

Spokane County Fire District #5
June 23, 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: 7:02p.m.

- **Flag Salute**
- **The minutes from the May 26, 2008 Regular Meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The June bills** were reviewed. The expenses were approved for \$2,299.71.

Correspondence: Ralph Baker, Spokane County Assessor: St51 and St53 site valuation of real property. Fireline June 2008 Issue: a memorandum from attorneys Brian Snure and Joseph Quinn regarding overview of appropriate method of reimbursement for volunteers of fire districts. We are compliant with what is stated in this article. Thank you card from Dusty and Sheri Rhoads re: response to incident. WSRB letter dated June 11, 2008 on our rating (covered in Chief's report later).

Administrators Report: Website management: I recommend to the board we pay Chris Barnes of Spokane Emergency Management to manage our website. Approximate monthly cost: \$25-75 per month per his e-mail dated May 29, 2008. The board would like Carol to find out if he needs a contract for a period of time or is willing to take it on a month to month basis. Can he monitor how many hits the site gets? Carol will check with Chris on this and report next month. Insurance Quote is coming from WA Govt Entity Pool; most likely will have it by July regular meeting.

Fire Chief's Report

1. **WSRB fire protection Class 8** for District 5. Kjell had Carol read the letter from the WSRB regarding our endorsement from a Class 9 rating to a class 8. He thanked certain current and former commissioners for their support for this effort including the acquisition of the pumper truck (E52), Carol for her grant writing for essential equipment, and the team of volunteers for helping with the equipment, their dedication to training and hose testing. He said it is a great reflection of where our district is today. His next goal is to achieve tender credit.
2. **Training:** on June 3rd we conducted training on Patient Triage coordinated by John VanSant. Special thanks to the members of SCOPE and their families who participated as our victims. Their moulage kit and acting made for a more realistic patient scene. On June 10th Wildland exercise training conducted by Dan Patterson covered items including hand tools, line building, and shelter deployment. June 12th we had OTEP at Reardan FD4 and finished the second part of the Trauma series with Doug Bonstrum as instructor. June 15th was a live burn at the Main's who are district residents. The burn involved two old barns. Topics covered were defensive tactics, structural wildland interface firefighting and pumper to pumper water relay. Tender shuttle operation training was accomplished using the water tank on Scott Anderson's property. It was a beautiful Father's Day and the Main's were wonderful hosts and served us lunch. OTEP is scheduled tomorrow Tues the 24th at FD10 to close out the month.
3. **Equipment:** The 2007 DNR grant items are being ordered this month.
4. **Spring Command Workshop:** John VanSant and I attended this workshop down at the city Fire Training Center. Training centered on MIST or Major Incident Support Team which is equivalent to a Type III Incident Management Team. The role of MIST is to support the needs of the Host IC in meeting incident objectives. This is an Added resource available to fire departments and districts in Spokane County or other agencies in the state. This year's scenario involved a train wreck and wildfire near the Dishman Mica Wilderness area. It involved components of ICS (Incident Command System). Other items covered included updated to the FOG (Field Operation Guide). Updates from the DNR air operations for the eastern region were also covered. Update on this year's fire season forecast from the National Weather Service. John VanSant is an active member of the MIST team working in the planning section.
5. **Reardan-Edwall School District Emergency Management Exercise:** On June 16th I attended a joint exercise with Reardan School District, Lincoln County Sheriffs, Reardan Police, Lincoln County Fire District 4, Educational Service District 101 and Emergency Response. Exercise involved a bomb threat turned hostage at the Reardan High School. Parts of the exercise went very well but I noted areas that could be improved for dealing with this type of emergency from the EMS side of things. I contacted Fire

Chief Rettowski of LCFD4 to get together for a planning meeting on how we can improve on discrepancies I noted. I will be looking into a Rapid Response Program. There was a mapping system utilized by the school and ESD 101 that was excellent. I also noted that there are some issues regarding the difference in communications systems with our dispatch and Lincoln County's dispatch.

