

Spokane County Fire District #5
August 22, 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: 7:06p.m.

- **Flag Salute**
- **The minutes from the July 25, 2011 Regular Meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The August bills** were reviewed. Gary made motion to accept the bills as presented; Larry seconded the motion and **the expenses were approved as presented for \$11,071.53.**
- **Secretary's Report:** Re: bay door maintenance, Spokane Overhead Door faxed a quote and Wayne Dalton will send me one ASAP. The DNR Phase II Grant deadline is coming up soon. Northern Energy's manager would like to keep us as customers and lowered his price quote beating all other quotes we have gotten. The board told Carol to go ahead and order the propane tanks filled at that price with Northern Energy.
- **Correspondence:** Mike Hermanson, Water Resources Specialist County Utilities re: data loggers in wells; Don Crawford of SCFD3 sent an email re: cancellation of the meeting on the 25th which he has to cancel but he will call and reschedule asap; email from the Office of ST Fire Marshall on theft of fuels/fertilizers; WFCFA 2011 Conference pamphlet; Spokane Noxious Weed Control Board on St 51 lot. Discussion followed regarding the weeds at and around the stations between Ron and Gary; it is too late to spray them again. We will wait until next spring and then have them professionally sprayed.
- **Todd Lehman called for a 15 minute executive session to review an employee's performance.** Regular session ended at 7:42p.m. and executive session began at 7:42p.m. with the board and Ron Wood going back to the bay area. At 7:57p.m. Todd asked for an additional 10 minutes; at that time he asked Bonnie Cobb and Scott Lynch back into the bay area with him (they had just arrived at the meeting). Todd asked intermittently for additional time in 10 minute increments. Executive session ended at 8:30p.m. and regular session began at 8:31p.m. Gary said that Ron had previously indicated his intention to retire from the Fire Chief's position as of June 2012. **Gary made a motion to appoint Bonnie Cobb as SCFD5 Fire Chief as of January 1, 2012; Todd seconded and the motion passed unanimously.** Mike Pankonin asked if there were going to be any interviews for the position at all; Todd said no and that in the past the Chief's position was appointed by the board. Mike and Ron disagreed saying there had been interviews first. Todd said no, Jim and Sheri recommended Ron Wood for the position and he agreed. He said that he knows that Ron thinks Kjell Anderson would be the best person for the position but the board does not agree. Mike said that they did not go to anyone else and ask them if they were interested in the position. Discussion followed on whether or not interviews for the Fire Chief position had been done and how the Chief was selected. Gary said that it falls to the board of commissioners to decide. Bonnie Cobb stated that she stepped up to the plate because she had heard that the district might be split; she wants to step up with the other awesome officers and work to keep our district together.
- **Fire Chief's Report:**
 - ✓ **Personnel:** Zack Martin has turned in his gear and his resignation as a volunteer with us. There are two volunteers that he would like approved pending their physical reports which should be here any day: Ken Fisher and Joy Quam. **Todd made a motion to accept Ken Fisher and Joy Quam pending their physicals, Larry seconded the motion and they were approved unanimously.** Ron said that there are five volunteers ready to go to EMT Basic Class on September 14, 2011: Alan McNew, Sara Egan, Jason Burdick, Ken Fisher and Theresa Scheidt. Would the board approve payment for four of these volunteers? Some of them cannot afford the \$300 class fee. Jason's fee will be waived per Shawn Bro of SCFD10 as we have paid for his course previously (he had to drop out

due to personal reasons but now has time). Gary has a problem with Jason as his response stats are very low. Todd asked Ron if he thought Jason could raise his stats to acceptable levels before the end of the year; Ron said yes. There was discussion on Alan and Sarah's responses as well as their driver training. Ron said they are doing well; Alan wants more training on the tenders. **Larry made a motion to send the five volunteers to EMT Basic course paying for four of them; Gary seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.**

✓ **Training:** The 1st training of the month involved water relays. The 2nd training they used as the annual FF BBQ. Our officer's meeting involved fine tuning of training plans for 2012. OTEP training is coming up tomorrow evening. Ron attended the Inland Empire Fire Chief Association meeting, the S.C.O.P.E. meeting and a West Plains Training meeting at SCFD10.

