

Spokane County Fire District #5
July 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**
- **Scott Hansen from Enduris Insurance Comp. (formerly WA Govt Entity Pool)** made his presentation including a quote and history of the company as well as a brief overview of coverage. Each commissioner was handed the information. The board will make a decision at a later date.
- **The minutes from the June 23, 2008 Regular Meeting and July 17, 2008 Special Meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The July bills** were reviewed. The expenses were approved for \$11,266.34.
- **Correspondence:** National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC) SAVES Act to reduce fuel costs for Volunteer Fire Depts. (article). Copy to each commissioner.
- **Administrators Report:** Nothing at this time.
- **Fire Chief's Report**
 - **Training:** July 8 medical training at station 51, subject was back boarding and splinting patients. Table top of ICS for medical scene. July 15 truck training mainly on A-51, A-52 and B51. Debriefed Prewitt road fire with district fire fighters. July 16 House burn in Reardan. Doug Bonstrom provided lead instruction. E-52 was used as primary pumper. Joint operation involved City of Airway Heights and Lincoln County Fire Dist 4.
 - **Equipment:** A list of ideas and equipment was scrubbed at the July 15 meeting based on the Prewitt Rd fire and prior incidents. Some of the items are already on order for the Phase 2 DNR. Other items will be put on the future wish list.
 - **Command Rig:** Command rig is in need of a new water pump. It will be out of service until time can be found to repair it by a volunteer.
 - **Special hand tools.** Jim Hansen and Dan Patterson have donated shovels and man power to convert them into Rhino tools for wildland training.
 - **Smoke Detector grant:** Earlier this month Ron and I attended the Four Mound Home Makers group. We had a wonderful lunch and we were able to exchange some information from the Fire Dist and that included the Smoke Detector Program. We received some more applicants. Have not had time this month to put together crew. We hope to have some progress this month.
 - **Prewitt Rd FIRE.** I want to express my thanks to all the fire fighters who worked the Prewitt Rd fire. A challenging day that was met by professionals with great success for the dept. and the community. I will be sending letters of thanks to the departments districts and groups that were involved. It was a great team effort and the departments and districts were as follows. SCFD 10, SCFD 9, LCFD 4, DNR, CITY OF AIRWAY HEIGHTS. Also S.C.O.P.E., Spokane County Sheriffs Dept. and Bartholomew for the truck of water. Again thanks.

Old Business:

1. **Smoke Alarm Grant:** Covered in Chief's report above.
2. **2007 DNR Grant:** Items are on order at General Fire.
3. **EMS Grant Access:** Carol reported that an EMS Levy would not affect any of the grants we have received in the past; we would still be fully eligible for them.
4. **Website:** Carol recapped what Chris Barnes of Dept. Emergency Mgmt. had stated in his e-mails for charges and management of the site. **The board approved to hire Chris Barnes to manage the site and post minutes/newslette rs just as far back as January 1, 2008.** Carol will call Chris and get it going.

