

**Spokane County Fire District #5**  
**June 27, 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:** 7:00p.m.

- **Flag Salute**
- **The minutes from the May 23, 2011 Regular Meeting were reviewed.** Carol fixed a missing date and time. **Gary motioned to approve the corrected minutes, Todd seconded and they were approved as corrected.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The June bills** were reviewed. Carol read the bills aloud. Larry asked about the FEMA bill and Carol explained that the 2008 AFG grant awarded us sets of PPE for the number of volunteers we had when we applied for the grant; when we received the grant we had less volunteers. It has only been recently audited and reviewed by FEMA with the amount of funds we owe reported to us. Larry made motion to accept the bills as presented with Gary seconding; **the expenses were approved as presented for \$9,393.48.**
- **Secretary's Report:** None at this time.
- **Correspondence:** BVFF Newsletter with info on Pension and HB (House Bill) 2823 – Retire/Rehire Bill; also has accident stats for 2010. SCFD10 Surplus Vehicles letter and info (already sent copies to Ron and Board). National Incident Management System (NIMS) reporting email which I forwarded to all board and Fire Chief regarding all NIMS compliance must be completed by September 30th of each year – **we have just 3 MONTHS LEFT to get everyone compliant!!!**
- **Fire Chief's Report:**
  - **Personnel:** Jennifer Jensen got EMT-B of the year for 2010 again! We are so very proud of her. Larry asked if the new volunteers are all trained for driving the trucks. Ron said that yes that they have been through the EVOC course but until he signs them off they can only drive the trucks code if someone else who is cleared is with them in the cab. He got a resignation letter from Zack Martin and has all his gear turned in. Jason Burdick is out of school for the summer and should become active again as he wishes to stay with the district as a volunteer.
  - **Training:** The 1<sup>st</sup> training of the month involved structural triage. The 2<sup>nd</sup> training was a water supply drill involving the tank down from Coulee-Hite and Wood Rd. We also had an officer's meeting where local needs were discussed. OTEP is tomorrow.
  - **Stations:** N/A
  - **Equipment:** Pump test for E51 and E52 passed. E51 is all fixed now. The motor for the nozzle on A52 is in and Mike Flint will work on this.
  - **Other:** Ron said he went to the chief's meeting as well as the communications meeting at the training center. He looked at several new radios. He learned that trades with radios would be one for one. Scanning was discussed as well as reprogramming pagers; our really old pagers cannot be reprogrammed but still worth a trade-in. **Discussion on our ability to pump enough water:** Ron said that we have had two structure fires and found that we cannot supply enough water. We need a water tender with a fire-rated pump. We cannot run a steady pump on our engines because of the tender's inability to keep up. We had plenty of water at the incidents. All three board members said this was the first they have heard this. What about our fire rating? Discussion followed regarding our current 8A rating and what that meant including gallons of water pumped, how long it is pumped, hose lines, etc. Ron told the board he has been hollering about it for two years. The board said they have not heard that we cannot pump enough water until now. Tender credits were discussed. Larry discussed the different pumps that are on our vehicles with Ron. The board and Ron did agree that our tenders were both meant to water roads and not to fight fires. Larry told Ron to check with Flint and see what he can do with our pumps. Drop tanks were discussed; Ron said they require too many people to set them

up. Discussion followed on the recent structure burns regarding proximity of tanks and vehicles to the fires. Larry said why not buy more suction line and hook it right to the tender. Ron said the engines can pump enough water but the pump on the tenders cannot keep up. Larry asked how many fires are under investigation. Ron said six; one van fire and five structures. He reviewed what the six were. They are being investigated by the Sheriff's office and an investigator from fire district nine. Spokane Valley Fire District also brought their arson dog out to the sites. Safeco Insurance is also investigating the fires and is offering a reward for information leading to the capture of the arsonist. The investigator from SCFD9 said they know how the fires started but not who did it.

