

**SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT No. 1
Board of Commissioners
Joint Special Meeting**

**San Juan County Public Hospital District (SJCPHD#1)
San Juan County Fire Protection District #3 (FD#3)
The Town of Friday Harbor ("Town")
and the Citizen's Advisory Group ("CAG")**

MINUTES

Wednesday, December 12, 2018

5:00 p.m. at 1011 Mullis Street (FD#3 Headquarters)

SJCPHD #1 Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Warren Appleton
Commissioner Michael Edwards, Chair
Commissioner Anna Lisa Lindstrum
Commissioner Mark Schwinge
Commissioner Rebecca Smith

By Phone: None

Absent: None

Others Present:

Pamela Hutchins
Superintendent, SJCPHD #1

Jerry Martin
Chief Administrator, SJIEMS

Norvin Collins
Chief Administrator, FD#3

FD #3 Commissioners Present:

Commissioner Frank Cardinale
Commissioner Robert Jarman, Chair
Commissioner Albert Olson

Duncan Wilson
Administrator, Town

By Phone: None

Absent: None

Citizen's Advisory Group Present:

Chuck Dalldorf (Chair)
Mark Tompkins (Vice Chair)
Rick Frazer

By Phone: None

Absent: George Johnson, Dan Paulson

SJCPHD#1 CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Edwards, SJCPHD#1 called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

FD#3 CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Bob Jarman, FD#3, called his meeting to order.

Board Recording Secretary Nathan Butler was asked to introduce each participant and did so.

SELECTION OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING: Although each board must conduct its votes independently, one person was chosen to facilitate the discussion and conduct the agenda previously agreed on.

ACTION: Chair Edwards nominated Chair Jarman to serve as joint meeting chair, Warren Appleton seconded, and the board concurred. Fire likewise agreed.

REPORTS:

Interim Status Report by CAG Chair Chuck Dalldorf: Dalldorf opened saying "...at the end of this work that we're doing we will be able to deliver what we believe will be an independent, unbiased, accurate, and unanimous recommendation... and hopefully it will be a roadmap for the boards, the town, and the taxpayers and voters to potentially consider going forward."

The CAG has had 13 meetings over 7 months donating over 150 hours of time, passed 40 pages of minutes, interviewed 7 people – excluding committee work. He thanked Nathan Butler for his administrative support, "he's done extraordinary work for the Citizen's Advisory Group," and the boards for giving them the independence to do their work.

Dalldorf stated: "We are committed to providing that [final report] to the boards and to the Town no later than March 31st. We may deliver it before that date... but we are very realistic about the work that is before us."

Statement by Mark Tompkins, Vice Chair: Tompkins made a brief statement. He opened by saying: "What we're looking at is what is best for the citizens of this island, not what is best for Fire, not what is best for EMS... but how do we provide the best possible service." He later added, "If the boards wanted to pursue whatever recommendation we come forth with, we are providing the information that allows you to do that... we're hoping to find the pitfalls."

Statement by Rick Frazer: "There are things we can't control, we don't know what levy results would be," so the CAG approaches this project by designing independent steps that are still positive outcomes should further steps be voted down. Later he added, "This is about medicine, about ensuring that where I live, I would get the care that I want." He closed by saying, "We do have a working hypothesis... you should, if appropriately done, get synergies of scale..." with some form of merger. He noted that

implementation and planning is key to avoid unexpected expenses that negatively impact outcomes.

Question and Answer: Commissioner Chair Bob Jarman thanked the CAG for their work, "for all the time and effort they have put into this project." The commissioners then discussed whether they should be involved going forward.

Dalldorf stated, "We really appreciate you giving us the independence and the time to do the work that we have done so far. We would be concerned... about a parallel process... I would hate to see us run in opposing directions."

Town Administrator Duncan Wilson made a statement: "It's a good idea that we're all here... I want to maintain the independence [of the CAG] but maintain the oversight [by the board]." He went on to say, "Anything we can do now while awaiting the CAG is going to shorten the critical path for getting to where we need to get to. From the Town's standpoint, and this is where I opine, the number one [first] issue that we need to get the vote before the people of the annexation of Town into the Fire District... this simplifies all the rest of the structural issues that we're talking about... Let's do some preplanning."

Wilson then added, "We need the support of the [CAG] saying that this annexation is an integral element of putting us together for our future operations, otherwise it's going to be very difficult to pass that vote... second, the Town of Friday Harbor has to make a verbal and public statement that if that happens... we [town] have to commit to them [public] that we will take that money and do something with it.... The commitment the council is willing to make is... put it towards road, streets, and development... and [perhaps] cut some of the property taxes..." Much of the work on this can be done now, so that if the CAG recommends moving forward that it is ready. Later he added, "The town is very, very happy with the services given by EMS and the Fire Department."

Commissioner Chair Michael Edwards recommended that the CAG meet with Chief Collins, and the CAG agreed that they needed to do so.

Chief Collins, Fire Department, noted: "You guys are doing a fantastic job." He then added, "When you start talking about levels of service, be cautious... Build into your recommendation how long it will take boards and the leadership of the organizations to digest and understand what you're saying... as you think timelines... it's going to take some time to digest." He closed by agreeing that the bottom line is "what is best for the citizens."

Chief Jerry Martin, EMS, stated "I'm encouraged by the CAG... looks like they're doing their due diligence." He added, "I'd like to thank the boards for pulling this together."

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and action regarding next steps: Chair Jarman asked whether the CAG would feel it inappropriate for the FD#3 board to start talking with the Town about annexation. Dalldorf agreed to talk at their next CAG meeting and send a message to the boards with their response: "Regardless of where we go [regarding merger] was the discussion between the District and the Town and the possibility of annexation... I would like to go back to the CAG and include them."

Wilson stated that he would like to have CAG support before proposing annexation, and that annexation as a project is unlikely to succeed if not a part of a larger consolidation plan: "There's no sense going forward... without a full and complete report from the CAG supporting this process, and the vote of these organizations because voters are going to have to have a reason to do what they're going to do."

The full group agreed to meet again when the CAG has its final report. Jarman and Dalldorf reiterated that the CAG would meet on 12/19/18 and pending an affirmative response that merger between Town and Fire is a probable first step in any outcome, negotiating that preplanning can begin between Town and Fire – but will not formally go forward until after the CAG's final report.


AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION:

The floor was opened to public comment, with comments per person limited to 3 minutes. Sharon Kivisto made a comment.

ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Edwards adjourned the meeting at 6:12 pm, and FD #3 then did the same.

ALL EXHIBITS AND SUPPORTING MATERIAL AVAILABLE ON REQUEST.



Signed by Chairperson



Date

The original document is retained at the San Juan County Pubic Hospital District #1 Office at 849 Spring Street, Unit B-5, Friday Harbor, WA 98250 in San Juan County Public Hospital District #1 permanent proceedings file.

Attest: Nathan Butler, Recording Secretary