5. EMS Lid Lift:

- ✓ Jim Ryan discussed the last 7 years of FD5's assessed value; how it had gone up but not kept up with the increase in revenue. He discussed dispatch, fuel, and propane expenses. He also discussed the fact that we need to build reserves for apparatus.
- ✓ Todd asked if Kjell could work up a base replacement on all the apparatus so we could see the whole plan. He likes the stats Kjell worked up on the EMS rigs, but thinks it would be great to see that same plan with all the trucks listed.
- ✓ Sheri brought up the Station 53 well regarding getting use out of it as soon as financially feasible.
- ✓ Jim discussed the Lid Lift and the erosion of money. He discussed I-747 and the ballooning effect and fuel costs. He reminded all that we have increased our service and we have conserved our resources. We need income to replace apparatus should one or more become inoperable due to unforeseen circumstances. We do not have a reserve set aside for that now.
- ✓ Todd asked Jim if he had projected the amount for \$1.50/\$1,000.
- ✓ Jim said no, he didn't get that far (he started to calculate it at that time on a calculator). He said that it would be about \$131,241.00 for 2009 if we went to \$1.50/1,000. We have justified this because of our increased valuation.
- ✓ Sheri asked, if we get, say, an extra \$35,000 what are we doing with that income?
- ✓ Jim discussed the reserve fund and the St53 well.
- ✓ Sheri said that wanting and doing these things are two separate matters. How much is water going to cost over at St. 53? What are our other needs? Do we need new tires? What trucks are going to be phased out? She wants us to project out more on where the money would go.
- ✓ Jim agreed.
- ✓ Todd said it needs to be put on paper.
- ✓ Gary Pietz said in 2011, the money had better be there for whatever the board said it would be for.
- ✓ Todd said that you have to have the record of what the money is there for.
- ✓ Jim said the information regarding funds needed and set aside have to be put out there for the people, all the people and he thinks that \$1.50 is the amount needed.
- ✓ Gary said the money the fire district gets stays the same every year; the amount we pay will go down.
- ✓ Jim discussed the ballooning effects on us in 2002. There was discussion regarding the tender purchases and reserves back when we split from Lincoln Cnty FD4.
- ✓ Carol Harrington asked exactly how is the money pegged or specifically set aside once you decide how much goes where. Other than setting the budget, and setting aside a reserve fund, is there some other way it has to be done regarding funds from a lift?
- ✓ Sheri said to answer Gary's question, if we say we are going to spend say, \$10,000 on fuel and bulletproof that amount as well as other amounts specifically for items in the budget, then if we had an engine blow unexpectedly, how would we pay to fix that problem? We cannot promise that an exact amount or amounts will be spent on certain items; we would be remiss if we did not take care of unforeseen emergencies if it is in our power to do so for the good of the district. We do our best to prepare and stick to a budget but do not have enough income to take care of every emergency that arises.
- ✓ Gary said his real concern is the track record of the group. What's going to make the people believe the board would leave the money in the reserve?
- ✓ Todd said if we had no emergencies, we could spend the money on what it was set aside for.
- ✓ Gary discussed PPE wear out and setting up a plan. You don't have to replace all the turnouts the same year.
- ✓ Sheri asked Todd if he could work on getting an amount of how much it would cost to get the water available for year round use at St53's site.
- ✓ Todd said yes, he could do that and get some estimates.
- ✓ Sheri asked Carol to tell Kjell (he had left with other volunteers to respond to an emergency call earlier in the meeting) to get replacement costs on all the trucks and set it as a staggered replacement, not all in a couple of years.
- ✓ The board reviewed the levy dates available but it was still unclear from the information Carol provided online what exactly the deadlines were. She will try to verify the dates again and let them know.
- ✓ Sheri said based on the attrition of vehicles and equipment and the M&O increases, we would easily use up the amount from a lift. But we need to get the information out to the residents.
- ✓ Jim said we would have time at the August meeting to pass a resolution regarding a lift.

- ✓ Sheri and Carol thought more time would be necessary than that. The board will review amounts and work on getting more information.

New Business:

1. **Commissioner Compensation Correspondence:** Carol forgot to mention earlier this memo from the WA State of Fire Commissioners regarding an increase in available pay per meeting. Each commissioner received a copy.
2. **Prewitt Rd. Fire:** Sheri has received mail here at the station and at her home regarding what happened at the fire. She has not opened the mail and thinks we should send it off to our attorney for review and advice. She made a motion to do so, Todd seconded the motion. **The board unanimously approved it. Carol will send Brian Snure all of the correspondence related to the incident as well as any further correspondence received.**

Public Concerns:

1. **Gary Pietz:** Why is the flag at half mast and it is ragged. Carol told him the Station Captain is aware of that and it is under control. Gary also wants to be able to go into the bays and look at the equipment when he wants and says it is his right as a taxpayer. Jim said not at this time, we will have to look into that and address it later.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be August 25, 2008 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:56p.m.

Spokane County Fire District5 Chairman

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Attest: Spokane County Fire District 5 District Administrator