

ISLAND COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #3

SPECIAL MEETING

CLINTON STATION

6435 Central Avenue, Clinton, Washington

March 31, 2008 - 9:00 A.M.

Minutes

In Attendance:

Chairman Mike Helland
Commissioner Bob Elliot
Commissioner Kenon Simmons
Chief Dan Stout

Audience: ESCi Kyle Gorman, Paul Busch, Mike Cotton, Connie Shields, Ken Starkweather and South Whidbey Record reporter Spence Webster

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Helland called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.
- II. Approval of Agenda – Commissioner Elliot moved to approve the Agenda as printed; motion carried.
- III. Unfinished Business –
 - A. EMS Study – Kyle Gorman from ESCi took the floor and covered the basic determinations concluded from the extensive study of Island County EMS services. Highlights included:
 - All participants in the fire districts and hospital are motivated to do the right thing;
 - The one protocol and physician in charge gives structure, consistency, quality, commitment and ready to move ahead.
 - Good equipment and standardization in place.
 - Quality of data collected for decision making is an issue. Dispatch unable to report valid data. Response times reported questionable.

Conclusions of study from a “system’s perspective” not the District’s, hospital’s, nor ICOM’s:

 - “Faster is Better” but use appropriate response to the type of call.
 - A need for adequate communications, a safety net for all is a critical issue especially for responders.
 - Find how to deploy resources for best response time and services

Recommendations:

 - Hospital, ICOM & District joint do Strategic Planning that interlinks at some point
 - Have a joint plan and sets standards.
 - Periodic quality assurance review jointly.
 - Joint EMS communication and training.

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- Recommended options:
 - Remain status quo;
 - The District pursue a fire based ALS/Transport capability and Ems levy for South Whidbey or
 - Improve joint efforts (This option was recommended as the most financially prudent for all to follow)

Bottom line: Build cooperation between Agencies. Collective long range planning much better than individual.

Next step – Invite the WGH Board and staff to the May regular Fire Commissioners Meeting for the final report presentation from the consultant..

IV. Executive Session - Nil

V. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Paula Schuler
District Secretary