### Old Business:

1. **Recruitment:** Ron said there is an applicant who Carol ran a background check on which is clear; we also have enough PPE for him as I brought him in and made sure to fit him. Todd asked if Ron was sure about that. Ron said yes; we would only have to order gloves and a nomex hood for him. Todd said the guy is around during the day and he is retired so we should try him. Gary said I don't know the guy but I know where he lives. Ron will wait until after the 4<sup>th</sup> when a station captain can interview the guy with him. The board said to give him a try if he passes the interview, agility and physical test.
2. **Organization Policy and EMT Class Fee Policy Dec. 20, 2010 vol. sign off page:** Carol said that there was just one volunteer who had not signed the policy. Todd asked who that was and Carol said Pankonin. Mike Pankonin, present at the meeting, said yes, it is him. The board asked him why he would not sign. Mike said can we talk at a different time; said he did not want to go into it at this time in an open public meeting; you are talking to me as a firefighter now in a public meeting. Larry asked him if he would like to go into an executive session to discuss it at this time. Mike said no. Larry said we are going to make a decision tonight one way or another. Mike said I expect you to. Larry said, okay, you have had the opportunity to go back with us in an executive session and state your case but you don't want to; is that correct? Mike replied, correct. Ron asked Mike, why don't you just sign it. Mike said he shouldn't be forced to sign anything; the policy means nothing to nobody.
3. **Station 53:** Don Crawford from SCFD3 would like to meet with our board to share all information regarding the building of their satellite stations. He is willing to bring all paperwork from blueprints to bills, etc. We will be trying to arrange that meeting very soon. Larry said that would be great; he will know what they cost. Labor was discussed and how SCFD3 worked with volunteer labor. Carol mentioned how their chief, Bruce Holloway, researched what could be legally done in that area and though he was legally challenged later, won that battle. All agreed it is a good place to start.
4. **Supply Request, Ron:** There are seven people that need name tags, need a structure coat for firefighter Theresa Scheidt, and three nomex hoods. Board approved all needs.
5. **Supply Request, Carol:** Nothing at this time.
6. **2011 AFG Grant:** Carol said it is still in limbo waiting for the guidelines; not really a set due date but I have been told it will be end of August or beginning of September.
7. **Router for internet access for laptops:** We are all set up. The router is up and running. Still trying to get it to work with the wireless printer.
8. **New computer system:** Carol reviewed the quotes between Dell and Hewlett-Packard. Discussion followed regarding the age of our Dell system; almost a decade old. It still works and we have never had a problem with the actual hardware. It is getting increasingly slow as files sent and used in newer software require more advanced systems. The board said that yes, to go ahead with what company she prefers because the quotes and systems are virtually even at just under \$1,500.
9. **Painting Station 51:** Larry wants to see the wood put in near the bottom of the bay walls first at Station 52. We never heard from the corrections guy. Discussion followed regarding what materials should be used to hold in the insulation. Hardy-board was mentioned that is at Ziglers. We just need someone to do it.
10. **Propane:** Gary asked what the propane levels were and we should start checking on prices as they go down in the summer. Ron will check the levels. Carol will start calling around to check on bids and prices as well as check on what contracts, if any, are available. We may want to fill the tanks in July or August.

**Public Concerns: (moved ahead as a guest with a cast on his leg with a cane was waiting)**

Tim Reed introduced himself and said he is a resident in fire district 9 but because there have been problems with fires in the state park (Riverside State Park) and the state has lost funding to police the park, his community feels they have to make an effort to get the state to fund a surveillance before a fire catastrophe occurs. He would like both fire district 9 and our district to write a letter in support of this surveillance or some kind of policing effort as it affects the district up here as well. He has also been to Avista’s meetings to speak with them. Larry said we could send a letter saying there is a need for the park to be patrolled. Tim said that is really all we are asking. Tim will call Carol with the information on whom and where the letter should be sent.

**New Business:**

1. **Fire Chief:** Larry said that Ron will be retiring soon; does he have a recommendation for his Fire Chief replacement. Ron said yes, Kjell Anderson can begin after his last kid graduates from Reardan in June of 2012. He said others have approached him regarding making the position a team effort; he does not see that working. Larry said he knows who that is making that suggestion. Todd said that this is something we really have to move on as it will take quite some time. Ron said that Kjell could fill the position in a heartbeat. Todd said we would discuss that at another time. Gary said it can be discussed in an executive session under performance review. Ron said it should be a paid position. Todd agreed but said that probably won’t happen. Larry said we are not trying to get rid of you; we are happy and pleased with what you do. Todd said you shouldn’t do it all and you really need to learn how to delegate.

An executive session was called by Todd for employee performance review. Regular session ended at 8:40p.m. Executive session began at 8:41p.m. with the board and Carol Harrington in the bay area. Executive session ended at 8:59p.m. and regular session began at 9:00p.m.

Larry told Ron to begin to work with Scott Lynch and Bonnie Cobb for the Fire Chief position, not because we have chosen them but because we need to get started. Ron said they have got to come to the calls. Todd said that Scott could really take over if just given the authority. Ron asked about Kjell Anderson; Larry said I do not want him to be the Chief. Ron and Carol asked why. Todd said he has already done it and quit; it seems he likes where he is at now. Scott and Bonnie can be trained. Discussion followed on how it would work out. Ron voiced concerns regarding what would happen should Scott and Bonnie break-up. Larry said we are not going there with the discussion; we have had many volunteers in relationships before. Ron mentioned that he has had offers to volunteer with SCFD10 and should take the application. Discussion followed on how to advertise the position is open. It should be advertised in some way. We should be recruiting within our team as well as outside of it in our district.

There was no other business.

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

The regular meeting adjourned at 9:17p.m.

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Spokane County Fire District 5 Chairman

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Spokane County Fire District 5 Commissioner

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Spokane County Fire District 5 Commissioner

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*Attest:* Spokane County Fire District 5 Secretary