

**Spokane County Fire District #5**  
**October 25, 2010 Regular Meeting Minutes**

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

**District Secretary:** Carol Harrington

**Guests:** see attached sign in sheet

**Time Meeting Began:** p.m.

- **Flag Salute**
- **The minutes from the September 25, 2010 Regular Meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud. The Medic 51 Rig is now paid off in full and we have the paperwork for it.
- **The October bills were reviewed.** Larry made motion to accept the bills as presented; Gary seconded and **the expenses were approved unanimously as presented for \$6,930.70.**

**Secretary's Concerns:**

- **Bay Door Maintenance:** Wayne Dalton has finished installing the new bay door in St52 as well as seal all other doors. Ron sealed the man door not in use on the NW side. They then performed maintenance on St51 bay doors repairing the chain on one that had jumped a gear.
- **Fall Newsletter:** Carol presented a draft copy of the newsletter and board approved it be posted to the website. We have only received two requests for a hard copy to be mailed out even though the last two mass mailings had large notices that they were to be the last mailings. Carol will post that announcement on the website also.
- **DNR PHII Grant:** Complete and ready to submit. The board reviewed the grant and it was discussed. Todd signed off and Carol will submit it.

**Correspondence:**

- Reardan FFA Thank you card for our \$50 contribution in memory of Marjorie Ryan.
- Workshop re: Open Public Meetings Act on November 17, 2010 in the Spokane Valley Centerplace (Fwd email and attachments to Larry and Gary 10/4/2010).
- Spokane County Emer. Services Communications Policy Board, Chief Mike Thompson Chair re: Feasibility of Consolidated Services (Fwd to Larry and Gary 10/4/10).
- Bobby Williams to all CCC agencies re: 2011 CCC Budget; Cost per call remains at \$77.50.
- Dept. of Health: Public Health Emer. Preparedness & Response Program: Re: deadline for all of our UHF and VHF radio licenses which is Dec. 30, 2010. I have downloaded the forms as well as fwd them to Ron and Mike Pankonin.
- Spokane County Engineer, Pat Harper; limit access on portion of public right of way for Gray Rd. (intersects with Long Lake Rd.). Copy to Gary in his mailbox Oct. 15, 2010.
- Spokane County Engineer with change in meeting for limited access re: South Bank Rd. Meeting has been changed to Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 5:30p.m. and is the 3<sup>rd</sup> item on the agenda. This was discussed at length and Gary said he would go to oppose the limited access representing the district.
- WFCA alerting all FD's to WAC 292-305 Revisions (they sent us a notice last month on this). There will be a meeting held in Spokane regarding these proposed changes on Nov. 1st, 2010 from 1-5pm at 901 N. Monroe St. Suite 100. They urge all commissioners and Chiefs to attend this as it will directly affect your teams.

**Fire Chief's Report:**

• **Personnel:**

- Ron: Kjelsey Anderson, Luke Martin, and Josh Cobb have all been interviewed and passed the physical agility test as well as the background check. Kjelsey is interested in the EMT program.
- Gary: We are to the point where we have 6-7 volunteers not meeting response standards and adding more people doesn't solve the problem. He made a motion to limit the number of volunteers to 20 and we can replace as others leave.
- Larry: Do we have enough gear to outfit the three new ones now?
- Ron: Yes, I think we do.
- Larry: Do you want to limit it to 25?
- Gary: It doesn't matter what number we have, we aren't getting them to respond.
- Kjell: I am trying to see the logic behind the number 20. Why should people trying to join be penalized? How is setting a limit on the number of volunteers going to help with response?
- Gary: We have to draw the line somewhere.

