

Spokane County Fire District #5
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2010 7:00p.m.
Station 51

Members Present: Todd Lehman, Gary Pietz, and Larry Wendlandt

District Secretary: Carol Harrington

Guests: see attached sign in sheet

Time Meeting Began: 7:02p.m.

- **Flag Salute**
- **The minutes from the April 26, 2010 Regular Meeting were reviewed. After Carol corrected her mistake of printing “2009” instead of “2010,” the minutes were approved as presented. The minutes from the May 8, 2010 Special Meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The May bills** were reviewed. The safety vests that were purchased were discussed as well as the two AT&T Mobility bills. Carol explained that AT&T had changed all government account numbers so all government accounts received a final bill on the old account number and a pro-rated bill on the new account number. Gary made motion to accept the bills as presented; Larry seconded the motion and **the expenses were approved as presented for \$2,462.37.**
- **Secretary’s Report:** I have a first draft of the district newsletter ready (including a commissioner column by one or more commissioners) and would like to have it posted to the website as soon as it is approved. The newsletter was reviewed and discussed. Gary wants the commissioner column to be from all the commissioners. The board discussed mailing it out versus just posting it to the site. It was decided to post it to the website. Carol was asked to post something in the Outpost letting residents know we have a new newsletter on our site. Larry suggested we could put signs on corners to advertise our website. He asked Gary about the reader board Gary is working on. Gary said he still has to get the plastic cover for it.
- **Correspondence:** Gary asked Carol to forward any correspondence from the BVFF (Board for Volunteer Fire Fighters) to him from now on. Carol reported that the 2010 DOH Prehospital Grant money for \$2,186 had been received and will be deposited in the General Fund. The WFCA sent a questionnaire on Management Excellence Award competition.
- **Fire Chief’s Report:**
 - **Personnel:** N/A
 - **Training:** The 1st training of the month involved Vehicle Extrication with Howard Varner, an expert in the field of extrication, leading the training. Different techniques were discussed as well as newer vehicles and airbags. The 2nd training was a Wildland bump and run exercise where we finished our Red Card Refresher practical. We had an officer’s meeting to discuss the upcoming barn burn. We had a live barn burn last Saturday; we pumped 21,000 gallons of water using the hydrant at FAFB. It was a great burn and training went very well.
 - **Stations:** Ron said he wants the light back on for the exterior north side of Station 52. He has talked with the Sheriff about it and the Sheriff says keeping the light on is one of the most effective means of protection. Bob Harding said he has been checking the area twice a day and has seen excrement in back of the building in the afternoon so he thinks it is being done in the daytime. He said Ron doesn’t understand the term ‘vandalism’ because excrement is not vandalism. He said the light just gives someone another target to shoot at; he said he thinks Ron has a personal vendetta against him. Todd asked why we can’t just block off that area back there. Gary said we need a fence to keep people out of there and he sees no reason to turn the light back on. Ron said it is for the firefighter’s safety. Larry asked how far Bob Harding’s property line is from the corner of the building. Bob said not far; he could put up a fence and then no one could drive back there. Larry said he would meet Bob

back there and see where the property lines are; he asked if it had ever been surveyed. Bob said no, it has never been professionally surveyed; he said Walt Clouse just ran a line once. Larry said meet with me and then I can meet with Ron to try to find a compromise for the situation. Larry would like to check into it further before a decision is made. Bob said there was a phone book left there outside the station for a week; he also said he has purposefully left a Coke bottle there to see how long it would take Ron to pick it up; it was never picked up.

❖ **Equipment:** N/A

❖ **Other:** Attended Chief's meeting and discussed the DNR Agreement. We will all need to sign another one year extension. The contract for the Emergency Communications Project went to Motorola. EMS Council reported that there is a new protocol for BLS epinephrine injections by syringe rather than by auto injector and it has been approved. EMT's will have to take a class on this. Outdoor burning ban was discussed. City and the Valley cannot agree with the DNR on raising and lowering burn ratings up or down. We will all meet in Cheney on Friday to discuss further. Ron chooses to follow the rating the DNR sets and match it accordingly.

