

OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #6  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
February 11, 2019

PRESENT: Commissioner Palm, Commissioner Stokes, Commissioner Brandenburg  
Asst Chief Stamps, Secretary Mark Crum, other people attending include:  
Ron Perrow, Ross Darling, Paul Sisson, Emily Sisson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

MINUTES of the January 14th regular meeting Commissioner Stokes made motion to approve minutes from the January meetings Commissioner Palm seconded, all were in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Commissioner's reviewed the treasurer's report from January and approved. The ending balance was \$593,206.12 fund balance January. Commissioner Stokes made a motion that the January treasurer's reports be accepted and Commissioner Palm seconded, all were in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** N/A

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ron Perrow would like to see a timed Public Comment period, set at two minutes possibly? Perrow also asked why did the board decide to limit the investigation if new station property sites to inside the Town of Winthrop? Commissioner Palm talked about proximity to Twisp, HWY 20, and the guidelines that were provided to the committee.

Paul Sisson responded to Ron Perrow's question, stating that the area within the search parameters was ideal area because of incident response time and proximity to fire fighters responding.

Paul Sisson has comments based on the last meeting. 3 ideas from last meeting relating to cost of new station. Square footage argument, stated that the new Town of Twisp Facility square footage comparison is a bad one. Second using operating budget to fund capital projects takes away from daily operations. Lastly the discussion on Value Engineering is a bad one, stated that the timing would have been all wrong for that argument because of the state of the design process that the District was already at because the research had already been completed.

Bob Wagner talking about Value Engineering and that the timing of that process needs to occur before final design occurs, because otherwise it's already been engineered.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Station Design** – Commissioner Palm has been studying the existing plans and would like to look at the cost differential with certain design changes.

Bob Wagner asked if the commissioners could look at the needs assessment and potentially build for now, with options for future expansion. Chief Acord said that the needs assessment is based off of the current needs for the Fire District.

Ross Darling asked if the goal of the new station was to centralize the operations to Winthrop? Ross commented about the challenges of having volunteers and not being able to staff the outlying stations.

Commissioner Palm made a motion to accept the Draft Needs Assessment as a guideline for the building plans. Commissioner Brandenburg seconded, and all were in favor.

Commissioners also agreed to post the Needs Assessment on the website.

Commissioner Palm and Brandenburg spoke about having the existing engineer re-design plans if possible. Commissioner Brandenburg mentioned that this should be a commercial building that stands the test of time, steel stud framing, etc.

Ron Perrow asked about ICF buildings, wondering why the Commissioners haven't considered. Perrow said that the building would be very efficient to heat. He's built both steel and ICF and says it's very efficient.

Commissioner Brandenburg said that he would like a build block building, flat roof, truss.

Commissioner Stokes said he'd like the most bang for the buck. Stokes said that he doesn't have a problem with stick framing if done properly.

Commissioner Brandenburg said that the new building could be a combination of wood and steel framing. Stokes spoke about the new Town of Twisp building that could hold roughly 7 large apparatus and cost \$850,000 and has a bathroom.

Paul Sisson asked about the dimensions of the Town of Twisp building compared to the proposed Winthrop Station. Paul asked about general ideas of the proposed building, such as clear span, open areas, etc.

Ross Darling asked about how often would firefighters be able to go to the store and use a kitchen? Chief Acord stated that the kitchen would be stocked and used for incidents or after long calls.

Bob Wagner asked why would tax payers want to pay for a hotel for firemen by having living quarters? Chief Acord talked about providing areas for volunteers to do night

shifts which would provide a quicker and better response for the public and talked about having a place for volunteers to sleep if needed after an incident or during a potential incident like a thunder storm.

Commissioner Brandenburg and Palm talked about the justification for many of the areas that tends to get questioned and how its been covered in detail at previous meetings.

Commissioner Brandenburg asked how can the District get an accurate estimate per square foot?

Ron Perrow recommended to call ICF to get cost per block.

Ross Darling recommends to call original contractor who bid on the building and get price as a starting point.

Bob Wagner asked about what grants are available for Fire Districts. Chief Acord said that he is not aware of any grants that the Fire District can apply to for a fire station.

5 minute recess. Starting at 8:15 ending at 8:20.

Discussion about which steps to take next for the new building.

Commissioners consider having the architect Mr. Watson to show up for a commissioners meeting, Chief Acord states that we could potentially have Watson on a phone conference during commissioner meeting. Commissioners ask Chief Acord to contact Watson.

Commissioner Brandenburg made a motion to contact Watson & Ayers about talking at the next meeting, Commissioner Palm seconded, all were in favor.

**American Tower & Lease:**

New contract proposal, could allow other carriers to use the tower.

Commissioner Palm made a motion to accept new lease agreement from American Tower and Lease. Commissioner Brandenburg seconded, all were in favor.

**Horizon Flats Property:**

District property on Horizon Flats, new property owner doesn't want the trees on the property, the original agreement stated that he could obtain the trees off of the property.

Commissioner Palm made a motion to accept the Memorandum of Understanding for ownership of trees to be with the Fire District from the new owner of the White Property on Horizon Flats, Stokes seconded, all were in favor.

Commissioner Palm made a motion to have Chief Acord sign the MOU with the new White Property owner about trees. Commissioner Brandenburg seconded, all were in favor.

Commissioner Palm made a motion to improve the "Future Site of..." sign at Horizon Flats station site, Commissioner Brandenburg seconded, all were in favor.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**2018 Year in Review.** 147 fires, 86 wildland, car accidents, service calls, false alarms, fuel spills,. Chief Acord will provide more detail at a later point. Crescent Mtn and McCloud Fires. Increase in Wildland responses, had good working relationship with other fire agencies (USFS, DNR).

3995 collective hours of training, 6 new recruits, on average volunteers stay with the department 5 years. 330 hours of training for a new recruit.

Equipment and Facilities, 2 new brush trucks, 23 apparatus, 4 stations, each station has at least 1 engine, 1 brush truck, and 1 tender.

Flood at the Winthrop Station.

District was rated by Rating Board, 6 in towns, 7 in district (within 5 miles, and adequate water supply).

Public Education and Fire Prevention, Christmas Tree lighting in Olympia and donation from Association of Washington Business.

Hired Assistant Chief Rusty Stamps, hired Jeremiah Fosness bringing number back to 5 hired personnel.

Les Stokes likes the idea of adopting the 2 minute rule for public comment.

Commissioner Brandenburg makes a motion to adopt a 2 minute time limit per comment period. Commissioner Stokes seconded, all were in favor.

### **Chiefs Report:**

#### ***Monthly Accruals***

Chief Acord presented monthly accruals for leave for January.

### **Committees: N/A**

**Public Comment #2:**


Executive Session starts at 8:56 ends at 9:11 to discuss acquisition of property. No decisions made.

VOUCHER APPROVAL: The vouchers were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Stokes motioned to approve Vouchers #19-043 through 19-052 in the amount of \$26,034.10 for payroll and taxes which were presented for payment on December 26th 2018, Vouchers #19-001 through 19-041 regular bills in the amount \$29,340.90 for a total of \$56,481.47 which were presented for payment on January 13th, 2019. Commissioner Palm seconded. Motion approved with all in favor.

The ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 PM.

  
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Commissioner Jerry Palm

ATTEST:

  
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Mark Crum, Secretary