

**Spokane County Fire District #5**  
**July 25, 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 June 27, 2011 Regular Meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The July bills** were reviewed. The General Fire bill for E51 and the Telecheck bill were discussed. Gary made motion to accept the bills as presented; Larry seconded the motion and **the expenses were approved as presented for \$6,182.50.**
- **Secretary's Report:** Carol said she sent out the notice for the Vendor's List and Small Works Roster to appear in July 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday paper per RCW. She asked if the stations had been sprayed yet and Gary said yes but he would have to do it again. The annual bay door maintenance is due. Carol will call both Spokane Overhead Door and Wayne Dalton to get bids. She asked if the outdoor sign is ready to use yet. Gary said no, there are still problems keeping the plexiglass in the sliders and that he will fix it.
- **Correspondence:** Carol is waiting to hear from fire district 9 on the letter that Mr. Reed asked us to write regarding patrol cuts and fires in Riverside State Park; she thinks it would be better for one letter to be written with both jurisdictions signing it. She did ask Chris Hamp at FD9 if Mr. Reed had been in or called and she has heard nothing about it. The US Dept. of Commerce sent a postcard regarding the 2012 census and the government units survey coming up. She will keep an eye out for that. We received our reimbursement from WA State Dept. of Natural Resources 2010 Phase II Grant for \$2,195.20; it has been deposited in our General Fund. We got a letter from the Noxious Weed Board regarding St53 property on Wood and Coulee-Hite Rd. Gary asked why don't we just let Greg farm that property until it is needed; that would take care of the weed problem. Todd said he would call Greg and ask him. Carol will call the Weed Control Board and let them know what will happen.
- **Fire Chief's Report:**
  - **Personnel:** See Old Business #1.
  - **Training:** The 1<sup>st</sup> training of the month involved Ladders and SCBA quarterlies. The 2<sup>nd</sup> training was a Farm Chemical Awareness and HAZMAT training session led by John Merkel of AGLink; Carol will send him a thank you card. OTEP is tomorrow.
  - **Stations:** N/A
  - **Equipment:** N/A
  - **Other:** On Sunday morning there was a fire in the same driveway; four separate starts because Ron said he saw four separate fires burning within the vicinity of each other. This makes number seven arson fire; it had to be intentional. Mutual aid came from FD9 and 10 and we had a good turnout on our crew. DNR and the Washington State investigator will most likely be in on this.

**Old Business:**

1. **Recruitment:** Ron said we have two prospects; one was an EMT instructor in the past and the other is an EMT now. They would both make good firefighters. They have both been interviewed. Ken is home both day and night. Todd was at the interview and thinks he would be a good volunteer. He passed the physical fine. Joy will do very well and is an EMT on base. She is a student at present. Ray Tansey said that if Joy has taken the National EMS test within the last year then she just needs us to sponsor her. We have all the gear except for boots, gloves and wildland PPE. Ken may be able to use Ron's yellow coveralls for wildland. Different ways of marking gear was discussed. Larry agrees with Todd and Ron. Go ahead and get the physical paperwork to them and, pending that, get them on the team.
2. **Organization Policy and EMT Class Fee Policy Dec. 20, 2010 vol. sign-off page:** Mike Pankonin did sign it and turn it in on time so all volunteers have signed it. The board felt it was a shame Mike put the district and team through a ridiculous waiting period for a simple signature required eight months ago.
3. **Station 53:** Carol said that Don Crawford will give our board one more chance at meeting with him; they all can pick any day and any time and he will be there.

