

Spokane County Fire District #5
May 26, 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Ryan and Todd Lehman. Sheri absent due to illness.

District Administrator: Carol Harrington

Guests: see attached sign in sheet

Time Meeting Began: 7:00p.m.

- **Flag Salute**
- **The minutes from the April 28, 2008 Regular Meeting were reviewed and approved.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The May bills** were reviewed. The expenses were approved for \$34,134.12.

Correspondence:

- Thank you letter from resident re: fire incident forwarded to our district from Nick Scharff, Chief at SCFD10.
- Website correspondence from Chris Barnes of Spokane Emergency Management.
- Mike Thompson of Spokane Valley Fire Dept. sent an updated Interlocal Ground Ambulance Contract (Commissioners have copy of that e-mail) and he asks the board for their approval by signature.
- Spokane County Building and Planning: an ordinance re: text amendment to Countywide Planning Policies amending the time frame of the plan's review from 5 to 10 years.
- Northern Energy: proposal for budget payments.
- Snure Law Office: addition of Joseph Quinn to their practice.
- WA Govt. Entity Pool (now called Enduris) insurance pkg info. Carol will get quote and report later on price comparison. Our policy doesn't renew until September 2008.

Administrators Report:

- Newsletter will go out Wednesday of this week. I did not receive any comments or suggestions since I asked for input at the last business meeting.
- **Fire Chief's Report**
 - **Personnel:** N/A
 - **Training:** HazMat training w/farm emergency scenarios took place. OTEP training with Lincoln County FD 4 took place. John VanSant and Jennifer Jensen conducted a CPR class at Springhill Grange Hall.
 - **Stations:** N/A
 - **Equipment:** Hose testing was conducted for maintenance as well as for the WA State Ratings Bureau (WSRB). Both engines have been completely inventoried. A51 back in service after volunteers worked on it
 - **Other:** We are currently building teams for Smoke Alarm installation once applications are received.

Todd asked why A51 would be at Greg's house. Why do we have that truck there for just one person and why wouldn't it be better to use B513 over there? Kjell said that we are going to take B513 out of service and that the A51 works well over there. Todd asked why the decision has been made already regarding truck placement, he thought it was just under discussion. Jim said that it is the Chief's decision where trucks are positioned. Todd discussed timber lands and their prevalence in this area compared to over by Greg's place. Jim discussed mutual aid in regards to protection for district areas.

Old Business:

- **Smoke Alarm Grant:** Carol discussed how the applications and handouts would be distributed as well as how the program is set-up.

New Business:

- **Todd** brought up a letter from the Burke Law Office dated April 3, 2008 asking if follow-up was needed on it. Jim said no, it has to do with the Bonner case and possible further action. There is no further action required on the matter.

Public Concerns:

- **Gary Pietz:** He asked Kjell where all the trucks are. Kjell said E51, T51, M51, are all at Station 51; and A52, T52 – at this point Gary interrupted and said, so there is no brush truck at Station 51. Kjell went on to say that B52 is at Ron's house, A51 is at Sheri's house, and B51 is at Greg's place. Gary said he is concerned that the trucks are not in the central location of the district. Kjell said he distributed the trucks in the best interest of the whole district,

not just a few people. He said that other fire chief's know his reasoning behind truck placement and they agree on the strategy. Jim, Todd, Gary and Kjell continued discussion of truck placement, brush fires and structure fires regarding protection. Jim mentioned that our response time has greatly decreased. Gary said that he heard that Kjell has changed the policy so that we don't take trucks off the road to fight fires. Kjell said that is not true, that the safety and protection of the responders is necessary; that we don't fight fires the same way we did years ago. Tactics have changed for the better of both residents and firefighters.

- **Carol Chase:** Carol Chase questioned the way the amounts, specifically the ending balance, appeared on the agenda. Carol Harrington explained that the ending balance amount listed is a "draft" as she does not receive the debit/credit balance sheet for the current month from the Spokane County Treasurer's office until at least two weeks after the meeting which is two weeks into the next month. She has to give the board the best information possible so that they can have a pretty close idea of our financial situation. Carol Chase asked how are we supposed to know that. Carol Harrington replied that is why the word "DRAFT" appears across the entire page; it is a best estimate. Carol Chase still had questions and said that the beginning balance from the agenda does not match the ending balance from the previous month's agenda; that it is confusing. Carol Harrington explained again that it will never match as the agenda is the best estimate she can provide for the commissioners. Otherwise, how would they make a decision to approve the expenses. Carol Harrington said that Brenda did it the same way years back and why was it suddenly a problem now. She showed Carol Chase the Treasury Report which does list all the debits/credits for the previous month to prove that the general fund does, in fact, balance each and every month but can only be done (balanced) after she receives the treasurer's office reports. Jim said that maybe all we need to do is add the word "estimate" for Carol Chase on the agenda by the ending balance. Carol Harrington will do that from now on.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be June 23, 2008 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:57p.m.

Spokane County Fire District5 Chairman

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Attest: Spokane County Fire District 5 District Administrator