✓ **Stations:** N/A

✓ **Equipment:** N/A

✓ **Other:**

Old Business:

1. **Recruitment:** Ron says there is nothing new.
2. **Station 53:** (covered in Correspondence with Don Crawford's email).
3. **Supply Request: Ron** would like to have a new clutch put in B52; it may take up to two days but he would like it done ASAP. Larry will help him take it in and give him a ride home this next week.
4. **Supply Request: Carol** wants to order more address signs and letters. The board approved her to do this.
5. **2011 AFG Grant: Carol** verified our surplus E51 and T51 should we get the new vehicle on the grant. The majority of our structure PPE will need to be replaced in 2013. Ron mentioned we need new structure hoses. We will most likely just apply for the new Pumper/Tender this time around. The board is fine with that. Other upcoming grants were discussed briefly.
6. **Painting St51:** Ron and Carol will ask our volunteer team if they would be willing to get together and paint the station when fire season is over. The walls of St52 were discussed. Scott Lynch will check on Aloar Durham to see if he is interested.

New Business: None at this time.

Public Concerns:

Bob Harding asked about public records and the June meeting regarding our ability in putting out house fires. **What has been done to ensure protecting homes up here?** Larry said he is willing to weld the bung in on T51. There is also a portable tank for sale; Gary said he would get a price on it. Tanks and how they can be mounted on vehicles was discussed. Ron talked to Mike Flint regarding suction and how to improve what we can do with what we have. He said we have to be careful and remember that the longer distance you have to push water the less pressure/suction you will have. Four and six inch hoses were discussed. Mike Pankonin said that you can only push so much water through and remember that you need a lot of people to put pipe together and get a port-a-tank down and put together. You need a minimum of three just to get it down. Scott Lynch said it is better to have four people; one for each corner. Ron has not put together any prices yet and reminded everyone that we are out two years even if we get the truck grant. Gary thinks we should check out stuff now. Scott Lynch said he thinks a new tank is the way to go. Gary asked if we should bring the truck that has the tank up to St51. Todd said yes, it should be at the station that has the best response. Larry asked if the tank has to be on E52. Ron said yes, E51 has too many compartments and ladders. Bob said it is a high priority to be able to put out house fires. Larry said that after the meeting they will go and look at the trucks in the bay. We could purchase a pump for \$30,000. Ron said we could buy a used vehicle to pump better at that price if you are smart and know what you are getting. Trucks for sale was discussed. All agreed that a port-a-tank was the best option and that we need more people responding. We need to do something now. Larry said that with our mutual aid we should have enough water but we need to work on the problem within our own district too. Ron said that yes, we should have enough water with the aid coming. Discussion followed on where we get water. **Regarding**

the public records and the blacked out addresses: Bob said he did some research on the HIPAA and WAC laws. Larry said that he has to stop Bob right there: we have checked with our attorney and we are going to go by what he says. Bob said he wants response times to a certain area and wants to know how long it takes our crew to get there as well as where the majority of the calls are. Todd said that our best bet is to go by what the lawyer tells us. Stevens County gives the road names but not the addresses. Carol got an Outpost newspaper and showed the board that the Stevens County Fire District does not give any house numbers in their reports. Todd said that that is the best Bob is going to get; we are sticking by what our lawyer tells us. Larry said Bob can have a copy of the attorney's letter to us. Carol made a copy for Larry to hand to Bob. Bob stated that our district does not fall under the HIPAA laws. Carol said yes we do; the Washington State attorney's office and the Secretary of State say we do; she cannot imagine where Bob is actually getting his so-called research. Larry said we are not going to do any more or any less and that is the end of this discussion. Larry followed by reading a portion of our attorney's (Brian Snure) letter.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be September 26, 2011 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 10:05p.m.

Spokane County Fire District 5 Chairman

Spokane County Fire District 5 Commissioner

Spokane County Fire District 5 Commissioner

Attest: Spokane County Fire District 5 Secretary