

Spokane County Fire District #5
April 28, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Ryan, Sheri Rhoads and Todd Lehman

District Administrator: Carol Harrington

Guests: see attached sign in sheet

Time Meeting Began: 7:00p.m.

Flag Salute

The minutes from the March 24, 2008 Regular Meeting were reviewed.

The treasury report was reviewed. Carol read the report aloud.

The April bills were reviewed. The expenses were approved for \$9,255.07.

Correspondence: Spokane County Elections office sent deadline dates for the voter's pamphlet.

Administrators Report:

- o At the March regular meeting, an office copy was available for the public to view during the meeting. The copies were on bright yellow paper and clearly marked "Office Copy." It was taken by someone from the public during that meeting and has not been returned. The office copies of documents are NOT legally public docs during the meeting; they need to be returned prior to the adjournment of the meeting. Constituents wanting copies of public documents need to follow our Public Records Policy Procedure. Gary Pietz said he had taken them home; he did not realize they were office copies and he will return them.
- o I have called Spokane Spray Service regarding weed control spray for both station locations; they will apply a sterilant when weather permits.
- o Quotes regarding Website management/training.
- o There is a leadership class offered through FD10 on May 9 and 10 taught by a highly respected fire service leader, Ron Coleman, who has more than 40 years in the fire service including as a Chief and State Fire Marshall for CA. Rod Heimbigner strongly suggests our Chief and officers attend as it is only \$30 per person, and highly effective training course. Ron Wood attended the first class back in March. **Sheri motioned and Todd seconded to send Ron to the remaining leadership classes (2, 3, &4); it passed unanimously.**

Fire Chief's Report (Kjell Anderson):

1. Training:

- a. A wide variety of training was scheduled and accomplished this month. Starting April 1, training was conducted on our new PPV fan that we received on one of our grants. Dan P. instructed the training. Fan is installed on E-51.
- b. April 8th training was conducted on our new ARS stabilization kits, another grant item. Justin from Diamond Back fire provided training using a vehicle donated by Spalding. One kit each is installed on E-51 and E-52.
- c. April 10th OTEP training completed a two day training block on medical. Training was held at Lincoln County FD4. Doug Bonstrom was instructing. No OTEP offered from Dist 10 due to RED CARD refresher.
- d. RED Card refresher training was held at Dist 10 over 2 days held on April 15 and 22. John Hanke provided training.
- e. Training at the Region 9 burn tower was conducted as joint training with Lincoln County 4 and Dist 5 personnel. Doug Bonstrom was our instructor.

- 2. Equipment:** 2007 AFG grant items are being installed and inventoried on various apparatus. Final inventory will be complete when various items that require new bracketing systems are in their final location due to existing items being moved to accept the new gear. As the weather gets better we hope to have annual hose testing done.

3. Apparatus:

A-51 is out of service until repairs are complete for draft system for the pump. Pump plumbing is being rerouted to prevent air lock that has plagued operations with the pump loosing its prime in the middle of pumping operations. An existing leak is also being repaired. This repair is being done with volunteer help in another effort to save the district money. We are waiting for some support from Mike F when he has some spare time this week. We should have the truck back in service by mid May.

B-513. I am recommending with input from the fire fighters that B-513 be taken out of service and sold this year. We believe we can support our current operations without this vehicle. This will clean up our inventory and save the district some annual insurance fees. The pump, tank and battery charging system would be

removed and used for upgrades on other vehicles. I would recommend that it be advertised online (E-bay or Craig's List) to allow the widest reach to perspective buyers.

M-51. Per request of the Board on the pros and cons of M-51, the following are my thoughts and recommendations. M-51 was bought as a single role vehicle, to deliver BLS equipment and personnel to medical call. The idea was for equipment to arrive in serviceable condition and in a reliable vehicle. It performs this mission today and is being operated in just that capacity. It has come at the price of one year's worth of the District's annual budget. This is being paid for over time with a loan to relieve our funds for annual operations. This vehicle supports only EMS which we are not funded for from the district taxpayers. The Spokane County Emergency Care and Trauma Council support us with some grant money, around \$1,000 to \$1500 annually. The question is being asked can we sell Medic 51 to regenerate our district funds. I do not have the answer to that question based on the lack of information as far as what we could sell it for and would we attain enough from the sale to cover what we owe and put some money back into the district funds. If we do not cover what we owe and put a substantial amount to regenerate our revenue then it probably is not worth it. If we keep M-51 I would recommend that we expand its role to show more justification for its expense and limited role. We could expand in the areas of command vehicle, rehab support at structure fires. We could add air tanks to refill bottles at structure fire scenes.

Pros: Reliable vehicle being only a 2004. Provides BLS. Can haul up to 5 personnel to scenes.

Cons: Expense to the district. Single role. Not funded to provide its current role. Limited payload for future expansion.

Possible roles: Expand its role to Command / rehab support.

