

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3

SPECIAL MEETING

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE COMMISSIONERS

Day Rd. Fire Station

3253 Day Road, Greenbank, Washington

January 26, 2010 - 7:00 P.M.

Minutes

Those present: Commissioner Tom Smith (Central Whidbey Fire), Commissioner Paul Messner (Central Whidbey Fire), Commissioner Cheryl Engle (Central Whidbey Fire), Chief Rusty Palmer (South Whidbey Fire), Commissioner Mike Helland (South Whidbey Fire), Commissioner Bruce Carman (North Whidbey Fire), Commissioner Gerry Goen (North Whidbey Fire), Commissioner T.J. Lamont (North Whidbey Fire), Mr. Tom Shaughnessy (Director, ICOM) and Office Manager Kim Harpe (Central Whidbey Fire).

- I. Call to Order Call to order at 19:00 at the Station 54, 3253 Day, Rd, Greenbank, WA by Commissioner Bruce Carman.
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. ICOM Project Deficit ICOM Debt. - Director Tom Shaughnessy briefed the Island County Fire Commissioners on the cost over-run experienced from the recent ICOM equipment update and facility remodel. Director Shaughnessy shared that in 2009 ICOM started a \$250,000.00 equipment upgrade and facility remodel. In order to complete the upgrades, ICOM used \$144,000.00 out of its 2009 operating budget (\$54,000.00 on a tower, \$70,000.00 on remodel work, and \$20,000.00 on electrical work). Director Shaughnessy explained that prior to the project, ICOM had not fully explored the implications of taking the entire remodel and upgrade costs out of their operating budget. Director Shaughnessy passed out handouts (please see attachments) which shared information regarding how the cost over-run occurred, as well as potential options for repayment. Current repayment options include:
 1. Borrowing \$100,000.00 from Whidbey Island Bank (WIB). ICOM currently has a loan through WIB and the interested rate would be set at 7%.
 2. Borrowing the money from the City of Oak Harbor. The city may be willing to subsidize the loan at a low interest rate (2-3%). Director Shaughnessy

explained to the group that the exact details of this option were still being discussed. As soon as all of the details are worked out, Director Shaughnessy said he would share information regarding any questions the group may have about this option.

3. Each Fire District could cover their portion of the cost over-run out of their own operating budget.

Director Shaughnessy asked the group if anyone had any questions about the handouts or the potential repayment options.

Chief Palmer (South Whidbey Fire) asked if all agencies had to be in agreement as to the option selected.

Director Shaughnessy responded by stating that all agencies would not have to select the same option. If each of the Fire Districts selected different repayment options, ICOM would be responsible for tracking each agencies repayment.

Commissioner Helland (South Whidbey Fire) inquired as to whether there was a factor difference between the users.

Director Shaughnessy responded by stating that one of the handouts breaks down the factor differences between the agencies, and additionally explained that the factor difference was based off of 3 years of use. Director Shaughnessy shared with the group that ICOM's income comes from local and state user fees. ICOM does not have investments and the center is not eligible for state funding. Director Shaughnessy went on to explain that his Board of Directors has repeatedly told him that ICOM is underfunded and user fees need to be increased in 2011. Director Shaughnessy shared that House Bill 3624 is currently in front of the Rules Committee. If approved, House Bill 3624 would increase the excise tax on telephone bills by \$.25 per month. If the bill passes, ICOM could expect to see an additional \$189,000.00 dollars of revenue annually. Director Shaughnessy encouraged each of the Districts to support the bill and handed out an example support letter for the bill. All of the District representatives in attendance thanked Director Shaughnessy for his time and the presentation.

Commissioner Smith (Central Whidbey Fire) stated that Central Whidbey Fire Commissioners would discuss these options at their upcoming commissioner meeting on February 11, 2010.

Mr. Shaughnessy shared that Island County Sheriff's Office, Whidbey General Hospital and the City of Oak Harbor Police have already made the decision to

pay their portion out of their operating budgets rather than financing the repayment.

Good of the Order: - Commissioner Helland (South Whidbey Fire) shared that he felt it would be a good idea for the Island County Fire Commissioners to get meet at least once a year. All of the Fire District Commissioners concurred. Commissioner Smith(Central Whidbey Fire) recommended that once Mr. Shaughnessy had firm numbers and answers to the questions regarding a loan from the City of Oak Harbor that their next meeting be held at ICOM.

IV. Adjournment - There being no further business, Commissioner Smith (Central Whidbey Fire) adjourned the meeting at 20:10.

Next Meeting:	Date: TBA
	Time: TBA
Place:	ICOM Headquarters

Submitted,

Kim Harpe, Secretary