Old Business:

- 1. Water Tanks at Greg Lucht's:** Ron says there are four tanks; one is about 7' by 30' and three are about 7' by 25' (one of these has a set of wheels under it). Larry said the party he has spoken with is still interested. Ron said Greg is anxious to get them off his property. Todd asked if we came up with a price yet. Larry said West Priest Lake FD is interested and they'd probably have to move them. Larry and Marvin Davis discussed weight and transport. Larry will try to crane them onto a truck, like a 5th wheel. Marv said he has someone interested in one if they are not rusted out. They were originally fertilizer tanks. Todd said we need to give them away cheap. Gary made a motion to list all four tanks as surplus property; Larry seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A letter will be sent to Greg Lucht of this action stating we are working at removing them. Larry will call Greg to get permission to come and look at them. Carol will e-mail the letter to Gary and Larry first before sending it to Greg.
- 2. Water Supply at Wood and Coulee-Hite well:** Larry found out that the county isn't that excited about a hole in their road. Boring was discussed but it is spendy. Larry said it needs to be on hold for now as we cannot afford it. He talked to Marv Davis about the depth; the ground is shallow there; we would have to go a minimum of four feet under. Larry said we may have to bore it as the deepest Marv got was 18 inches. Gary said we have much more important things than that to accomplish and made a motion to table it for six months. Larry seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Marv said it can be done; it just matters how much you want to pay.
- 3. Generator:** Larry has not gotten over to Station 52 to look at it yet.
- 4. Recruitment:** There is one application in but the interview still has to be done.
- 5. Medic 51 USDA Bond Payoff:** Carol explained her phone conversation with Spokane County's J.J. Hernandez, who works in the Treasurer's office and handles the bond for the district. In response to Carol's inquiry to pay off the loan early, he put her on hold and called USDA and was told no, we needed to wait until the next normal payment period. Discussion followed on why we cannot pay it off when we want to. Carol will take the Bond paperwork in to J.J. Hernandez to try and get an answer.
- 6. DNR Mutual Aid Agreement:** This is for a year extension. The board members had previously reviewed the agreement. Since there were no questions, they all signed the agreement. Carol will send the signature page in.
- 7. Steve Rogers PPE:** Todd asked Ron and Carol if we had heard from Steve Rogers regarding getting all his gear back yet. Ron has not. Carol never got a signed certification from Steve or the post office proving he had received a letter asking for the equipment to be returned as soon as possible. She did get the original letter back after there had been no response from Steve for 15 days. The board would like another certified letter sent stating a due date for the equipment return, an invoice for the equipment if it is not returned, as well as notating that legal action will be necessary if there is no response.

8. **Bill Leonard:** Gary wants to know where we stand on Bill's status. Ron says Bill is on as an active member. Gary asked if Bill had taken the SCBA test; Larry added he has to take it in front of Ron. Ron replied yes.
9. **Courtney Patterson:** Larry said she did call him and said she would meet with Patty Bonner if there was a witness present, either Ron or Larry. Larry said he would be the mediator and set-up a time with Courtney. Patty Bonner said she would not meet with just Ron there, no way. She said there needs to be an impartial party there. Todd said one commissioner would be there. Courtney said she would let Larry know when she is available. Patty said most evenings she is available. Larry will call her this week.

New Business:

