

Spokane County Fire District #5

March 28, 2011 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: 7:02p.m.

- **Flag Salute**
- **The minutes from the February 28, 2011 Regular Meeting were reviewed; Larry motioned to approved with Gary seconding and they were approved as presented. The minutes from the March 25, 2011 Special Meeting were reviewed; Gary motioned with Larry seconding and they were approved as presented.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The March bills** were reviewed. The electric bill from Inland Power was unusually high and should be monitored closely. The pagers from Valence are in and are all in use. Gary motioned to accept the bills with Larry seconding; **the expenses were approved as presented for \$10,891.44.**
- **Secretary's Report:** Report on the WFCA Grant Seminar at the Davenport. Enduris Insurance Review page sent 3/24/2011 copy to Ron and board.
- **Correspondence:**
Snure Seminar: Bid Laws and Fire Service Consolidations Sat. April 23rd in Olympia.
Gerry Bozarth, Disaster Mitigation & Recovery, would like to come to our public meeting to discuss Disaster Cost-Recovery from FEMA.
- **Fire Chief's Report :**
 - **Personnel:** Alan McNew, Sara Engan and Theresa Scheidt were interviewed for volunteers. They all passed the interview and would make very good firefighters. Carol will complete the background checks and then send them paperwork for their physicals. Much discussion followed on getting new recruits. Larry agrees with Ron that we should get these young people on as they live close. Gary asked about their availability. Ron said their day jobs are basically 9-5pm jobs. Gary is concerned with daytime response. Ron said Sara has two Thursdays off a month. Gary is opposed to adding more people as we only get a third of the crew responding to calls. Todd agrees with Ron and is fine with adding more recruits as long as we have the PPE for them already. Gary asked if all the volunteers we have put on in the last year are up to speed with training and EVIP driving. Ron said no. Gary asked why. Larry asked Ron if we can run a special training specifically for them to get them all up to speed. Ron said he has been thinking of setting something like that up and hasn't yet but should have. Larry said now that the weather is better it will be easier. Gary asked if Ron has trainers. Ron said the trainers are the station captain and me. **Larry motioned to put all three applicants on with Todd seconding. Gary opposed. The motion passed.**
 - **Training:** The 1st training of the month involved Ladder and SCBA Quarterlies, Hep B shots for the volunteers. The 2nd training was a building and construction class with groups taking turns learning the Cascade Air System. The officers meeting included discussion regarding an accountability system, replacement for officers and other district needs. OTEP training was patient packaging and all firefighters were encouraged to attend this as they can all learn this skill; it was a good turnout. We are going to put on a fire extinguisher class on April 16th at Station 51 for the S.C.O.P.E. members.
 - **Stations:** Discussed getting on some kind of fuel and propane annual bid deal; Carol will check into this. Ron reported that new lights at Station 52 are needed in the first bay. He may call Darel of SilverStar Electric.
 - **Equipment:** The 2010 DNR Grant items have been purchased.
 - **Other:**

Old Business:

1. **DNR 2010 Grant:** The items have all been purchased now.