I conclude on this by saying that I would not recommend buying another vehicle like this for the price we paid based on its limitations and the funding we receive to support the service it provides. If we were to sell it we can continue to provide the BLS service that we do out of Station 51 with other vehicles. I do not know if there is enough value left in it to justify selling it at this stage with what we have paid so far and what we owe. The final financial decision I will leave to the board.

Todd asked Kjell why would an engine respond on a brush fire. Kjell said because it is capable of doing so. Todd asked if the ground would hold it, the weight, as he thought a brush truck would be better. He watched our response to a recent brush fire and the attack seemed slow. Kjell said it was a job done well by capable firefighters with equipped apparatus.

4. **Smoke Alarm Grant.** Thank you Carol for writing this grant for us. Smoke alarm grant committee will be formed to help with distribution of smoke alarms.
5. **Grant items being put to use for our community.** Chief's comments on T.I.G., PPV FAN. PPE and Safety.
6. **Hazard concern on tires and cars at Ritchey Rd.** Would support commissioners with a letter to the county or planning dept on fuel load concerns at the non approved or permitted junk yard at Ritchey Road. Open for recommendations. The DOH is now involved because of the contaminants and hazards. There are probably over 5,000 tires over there. The county has asked what it would take to handle a fire at that location. If we would like to submit a letter, it needs to get to Dan Catt, attorney, by this Friday. Kjell and Carol will work on this.

1600 and 1800 Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's): Todd motioned to approve both SOP's; Sheri seconded and they were both unanimously approved.

Gary Pietz handed the commissioners a report he was asked to present regarding the pros/cons of Medic 51 (attached). He read it aloud. Discussion followed regarding the USDA loan the district took out to assist in the purchase of M51. Gary also handed the commissioners a sheet he typed up regarding some public opinion he had collected (about 14 comments on the paper). He discussed the comments. He sees a lack of communication between the board and the community; that some people said they did not know what was going on with the fire district. Carol asked Gary if he had informed the people he spoke with about the monthly business meetings. He said he had. Jim discussed the EMS permanent tax levy the board tried to pass. He discussed Initiative 747. Gary said most people want a sunset clause. Larry Wendlandt said you need to explain it to the community regarding how tax assessment is eroded by I-747. Gary said we didn't get out to enough places. We need to solicit more opinion and response. Todd said Gary has a good point about people not knowing enough information. Jim discussed how 747 affects the \$1.50 per \$1,000 assessed value and how it is going down every year. He discussed how other fire districts handle the \$1.50/\$1,000 across WA State. He said the commissioners have to study what we do need. Gary said that is why you need a 5 and

10 year plan; we don't just want your opinion, we have to have an open forum. Sheri said maybe we should go back to putting out a newsletter maybe every 6 months. We have been holding these open public meetings for years and the people just don't come. She would like an article explaining what we have done recently and what we would like to do. Todd agrees on the newsletter idea to keep people aware. Sheri appreciates all the work Kjell and Gary did on their M51 reports but that a decision regarding its sale should be tabled for now. Todd said it is an expensive truck to have but has a longevity to it. It will be a good truck for years to come.

Old Business:

1. **2008 AFG Grant:** Carol turned it in on time; she read what it was for: \$25,900 for Wildland PPE including fire shelters and hydration packs, radios, pagers, tire chains for tenders, and 1 security door system for Station 52. Our match would be \$1295.00.
2. **2007 DNR Grant:** We were awarded awhile ago but will wait for tax revenue to be deposited into our General Fund before ordering the items.
3. **Medic 51:** Discussed earlier.
4. **Interlocal Ground Ambulance Contract:** Sheri motioned to accept, Todd seconded, all approved.
5. **EMS Coor. Job Description:** Todd motion to accept, Sheri seconded, all approved.
6. **Fire Chief Job Description:** Sheri motion to accept, Todd seconded, all approved.

New Business:

1. **Smoke Alarm Grant:** Carol explained how we applied for and received a grant for up to 300 lithium smoke alarms. This is a grant that not only provides the smoke alarms, but all the informational and instructional paperwork to get it going. The alarms are not just handed out, but installed by our volunteers who will also guide recipients of fire safe plans. We have a lot of alarms here as well as the paperwork and public informational handouts to get the project off the ground. Kjell is putting teams together for education first, then install plans. We have applications ready to hand or mail out. She held up a couple of informational safety handouts targeted toward the elderly. She said if anyone knew any residents who were elderly, handicapped or low-income to please let them know about the program.

Public Concerns:

1. **Larry Wendlandt** said he would donate high speed Internet to the district to help communication problems. The website was discussed; it is inactive and has been for some time. Carol reviewed past issues regarding the website with different managers. Larry said he would look into the possibilities of finding someone to manage the site.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be May 26, 2008 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:35p.m.

Spokane County Fire District5 Chairman

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Attest: Spokane County Fire District 5 District Administrator