

OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #6  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
January 11, 2015

PRESENT: Commissioner Les Stokes, Commissioner Brandenburg, Commissioner Jerry Palm, Interim Chief Cody Acord, Secretary Brian Colin, other people attending include: Gene Austin, James Schulz, Roy Reiber, Charles Hammer, GR Barton, Keith Comstock, Rusty Stamps, John Owen, Alan Fahnestock, Jesse Fuller, Jeremiah Fosness, Ross Darling, Jim and Jaine Woods, Brian McAuliffe, Fred Wert, Duncan Bronson, Ron and Crystal Perrow, Herb Rosenberg, Mike Fort, Mike Port, Larry Smith, Charlie Ryan, Bob Wagner, Ann McCreary, James Park, Joe and Margell Caillier, Paul Christen, Scotty Dodge, Paul and Emily Sisson, Kevin Stanforth, Mark and Sara Crum, Dave Crosby, Robert Howson Jr., Vaughn Jolley, Ross Brooks, and Josh Jankowski.

Commissioner Stokes nominated Jerry Palm as Chair. Commissioner Brandenburg seconded. All were in favor.

MINUTES of the regular meeting, December 14, 2015 meeting minutes were reviewed. There was a small change from two years leave to 4025 hours in the discussion of Don Wallers contract. Commissioner Brandenburg moved that the minutes be accepted with the change. Commissioner Stokes seconded. The Minutes were approved with all in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Commissioner's reviewed the treasurer's report from December and approved. The ending balance was \$396,180.63 fund balance December. Commissioner Stokes moved that the December treasurer's reports be accepted and Commissioner Palm seconded. Motion approved with all in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** No correspondence was received by district.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Ron Perrow has a feeling that the volunteer fire fighters feel that he is against them. He is behind them 100%. He supports the volunteers immensely but he doesn't support the administration. He feels that the district has been spending money the wrong way.

Paul Christen has an issue with the way the budget is being spent. He feels that the district is mispending funds. He feels Don was over paid. He is upset with the benefits that Don will receive.

Ross Darling asked if Don's contract was reviewed by an attorney, which it was. The contract was not reviewed by a CPA.

Duncan Bronson asked how the comp time is documented.

Charlie Ryan talked about the accounting system of the fire district. He feels that the district did not mention the retirement or comp time liabilities. He retracts his earlier statement on the district's financial status.

James Schulz asked if things carry over for more than two years, which it has.

Ross Darling asked a question about Don's contract. Darold Brandenburg stated that the last addendum to Don's contract was not run by the district attorney.

Mike Port asked if the 4000 hours accumulated for the other four paid firefighters is reflected on the budget.

Paul Sisson stated that if you are going to support the fire fighters then you should support the fire fighters.

Ross Darling discussed Don's contract. Ross Darling and Crystal Perrow feel that the district needs to have the district attorney ask the review the contracts and policies, especially comp time.

Audience asked if the district commissioners talk about things outside of the meeting. The commissioners don't talk outside of the meetings.

Ron Perrow said that commissioners can't do any actions, debates, or motions outside of the public meeting.

Audience, Okanogan County manual, annual leave is not allowed to carry over more than 240 hours in total. Any hours accrued over 240 hours has to be used within the year it was accrued.

Charlie Ryan emphasized that the district needs to have better records to account about comp time and what that will cost the district.

Audience member said that the district should look into the cost of paying out Don's accrued time vs giving him 2 years paid leave.

Ross Darling suggests that the district put Don on as a paid consultant.

Roy Reiber stated that if the district pays out accrued time then they will lose the work that the person on leave will be able to do.

Larry Smith asked the secretary if they had received a public records request asking about a history of the district since the district's hiring of Don in 2002 including all policies, time sheets, accounting, etc. The secretary responded that they had not received such a detailed request.

Crystal Perrow feels that the district needs to have their attorney review all employment policies.

Paul Sisson stated that everything goes back to the contract that was signed with Don.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND CHIEF'S REPORT:**

The district talked with their insurance person about the district participating in the annual Winthrop fireworks and found out that this would be a liability for the district. The commissioners decided against participating.

FEMA Grant application is still in process.

Aero Methow is reviewing the addendums that the district presented.

Commissioner Stokes suggested that the district has a special meeting to discuss the findings. Chief Acord said that the State Auditor is looking into all employees' time records. Commissioner Brandenburg and Commissioner Palm feel that the district should wait to see what the auditor says.

Chief Acord is looking into setting up district policies on accounting time.

**NEW BUSINESS:** The paid district firefighters are in the process of joining the union. The district has been contacted by PERC (Public Employment Relations Commission). The commissioners will put off responding to this till next month.

There was a structure fire on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. The temperatures were under 0 degrees.

The district responded to 284 calls last year.

**VOUCHER APPROVAL:** The vouchers were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Stokes motioned to approve Vouchers #16-001 through 16-015 in the amount of \$40,392.15 for payroll and taxes which were presented for payment on January 1, 2015 and Vouchers #16-016 through 16-043 regular bills in the amount of \$14,592.36 for a total of \$54,984.51. Commissioner Palm seconded. Motion approved with all in favor.

**The ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM.

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Commissioner Jerry Palm

ATTEST:

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Brian Colin, Secretary