

Mic Gunderson – IPS Report/Presentation – Recommendation is for marginal engine funding.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the highlights of the study and gave brief explanations on several components of the report. Slides of the presentation are available on the

Pinellas County web site. Some of the topics discussed are as follows; Marginal engine funding, extended response times, impact on fire protection, pure marginal engine funding, 3.6 multiplier, user fee revenue (41 million – 29 million = 12 million left to offset costs), number of units (74 vs. 72 medical response units), 53 units – (\$780,000/unit = 41 million), paramedicine, and system governance.

Some of the questions that were asked;

1.) Have you compared costs around us? Gunderson – EMS funding in Pinellas County is unique, cannot do it. Gross budgets seemed to be of limited value.

2.) Do you have data that shows the gross costs? Gunderson – not included because they thought it would be misleading. Much more discussion on costs – Gunderson – Pinellas County is in the middle as far as costs (Accepting limitations to the data).

3.) Discussed marginal funding and historical information and the reasons that several entities were created. Gunderson – doesn't matter because fire is funded locally.

4.) Discussion that \$38 million dollars does not equate to 2.5 minutes. He also finds it interesting that after looking at least at 5 separate areas in the EMS system in Pinellas County...that the only area that can be improved in or money can be saved in, is only in one area, the fire departments? (Medical First Responders).

A lot of discussion was on the question, what happens when we convert to total ALS engines – what happens when a major event occurs, a major fire occurs, or a major weather event? Gunderson - discussion that he looked at historical data and found that the most typical draws on the system were lighting events/responses. ***This question was not answered.

Discussion on implementation timetable – 2012/2013 will give districts time to prepare and implement changes. Time will be taken to go out to the public to explain and gather input to the system.

Much discussion that this report does not address improving the EMS system in Pinellas County. It also presents the misleading concept of what can we buy for \$38 million dollars. It is not the 7.5 minutes vs. 10 minutes. Discussion on what the actual county FD emergency response time is.... Less than the 7.5 minutes.

5.) A question that has not been asked or answered is; what is the appropriate cost of the system? Much discussion on how this could be calculated but was not completed for the report even though the members of the committee asked that it be added to the report. Gunderson again stated that Pinellas County falls in the middle of the average of systems including gross costs.

6.) Much discussion – not a good comparison of the different models – we do not need 53 transport units at 02:00 a.m. – our proposal to the County already stated that we understand that flexible staffing would be necessary but this report dismisses this premise. Would like to see a more realistic comparison of fire department transport and it was not done in this report. Mic Gunderson indicated that he had not seen that proposal.

Fixed Pie Concept – the millage rate has historically dropped with 2 exceptions, SunStar and dispatch, other than that the system has continued to drop to its current level. If the system is not broke, why are we trying to fix it, at what point do we sub-standardize the system because of cost savings? We just handled a tornado that ripped through the center of Pinellas County while still handling the normal call volume. It is unclear if the proposed system would be able to deal with such emergencies. Many chiefs have serious concerns that the proposed system would not be able to mitigate increased demands on the system during such events.

The Resource Group did not meet since January until this past Friday and had “NO” input into the revision of the report. Gunderson keeps saying we but the Resource Group had no input...

Misleading that Rescue trucks may have to transport to North County and how that will impact the system, FD's are very close to some type of a GPS dispatching system and that unit would take calls as it made its way back to its home district. These types of calls are really a small percentage of the time and would have a very limited impact on the system.

Correspondence

N/A

New Business

N/A

Unfinished Business

High Rise SOP – some discussion... Wallace – As always these SOPs are designed for county wide consideration and that any individual department always has the individual authority to implement how and to what extent these SOPs exist. More discussion...

Motion to approve 1st George Bessler, 2nd Jim Angle, motions passes. (1 – Nay).

Committee Reports

Operations Chiefs

N/A

Fire Marshals

Discussion on nominee – President appointed Steve Strong and will send a letter to confirm.

PALS

Sayers – Discussion on partnering for a Purple QAR award. Motion to give up to \$200.00 per year towards supporting the annual Purple QAR award to be given from the PCFCA. 1st McGuff, 2nd Angle, motion passes.

Discussion on a communications SOP that will be coming out soon.

Training Officers

Dobson will be coming for company officer training.

EMS Advisory Council

Sayer – EMS management meeting will be on 5/11/11.

Discussion on what is brought before the BCC in meetings is less than accurate as it reflects what is happening in the system as it relates to priority dispatch. Level 1 and level 2 have been implemented with level 3 failing to gain support. However they will be reviewing how 1 and 2 have affected the system.

Affiliate Reports

Public Safety

Communications/911

Jackie – Discussion on - Dispatch is close to being able to print the borders on the maps. Utilities – importing hydrant data into the maps. Fire Reports – types of firefighter injuries will be added vs. just that they were injured. Needed for the NFPA reports.

Dick Williams – discussed rebanding and how some radios were missed – send those to SunCoast.

Jim Angle – asked if they have a question on the union contracts please email or call to clarify so the wrong information is not given out to the BCC or staff.

Mike Cooksey – Discussed the fire ordinance – open burning – Motion to support the county ordinance – 1st Bud Meyers, 2nd Scott McGuff, motion passes.

Emergency Management

Sally Bishop – upcoming meeting on 05/11/11, PODS training will be a full scale set-up. Discussion on last minute changes that Red Cross is pickier on where they will now send their personnel.

Charlie Fant – Discussed the EOC list and wanted to get a confirmation on the commitment for shelter staffing.

Medical Director

Discussion on indicators on EMS, 36% cardiac arrest survival and walks out of the hospital, these numbers are exceptional as compared to the rest of the country, 98% of STEMI's go to PCI facility, 1300 intubations with a .5% misplaced (amounted to only 1 misplaced tube), 1400 AEDs registered.

Much discussion on the Philips monitors and the issues that the system is having. Critical failures on the monitors should generate QARs. If you believe it is a critical failure then it should be called in and documented, a QAR.

EPCR will be dependent on grants that may go away in the future.

Discussion on the bid group and the length of time the Philips monitors have been in the system/in use.

Paramedics Plus / Sunstar

HCA hospital Bayonet Point will be a trauma center November 1, 2011. For the first time a Trauma Center may be closer to go out of Pinellas County. There are some problems with having two trauma centers so close together. Funding could be lost for both facilities.

PTEC

N/A

St. Petersburg College Fire

N/A

St. Petersburg College EMS

Glenn Davis – more EMS students coming out to ride soon. CME – ITLS just wrapped up. May is online and ACLS begins in August.

Red Cross

N/A

Good of the Organization

Discussion on ISO...

Scott McGuff – Oldsmar is having a campaign on prevention on drowning / pool safety.

Motion: To give \$200.00 from the SCFSK account to Oldsmar to support their pool safety campaign.

Motion to Approve: 1st Jim Angle
 2nd Bud Meyers
 Motion Passed

Discussion – EMS week is coming.

Next Meeting

June 2, 2011 – Golden Corral.

Meeting adjourned at 15:35.