2. **Recruitment:** See Chief's Report.
3. **Organization Policy and EMT Class Fee Policy Dec. 20, 2010 vol. sign-off pages:** Carol said there are still about four members that have not turned a signature in. The board told her to hold their 1st quarter checks until they have signed.
4. **Station 53:** Carol handed out a first draft of a newsletter/flyer she created from suggestions and past discussions on what we need to inform and ask the residents of the district regarding a new station. The draft was also available to any attending the meeting. The draft was discussed. Other fire districts need to be called or visited as far as what new stations they have constructed recently to see what they did and how it was financed. Specific questions regarding office space, number of bays, training areas, etc. should be asked and the data gathered. Consolidation was briefly discussed; Larry doesn't want to do that; he would like to keep us separate. Carol, Ron and the board members will help Carol in gathering information. The main thing our residents will want to know is how much a new station will cost them. The draft will be a work in progress until it is something the board feels ready to disseminate to the residents through the mail.
5. **Supply Request Ron:** He would like Darel of SilverStar Electric to put lights on the west wall of Station 52 as they keep burning out with replacement bulbs. Keep them mounted where they are now. He would also like an outdoor fluorescent light to go in. General Fire has a "J" hook that will rip right through clothing in an EMS emergency Ron is interested in acquiring. We also need an air flow test for the SCBA's to check the quality of air. Larry asked if our air is meeting standards for safety. Ron is not sure but will check on that.
6. **Supply Request Carol:** Nothing at this time.
7. **Budget for 2011:** Gary motioned to approve the 2011 Budget from the March 25, 2011 meeting with Larry seconding the motion; it passed unanimously.
8. **Costco Card:** Carol will pass on getting one at this time.
9. **2011 AFG Grant:** Carol is still working on it. The federal government has not listed the application or guidelines for this grant yet.

New Business:

1. **Falsification of Volunteers' Records:** Gary brought this up. The commissioners worked with the Chief and team to come up with a new training program and accountability. Two firefighters walked out before training was complete. Ron admitted they left early. Gary said they were marked as completing the training that night. Ron said they did not leave or walk out; he released them to go. Gary and Ron discussed the timing of when they left. Ron said they attended the training. Gary said he was told they left early. Ron said they helped everyone suit up in PPE and SCBA. Gary asked did those two volunteers suit up and go through the building like everyone else. Ron said no, but they were there. Gary said if they can't do the job they shouldn't be marked off on the training. We have to have four trained firefighters to enter a burning building, two in and two out. Gary is concerned with the state's requirements and limits and who reports what. Carol said we only report to the Board of Volunteer Firefighters regarding volunteer activity for pension requirements, not skill sets. Discussion ensued about what firefighters have to do to be a firefighter. We designed the training requirements around the Washington Administrative Codes (WAC's) but no one monitors that training outside of the entity that set up their district's standards. Gary thinks they need to complete the eight core tasks in order for our district to retain them as volunteers. Ron said there are 1,000 things they can do on a scene other than enter a burning building. Ron stated that he did not falsify any records. Larry said he thought this was already discussed and resolved in an executive session in the bay area. He said Ron is in charge of the firefighters, we are not. We were not there and Ron was. They know how to do it and we as commissioners have to let Ron handle this. Gary does not agree. Statistics were discussed regarding training. Larry said that Bob Harding and Gary have it all wrong regarding new recruits. We don't know how they'll do regarding training and responding. If we don't bring in any new people nothing will improve. Todd said get the new people up to speed as soon as possible and keep monitoring the training book; everyone knows now that at the end of the year if they aren't up to speed they will be warned and/or discipline and then possibly let go if they cannot meet our standards. Carol brought up the trust the commissioners have to

have in their Chief as he is in charge of operations for the district; they should not and do not have a right to micromanage as that is not their job. They have to draw a line between what the Chief does and what they do. Liability was discussed. Gary tried to bring up the sheet with the volunteer stats for the first three months of 2011; Larry said it doesn't matter. I don't want or need to see that right now. We are only three months into the year and our requirements are measured annually. If Gary wants to baby-sit them, fine. I don't have the time. Howard Thiemens said that volunteerism is volunteerism. Don't criticize but only remind. Here is what's expected. We will give you all the equipment and opportunity you need to meet those requirements. If they are dead weight they should know we as taxpayers are paying for that. Limitations need to be documented but the board has to work with the members. Bob Harding discussed the fear of claustrophobia. It was agreed that any and all limitations regarding skills in our training must be documented in the personnel files.

Public Concerns:

Mike Pankonin: Discussed ground channels to narrowband. Carol is going to work with this. Channels were discussed.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be, April 25, 2011 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:58p.m.

Spokane County Fire District5 Chairman

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Attest: Spokane County Fire District 5 Secretary