

**CITIZEN'S ADVISORY GROUP ("CAG")**  
**TO**  
**SAN JUAN ISLAND EMS ("SJIEMS")**  
**SAN JUAN COUNTY PUBLIC HOSPITAL DISTRICT #1 ("SJCPHD #1")**  
**SAN JUAN COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #3 ("FD #3")**  
**AND THE TOWN OF FRIDAY HARBOR ("TOWN")**

**MINUTES**  
**Wednesday February 6, 2019**  
**6:30 pm, 849 Spring Street, Suite B-5**

**CAG representatives:**

Chuck Dalldorf, Town (chair)  
Rick Frazer, at large  
George Johnson, SJCPHD #1  
Mark Tompkins, at large (vice chair)

**Others Present:**

Nathan Butler  
SJCPHD #1 Board Recording Sec.

**Absent:** Dan Paulson, FD #3

**By Phone or teleconference:** None

**Public Present:** Karin Agosta, Anna Lisa Lindstrum

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Dalldorf called the meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

**Approve Minutes:** By consent the group agreed that the minutes from January 30, 2019 were acceptable.

**Work Session:**

Rick Frazer reported his plans to meet with Dr. Michael Sullivan, MPD, to discuss medical metrics for EMS. He also discussed talking with Catie Holstein about meeting with the CAG at the end of the month. He will work to schedule that, having received input from the group about scheduling.

The discussion turned to the "value proposition" behind merging EMS and FD #3. Frazer said, "It doesn't jump out at me." A variety of responses were offered. Dalldorf noted that although both organizations are currently stable, over the next 5-10 years a merger offers many advantages to both in terms of both operations and finances. Johnson stated that the CAG doesn't have to evaluate this merger proposition in terms

of whether it should go forward or not, but offer advantages and disadvantages to different approaches. As the number of EMS calls increases and the number of Fire calls decreases, a merger that shares human resources makes sense.

Tompkins said, "This isn't an op looking to make money... look what we could achieve with a merged agency!" Many opportunities for improved service exist such as the use of fire fighters to drive ambulances when both paramedic and EMT are needed, the ease of organizing joint training, marine responses, advantages in recruitment, command response and chain of command will be clearer at calls, etc. Dalldorf noted that a consolidated Agency is the "best practices" in Washington state, though Frazer noted that nationwide it is perhaps 60% integrated services.

In response to concerns that the same problems of sharing resources that caused EMS to be separated from Fire in the 1990s would happen again, George Johnson related from his experience on the hospital district board when EMS was separated from fire: there was never a truly combined service on SJI. There were two chiefs, and both reported to the same Board – but they had separate budgets, were located separately, and otherwise operated as separate institutions. The merger being considered now is an entirely new project.

Dalldorf again reiterated the importance of metrics. We "don't want to take something that works today and ruin it." He added that there needs to be ways to tell that there's progress. Johnson suggested finding out what the current standard metrics are for both Fire and EMS, "We don't have to reinvent the wheel... people are doing this already!"

Although concerns were raised about leadership both present and future (following the 2019 fall election), the group determined that its decision had to be made sans political considerations: assuming good leadership what is the best thing to do? As Johnson stated, we "can't make a decision based on people – we have to assume good governance." Dalldorf reiterated that the public chooses governance leaders, and governance boards choose executive leadership -- this makes it beyond the purview of the CAG.

Dalldorf again raised his wish that this process had started with comment from citizens. Johnson replied that "we are them [citizens]" as the Citizen's Advisory Group, but that the Boards should definitely hold meetings with the public before proceeding. This is especially important when deciding how to handle the outer islands, though FD #3 does transport EMS staff, DNR response, and operates the boat to help provide what service does exist now on the outer islands.

The group discussed whether they should recommend expanding the fire district Board, discussed how to handle the outer islands, the development of the financial package, and the actual combining of Agencies – particularly the EMS building and cross training, and the timing of how each part of the recommendation fits together.

**New Business and Meeting Times:**

The group discussed the drafting process generally and split up certain research projects.

CAG schedule was maintained for February 20. A tentative additional date for February 26<sup>th</sup> with time TBD was added to accommodate a potential guest.

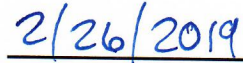
**Public Comment:**

Karin Agosta and Anna Lisa Lindstrum made comments during the meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.



Signed by Chair



Date

**The original document is retained at the San Juan County Public 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, Board Recording Secretary for SJCPHD #1**