

OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #6
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
December 12, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioner Les Stokes, Commissioner Jerry Palm, Commissioner Darold Brandenburg, Interim Chief Cody Acord, Secretary Mark Crum, other people attending include: Jesse Fuller, Rusty Stamps, Paul and Emily Sisson, Keith Comstock, , Rick Nordby, Gene Austin, Kevin Standforth, Alan Fahnestock, Linda Standforth, Ron Perrow, Mike Port, Methow Valley News : Anne McCreary.
The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

MINUTES of the regular meeting, November 14, 2016 regular meeting minutes, November 17 budget hearing minutes, November 17 special meeting, and November 29th workshop meeting minutes were reviewed. Commissioner Brandenburg moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Commissioner Palm seconded. The Minutes were approved with all in favor. Budget Hearing Minutes Les Stokes made motion DB seconded. Budget special meeting November 17th Jerry made motion DB seconded. Nov 29th special meeting Les made motion, DB seconded, all approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Commissioner's reviewed the treasurer's report from November and approved. The ending balance was \$468,872.60 fund balance November. Commissioner Stokes moved that the November treasurer's reports be accepted and Commissioner DB seconded. Motion approved with all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: The district did not receive any correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Paul Sisson has 3 comments. Budget, annexation, CAC. In response to previous comment about excessive taxed amounts. Agrees that when a year runs in excess, and when district meets goals surplus shouldn't exist. States that FD6 running in excess, with inadequate facilities, needing new apparatus, is appropriate to have excess tax amounts. Purchased land has value as asset, doesn't think commissioners are irresponsible in purchasing land, and contracting with architect is doing their job. Comp time issue, experiment with allowed absences. With CAC in paper, seems to have pushed view that commissioners act on advice of CAC, but only if that is good advice, with backup, research. If CAC is forum for people to disagree not good idea. With annexation, Town should be able to decide what to do with freed up money.

Rick Rottman likes Paul Sisson's comments. In regards to CAC, is concerned about the makeup of the CAC. Suggests that the CAC represent the whole valley, with multi view points. Consider citizens from each station area. Should also include a commissioner, a Div. Chief or higher ranking to have experienced point of view. Should include a volunteer firefighter for input.

Jerry Palm thanked Rottman for comments. Said that board will take comments into consideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND CHIEF'S REPORT:

The Town of Winthrop contract:

DB had meeting with Town of Winthrop, and expressed that commissioners felt they should give tax break to Town residents. Town council said that they will loose burden because a truck will be paid off. Wants Town of Winthrop to understand that the fire district has no say in the taxed amounts.

Mike Port, wants to elaborate why the Town Council thinks that the tax increase will pass. Council members think residents understand that the tax funds will need to goto other upgrades and improvements. Port thinks that the Town of Winthrop needs to make all efforts to pass, because the Town of Twisp will try to follow suit.

Int Chief Acord stated that approx. \$3,000 will be the cost to the fire district of the election for annexation.

Sisson spoke with Winthrop Mayor. Expressed his opinions to the mayor saying that he wants that extra funds to goto infrastructure. Asked Mayor what plans are to do with the extra money, according to Sisson mayor stated that they don't have plans for the money, because of their budget cycle, too early on.

Comm Palm thinks town is going about it the wrong way, should pass annexation, then address other projects.

Mike Port thinks that theres ways the Town's can address the higher rates, breaks on water costs, sewer costs.

Town of Winthrop Fire Protection Contract:

Signed contract for \$50,000 for continued fire protection, for 2017. Comm. Brandenburg made motion Comm Palm seconded, all in favor.

Town of Twisp annexation:

Comm Stokes gives update. At a wait and see situation, see what happens with Winthrop, look into addressing next year.

Brush Trucks:

Will have specs at January meeting. Gas vs diesel. CA will look into different issues with flammability. Diesel emission systems vs catalytic converter.

Generator Grant:

Int Chief Acord, approved and signed, awaiting date for meeting with State. Hopefully next summer for install. Comm Brandenburg made motion to let Cody sign, Palm seconded, all were in favor. State may require engineering for install.

Community Advisory Committee:

Int Chief Acord passed out info for ad seeking CAC members. Discussion about the direction for the CAC. Feasibility for the current proposed site, then options depending on outcome. Comm and audience discussed how can you decide feasibility if you don't understand other options. Emily Sisson states that feasibility is deciding if it works, not deciding if it's the best site. Paul Sisson asks what commissioners are willing to do if another site is found, imminent domain, etc.? Comm. Palm asks if board is willing to use immanent domain if needed. DB stated he's not going to answer, because they already have a site.

Ron Perrow stated that the CAC can't be "strangled", need to allow the committee to give advice, and let them look into all options. Perrow is concerned that OCFD6 needs to operate with the communities support, if wants to pass levies, build stations, etc.

Comm Palm wants on record, DB agreed, that the commissioners don't want to use imminent domain.

Comm Palm made motion that the board doesn't want to use Imminent Domain for new station, DB seconded, all were in favor.

Int Chief Acord stated that there needs to be representation and guidelines to meet with CAC. Acord will look into previous info about site selection. Acord believes that board needs to define feasibility and do more research before placing ad about CAC members.

Comm. Palm & Acord has wording for potential CAC ad. "members will be tasked with Recommending FD6 on location of new fire hall". Comm. Brandenburg made motion to have Cody to procede with letter in paper about CAC, Comm. Stokes seconded, all were in favor.

Members will be tasked with recommending fd6 with location of new fire hall in Winthrop

Sisson asked about what exists currently for site research? DB answered that 4-5 acres is needed to have a station site.

Discussion about fire ratings, moving station out of town limits increases rates.

Ron Perrow wants to know about actual difference in insurance costs are, and what changes as the number changes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comp Time, employee looking to get comp time paid out for 32 hours. Comm Brandenburg made motion, Comm Stokes seconded, all were in favor.

FEMA Grant:

Int Chief Acord applied for a 2017 FEMA grant for 1 Brush Truck. Grant requires %5 matching.

Commissioners reviewed Monthly comp time accruals for paid staff, comp time.

Carlton Station: County looking at drain that goes from Carlton Station to Carlton Store. CA expressed concerns about the hold being open during winter time. Engineers working on options for water mitigation.

Comm Stokes asked other commissioners about how they felt with him being a driver, and joining the Twisp station. Ross Darling stated that per the policy Stokes would lose comm.

Christmas Dinner:

Twisp Grange December 15th, 6:00 PM.

The commissioners went into an executive session for 15 minutes to address the performance of an employee. They went into session at 8:20 PM. The commissioners, returned at 8:35 PM. Exec session was about contract with Cody Acord. Acord had allowed the board to limit his comp hours. No decisions were made.

Comm Palm made a motion, DB seconded, all were in favor to sign 3rd addendum to contract to Int Chief Acord. 3rd addendum changes comp time accruals.

VOUCHER APPROVAL: The vouchers were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner DB motioned to approve Vouchers #16-499 through 16-510 in the amount of \$27,591.59 for payroll and taxes which were presented for payment on December 1, 2016, Vouchers #16-511 through 16-536 regular bills in the amount of \$13,028.27, and comp time payroll voucher #16-537 for \$504.28 for a total of \$41,124.14 which were presented for payment on December 12, 2016. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion approved with all in favor.

The ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.

Commissioner Jerry Palm

ATTEST:

Mark Crum, Secretary