6. **Dan Patterson's nephew, Connor:** Could we keep Dan's nephew in our prayers as he had a very bad diving accident and is in hospital fighting for his life.
7. **Inland Empire Fire Chief's Association Meeting:** There was discussion at this meeting I attended regarding the PBY for this season. It is not available but they have a 215 aircraft which is safer to run but costs more. They also have a COBRA out of Colville but nothing just for Spokane County as of yet. Jim asked about the Inland Empire Fire Chiefs Association and this fire season and the talk of a PBY contract. He mentioned Firestorm, as there was no contract at that time. Kjell said the contract is in the works but not up yet. The other aircraft is going to be utilized as it is more cost effective for response. It would respond out of Deer Park. Also, there is a new communications system in NE Region for DNR, Colville that ties several entities together.

Old Business:

1. **Smoke Alarm Grant:** Kjell and Carol reported on the newsletter insert that contained the media release and the application. Unfortunately, she has only received one application back. John VanSant and Kjell were planning on going door to door with some information Carol has copied for them.
2. **Northern Energy Budget payment plan:** Board The board felt that we already have a line item budget for the propane and a budget plan would really do nothing for us at this time.
3. **Ground Ambulance Contract:** Carol and Board Carol read the administrative changes made to the latest draft of the contract which does not change the meaning of the contract. Almost all other fire district boards approved this draft with no additional signatures. The board approved it as well with no additional signature page as they had previously sent in a signature page prior to the administrative changes.

New Business:

1. **EMS Grant Access: Board/Carol** Carol reviewed the verbiage on AFG 2008 Guidance Document regarding non-affiliated entities. It is still unclear what effects an EMS Levy would have on grants. Carol will check with Rod on this.
2. **EMS Levy/Lid Lift: Board Jim** said we need to get an increase in revenue as our heating, fuel, and other costs are rising. We need to show the people what we need to meet the increased cost of service. Do we put an increased levy lid lift for 1-6 years? We need to know whether it is to be \$1.50 and justify it to the people. **Sheri** said how do you want to go about getting that information? We have to show what costs are, and what the projections are; how we are going to use the funds. **Jim** said what we spent last year and what we are spending this year need to be gone over and discussed. **Sheri** said, yes, but how do you want the information presented? **Todd** said that if we are going for an EMS levy, doesn't that have to go toward just EMS? **Jim** said yes and Fire District 10 tried to get 50 cents and it didn't pass, but they got it for a different amount this last fall. The permanent is still under 747 which means it is still being held at 50 cents per year. **Sheri** said we still need a study, so much has changed. We need to project ahead. Project for different amounts. A lot of work needs to be done. **Jim** said lifting the lid at \$1.50 erodes under 747. He discussed the lid lift increase in income and reserves that we can build. **Todd** said that right along with it, everyone's expenses are going up. Jim said maybe we don't need \$1.50; maybe another amount is what we need. **Carol** Harrington asked what goals do we want for our EMS program? Maybe we should start there after looking at past and current statistics. **Gary** Pietz said that the board needs to find out what the people want in EMS service. **Karen** Namani said that she wants to keep EMS service in her district so we don't have to depend on other fire districts for the emergency calls. People need to think in terms of the kind of services they want and where those services are coming from. **Sheri** said we need to do our homework first and then present the information to the residents. She asked the other two commissioners what their suggestions are. **Todd** said we need to think about what is actually needed right now, not just what the maximum amount we can get is. **Debi** Davis said the board needs to justify to the public what and why it needs the extra money. **Sheri** said we need to tell Carol Harrington exactly what information we are looking for; at least go back a couple of years in our budgets to see the amounts. **Todd** said we could break it down to a 25 cent level increment to see what we need. **Sheri** said Carol can collect information on fuel, propane, other costs, the amount of calls we respond to, the training schedule, what it costs to recruit and train, etc. When she has it ready, say in about two weeks, she can let

us know and we should have a workshop where those amounts are discussed. Carol will begin to collect the information and let them know.

- 3. Computer in office: Carol/Board** The computer and its age of approximately 7 years was discussed. We are still on dial-up but now we know that high speed internet is available, we can re-visit the idea of getting that. Carol said she can write a grant on the next AFG Fed grant for not only a new computer, but also for monthly Internet fees.

Public Concerns: None presented on the sign up sheet.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be July 28, 2008 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Spokane County Fire District5 Chairman

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Attest: Spokane County Fire District 5 District Administrator