4. **Supply Request: Ron** needs water for the firefighters for drinking. Todd said we should get some Gatorade also; the board said to go ahead and stock the beverages.
5. **Supply Request: Carol** needs garbage bag liners for Station 51. The board told her she really does not have to get an okay for smaller needs that we normally and routinely purchase; just list items she would not normally get or require.
6. **2011 AFG Grant:** The guidance documents are trickling in but the application period dates and due dates are yet to be revealed. Discussion followed on whether it is wise to put anything else on the grant except the vehicle. PPE was discussed; Todd said that Joe Gumminger thinks we should not put more than one project on the grant and that it should be PPE. Our PPE is not outdated yet and will not be until 2012. It is hard to make an argument for something that is not outdated. It is also hard because it takes up to a year to hear if you are awarded or not. The timing is not good. Carol is going to call Chief Bucy at Stevens FD as they received a vehicle and she sat by him at the grant workshop; he may have an idea about that. She said that it has always been taught that you can apply for more than one project and they have nothing to do with each other. Larry thinks we should go for it all. Ron is going to talk to Joe about it.
7. **New Computer System:** It is here; Brandon is going to work with Carol to set it up and ensure successful transfer of all the information. The website and publications were discussed and how they are posted to the site. The board wants Carol to be able to post items to the site. They would like it updated within one or two days of the meetings. She will ask Brandon about it.
8. **Station Work:** Station 52 does need that work done on keeping insulation in; Larry said he recommended Eggleston because he did a good job on his (Larry's) driveway. Ron said he talked with him but the guy did not call back. Larry said if he wants the job, he needs to let us know; it has to be done. Carol said we should get any and all work bids/promises in writing with a deadline date. Gary asked if the generator is still there. Ron said yes. A DNR guy came and tagged it but it has never been hauled away. We should call Soliday as he works for the DNR and could probably take it up for us. As far as the painting of Station 51, we could have a workday and get everyone to help paint it.
9. **Propane Costs:** Carol presented a spread sheet listing four different propane companies and their costs for tank rent and price per gallon. Northern Energy is one of the pricier ones. The board told Carol to speak with them again to see if they can come down in their price at all.

#### **New Business:**

1. **Financial Concerns** were brought up by Gary Pietz. He would like to move \$10,000 into the Reserve Fund from the General Fund. Larry said we need to talk about what kind of bills, expenses, maintenance and needs we have before we move money over. Tanks, suction, hose, port-a-tanks, were all discussed in regards to gallons per minute and water capabilities. Basically, the tenders won't put out the water the engine can handle and it slows us up fighting fires. Larry said he can do some welding regarding fittings and pipes. There is a used port-a-tank available that we may consider getting. Larry thinks we need another one. Carol asked why we can't get one on the fire vehicle on the grant. Gary will talk to Marv Davis and see what he wants for the tank. We will wait on transferring funds.
2. **Public Records and Bob Harding's letter to the board:** Larry thinks we should just send Bob Harding a copy of Brian Snure's letter. Bob Harding wants Carol to leave the road names and the last three digits of the house number on the records. HIPAA laws were discussed and protecting our residents' privacy. Sometimes there are only several homes on a road. She reiterated that news media on television and radio stations have scanners and give addresses independently of emergency agencies. No fire district is giving out digits and street names on EMS calls. Snure errs on the side of disclosure but also states that some calls may have to be treated on an individual basis because of our rural setting. That requires more time to prepare and sift through the EMS records, which is fine as long as records requestors realize that. It is very easy to figure out who someone is with little information. Gary said Bob is not trying to identify people. Carol said it doesn't matter, she is held to certain laws and the protection of our residents; that is her priority. Ron said he resents as a taxpayer that Bob Harding is wasting the secretary's time and his tax money. Larry said we could just keep going on the way we have and just black it out. Gary said we need to err on the side of disclosure; Larry said he errs on the case by case address. Todd agrees and gave the example of his parents and his residences. The board decided to black out all of the number address

on EMS calls and just have the street name; fire calls are fine being disclosed. Larry will copy our attorney's letter for Bob Harding. Carol would appreciate the board's support in having residents fill out the very simple, one side of one page records request. It is for the benefit of both the resident and the secretary. She wants to know what his problem is in filling such a simple form out. It doesn't matter if he can't print it out on the website; he's here almost every month and there is a bunch of request forms right there by the door. One of the commissioners can copy off 50 of them and give them to him. If his *real* goal is to get records in a timely manner, then he will fill out the form and ask for specific records. No one has ever told Carol the reason *why* he would refuse to fill out a simple form. If he doesn't know what a record is called, ask a commissioner or the Chief. The discussion ended with our responsibility to keep residents' information safe; we don't need a lawsuit wasting money and time that could be spent on better resources.

**Public Concerns:** There were none.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be August 22, 2011 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:44p.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