- Kjell: But what is the logic behind the number 20? I can understand that too many new guys to outfit can be costly, but if we can outfit them, why not?
- Gary: We need to weed out the dead weight.
- Kjell: But those two things have nothing to do with each other.
- Gary: For an example, we have set-up Bethany Cobb to fail. She was here two months and now she's back at school.
- Kjell: You are judging people before they have an opportunity to attempt...
- Gary: No, I'm not judging, we have to draw the line somewhere.
- Kjell: The Chief is in charge of operations, why don't you see what he thinks?
- Howard Thiemens: How much does it cost to gear up a volunteer?
- Carol: For everything, about \$4,000 not including wildland. But if we already have the gear, then just \$10 for a background check and \$23 for the physical because BVFF reimburses us \$100 on the physical. Plus a radio and a pager.
- Larry: I agree that if we have PPE for these new people then why shouldn't we at least give them a chance, they may work out well.
- Todd: I agree. My main concern is with the gear.
- Jennifer: Treat each volunteer as an individual case; everyone has different schedules. Bethany can still be used on weekends when she is home and in the summer. You had no idea what kind of volunteer I would be; but I'm here, I train, I respond.
- Kjell: Sometimes a new volunteer doesn't need a whole set of gear ordered. We fit them with what we have and if they need a pair of boots, gloves or a helmet, then that's what we should do.
- Ron: It is not the same people showing up on calls, either. We usually have an average of 6 responders.
- Howard: Do you have a spreadsheet on who is active?
- Ron: Yes.
- Gary: We have 75% for training and 20% for calls for standards and several people are not active since March 2010 when we put those standards in place.
- Ron: We need to adjust those standards; I mentioned this last month.
- Larry: I will be at the WFCA Conference and discuss what the other fire districts do so we can get a broad perspective. Then we can review it. All the fire districts have this problem of volunteers not showing up.
- Kjell: These three prospective volunteers are all young people in their twenties. This is an aging team; it is an opportune time to gain youth in our district. We are missing the boat by trying to hold new volunteers back because of others no active.
- Larry: Howard, I would like to know what your opinion is on this as you are a resident here.
- Howard: Look at other districts that are small. There has to be a guideline somewhere; what are they willing to commit to? What are you, as a board, willing to accept? If you've got young ones applying – you jump on them. It's a win-win situation; but you also cannot afford, say, 40 volunteers with dead wood.
- Gary: One of the things I agree with is that young people are great; but the longevity I have a problem with. A lot of them move on.
- Larry: If we have the gear to outfit them, I think we should give them a try and make sure they are aware of their one year probation. I know Bethany is going to school; we knew that when we interviewed her but she said she'd be able to respond on weekends. Her numbers show she is not doing that.
- Todd: She is a good one to have in the summer because she's already trained.
- Larry: She said she could make up missed trainings; I am not sure she has done that.
- Ron: She has been on standby before.
- Todd: What is up with Cindy Date?
- Ron: She works at a hospital emergency room as well as nursing for Reardan and Davenport Elementary Schools. I cannot seem to get a hold of her.
- Larry: Maybe she needs a leave of absence, which is fine, but we just need to know.
- Todd: Right there with Cindy is a set of turn-outs not being used; they should be given to someone, like a new volunteer who can use them.
- Larry: I think we have discussed this as far as we can; I will bring back information from the WFCA Conference as well as get more input from the Chief and the firefighters. Does that seem fair?
- Ron: Yes.
- Todd: What are we doing with the three applicants?

- Larry: We have all the equipment and for their background checks and their physicals it only amounts to about \$100 so I think we should get them on.
- Todd: We need to talk to our inactive volunteers first before we redistribute their gear to someone else.
- Gary: What about these three? Where do they live? How available are they?
- Ron: Luke is around just a ways from this station. (Josh Cobb's location and the problems Bonnie has had regarding getting pages were discussed).
- Gary: Will Josh respond during the day when he is trying to catch up on sleep?
- Ron: I think so.
- **Larry: I move we accept the new three volunteers.**
- **Todd: I second the motion making sure we keep up on the year probation period.**

**The motion passed with a 2 in favor, Gary abstaining from the vote.**

☀️ **Training:** The 1<sup>st</sup> training of the month involved vehicle stabilization and rescue for victims from car on its side. The 2<sup>nd</sup> training was an officer's meeting where a tabletop command exercise was set up with command and truck placement. The 3<sup>rd</sup> training meeting was fire extinguishers and practice with extrication equipment.

☀️ **Stations:** Discussed under Bay Door Maintenance in Secretary Concerns. Todd asked about the fire trailer that districts can use. Ron will check into that for future training opportunities.

☀️ **Equipment:** Ron reminded the board of the oil changes due in fire trucks. Gary said we can divide that up as we discussed before. Ron said we can divide it up however the board would like. Mike Flint is taking items off of the Command Rig prepping it for sale.

☀️ **Other:**

**Old Business: Gary brought up several items:**

1. **Command Rig:** Ron has interested people in the rig. Discussion followed with different ways to sell it and the need to check legalities; Larry will check into it at the WFCM Conference.
2. **Overhead Fans for St51:** Carol has not heard from Darel of Silver Star Electric. She will call him.
3. **Organization Policy signature from volunteers:** Carol will get that done this week.

**New Business:**

1. **Supply Request Ron:** He would like a new propane tank for the BBQ as the one we have now is empty and it's one of the older ones. This was discussed and Ron can refill the older one down at Nine Mile.
2. **Supply Request Carol:** Nothing needed at this time.
3. **Levy for 2011:** Carol read aloud the 2010-02 Levy Certification. **Gary made a motion to accept the 2010-02 Resolution for the 2011 Levy Certification; Larry seconded and the motion passed unanimously.**
4. **Reserve Fund:** Gary would like to add to the Reserve Fund with a transfer of \$10,000 from the General Fund. Carol said the interest rates are the same for both funds. Since we are going to have a large deposit next month we can afford to do this. **Larry made a motion to transfer \$10,000 from the General Fund into the Reserve Fund; Gary seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**
5. **Executive Session:** Ron requested an executive session to review a volunteer's performance. Todd said yes; we will go out of regular session at 8:55p.m. taking fifteen minutes back at 9:10p.m. Executive session ended at 9:08p.m. with regular session beginning within that same minute.

**Public Concerns:**

Walt Clouse initiated a general discussion regarding charging for fire costs when someone is at fault.

We do not do that at this time.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be November 22, 2010 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:13p.m.

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Spokane County Fire District5 Chairman

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Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

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Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

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*Attest:* Spokane County Fire District 5 Secretary