1. **Supply Request Ron:** The alternator on B52 needs repair. It charges well for a little while but drops to 10-11 volts and then up and down again. He took it to Standard Battery and they told him it needs an overhaul; it would cost about \$400 for new, \$250 for a rebuild. Todd thinks it needs to be fixed. Larry said he uses Western Sales. Ron said it is a big alternator; Larry will look at it after the meeting and call around. B51 tires are marginal illegal. On the right front all wear bars are gone and the inside left dual is pretty bad. Larry said maybe we have a front end problem. Marv Davis said that truck will not run on radials; you really need bias tires on it. Ron said the quote was \$1,760.94 from TDS for bias; \$2,282.00 from Les Scwab for radials. Todd asked what the other four tires are like. Can we put two on the front then rotate the rest? Ron said the others are about 75% gone, those two are about 90% gone. There would be a problem of different tread height also. Gary said we have to fix it. Ron said they will come out and do a service call. Marv said that TDS has a guy that comes to Airway Heights once a week. Larry said we may need to run the alignment and see what's chewing the tires so bad. Marv said that that vehicle and the 'sister' truck still in Reardan are old line trucks. Larry made a motion to buy six new tires for B51 from TDS for \$1,760.94; Gary seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The alternator should be fixed as well.
2. **Supply Request Carol:** Carol needs a color ink cartridge for the copier at station. She read off four different internet prices; most were for double ink cartridges. The board approved she get the double color ink cartridges for \$24.95.
3. **Public Records Policy:** Gary made a motion to approve the addition of records requests in electronic form to the current policy effective May 24, 2010; Larry seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.
4. **Ed Lynch:** Todd read a letter regarding an event this summer on Larry Durham's property where a truck and coverage were requested for safety measures during the event. The letter also extended an invitation to the fire district members and their families to the event. There was discussion on what we have done in the past such as football games in Reardan. It is a good precaution. Gary said it is also a community service. Larry said make sure it is okay; Carol should call other fire district's to see what precautions they have taken with similar events.
5. **Cell Phone Communication during emergency responses:** Todd asked if we are still using cell phones at times to communicate with responding members after a page has been sent. Ron said sometimes in special cases. Todd said that it is not a good idea; one volunteer may be at the station alone listening to the radio waiting to hear someone else on the way. If a member is on the way and only tells Ron via a cell phone, then the lone guy at the station has no idea. Gary agrees; this keeps everyone in the loop. Todd said it can give a volunteer who is waiting confidence that someone else is coming and not wonder if they should leave immediately (alone) to a call.
6. **Parking Lot:** Todd said a guy working for the county told him Ron was upset with them for parking in the parking lot at Station 51. Ron explained that no, he was not upset; he only wanted to see if they could widen the culvert there in trade for being able to use our parking lot.
7. **Plan for better response:** Gary said that Ron should have a plan now from a month and a half ago to increase the turnout on responses. Larry asked Ron if he is getting more members to respond. Ron said they respond if they can. Larry said he has some ideas and that he has talked with other fire districts; this

is a common problem everywhere. Larry would like to call a meeting and run over some of the ideas. Gary noticed on Ron's report that some volunteers had never got the page. Ron said they had a bad pager and he will always check those out and test them. Bonnie has two pagers – an old one and a newer one – yet for some reason she says they won't work in her home. Todd asked about Zack Martin and what his story is. Ron doesn't know but says Kjell is going to talk to him. He did get a note from Zack and knows that he works at night and on the weekends and goes to school during the day. Ron said that Zack's work schedule may have changed recently and they are still trying to work with him. They are also still trying to work with Cindy Date who works on call for a hospital as a nurse and also has a little boy at home. Zack really has no activity and Larry said they will let him go another month. Until then, the board will try to schedule a special meeting to discuss Larry's ideas on retention and recruitment. Training make-ups were discussed; there has been no attempts to make-up missed training. Ron will look into this. Patty Bonner asked Ron if all the EMT's got signed off. Ron said yes. Debi Davis said that is false. Patty said she has all the OTEP records and it is all a lie. Gary said Rod needs to be here to answer for this – period. Debi said the OTEP regulations have not been met and Rod is falsifying records illegally unless there are training records we are not aware of. There was more discussion regarding EMT certification and records. Larry said maybe he could meet with Rod at training the next evening as there is an OTEP that night. The board agrees that Rod needs to come to a meeting as they are hearing two different stories. Gary asked if there is a liability if Rod is signing off and their training is not up to date. Larry discussed how he understood the OTEP books to work. Carol will call Rod and check on his availability.

Public Concerns:

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be June 28, 2010 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:24p.m.

Spokane County Fire District5 Chairman

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

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Attest: Spokane County Fire District 5 Secretary