

OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #6
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES OF THE MEETING
November 17, 2016

A Special meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Palm on November 17, 2016 at 7:23 PM.

PRESENT: Commissioner Les Stokes, Commissioner Jerry Palm, Commissioner Darold Brandenburg, Interim Chief Cody Acord, fire fighters Alan Fahnestock, Charles Hammer, John Owen, District Secretary Brian Colin and Mark Crum, and community members: Bill McAdow, Ross Darling, Paul Sisson, Emily Sisson, Ann McCreary, Ron Perrow, and Chrystal Perrow,

Special Meeting topics to include: 2017 Budget, Winthrop Annexation, and Community Advisory Committee.

Budget:

Commissioner Brandenburg made a motion to approve the 2017 Budget, Commissioner Palm seconded, all were in favor.

Commissioners signed Resolution 16-04 Budget

Town of Winthrop Annexation:

Discussion amongst commissioners on whether or not to approve resolution to approve the initiation of Winthrop annexation. OCFD 6 has to decide by December on whether or not to go to the vote in February. Int. Chief Acord addressed some concerns about the Town of Winthrop's annexation, which is that the town will not reduce their tax amounts even though they aren't providing services.

Paul Sisson spoke about attending the Town of Winthrop's council meeting on 11/16/16. Sisson noted that the town passed a resolution to put the annexation on the ballot.

Bill McAdow recommended that the district explain the costs on the annexation, and Town of Winthrop tax. Hoping to increase the acceptance. Commissioner Stokes acknowledges and agrees that the district should take steps to increase probability of passing.

Ken Doran concurs that transparency is wise, also states that the Town of Winthrop needs to abide by the same. Doran wants to know what the financial difference is if annexed, Int. Chief Acord explained that it'd be approximately a wash. Currently district gets \$50k from Town of Winthrop contract, annexation would translate to \$60k, but district would have to pay a lease for building. Ken wants to know about liabilities, and any changes on responsibility. Int. Chief Acord explained that the services wouldn't change, and that is drawn out in contract.

Sam Owen recommended that the Commissioner's draft a letter so it's on record that the district recommended the Town of Winthrop to explain the cost changes.

Doran asked about costs of marketing for annexation, Int. Chief Acord estimated \$3,000.

Commissioner Brandenburg asked what the meeting attendees felt about annexation; Ron Perrow commented that he's in favor.

Ross Darling mentioned that with annexation the Town of Winthrop could be the deciding vote if and when measures are proposed. Mentioned that the tax explanation needs to be clear to Winthrop residents, and could have bad results if the Winthrop Town Council isn't clear on their plans for the money.

Paul Sisson commented the revenues will essentially be the same, but we're in a circle where the contracts with the Town of Winthrop annually consumes a lot of time.

Ron Perrow express ideas for making the annexation pitch successful. Including potential savings for Town Residents, melding of the resources, firefighting doesn't stop at the town border.

Commissioner Brandenburg made motion to go forth with annexation, Commissioner Palm seconded, all were in favor.

Commissioners signed Resolution 16-05 Town of Winthrop Annex
Commissioners signed Resolution 16-06 Town of Winthrop Annex

Int. Chief Acord is going to draft a letter about the annexation to the Town of Winthrop for Commissioner Brandenburg to present to the Town of Winthrop.

Community Advisory Committee:

A Special Meeting will be held on the 29th of November at 6:00 PM at the Twisp Fire Hall.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM.

Commissioner Jerry Palm

ATTEST:

Mark Crum, Secretary