

OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #6
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
March 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, Rick Nordby, Rick Rottman.

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

MINUTES of the Feb 11th 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 February and approved. The
ending balance was \$548,004.39 fund balance February. Commissioner Stokes made a
motion that the February treasurer's reports be accepted and Commissioner Palm
seconded, all were in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Paul Sisson asks about the two minute time limit, he states that any limitation set is
followed by all during each meeting. Sisson is hoping that maybe the commissioners
could re-consider the time limit. States that public comment generally isn't too much of a
time consideration. States that the two minute time limit could be counter-productive.

Commissioner Brandenburg and Palm discuss the two minute rule. Discussion about
whether or not the commissioners could meet with members of the public during off
meeting hours.

Emily Sisson had a comment about minutes, needs to have November, December and
January added.

Ron Perrow states that all can agree that the Winthrop hall needs an upgrade (replaced).
Read aloud prepared statement about his concerns over the fire hall. See attached herein.

Paul Sisson would like to comment about tandem bay configurations vs side by side.
Sisson believed that the change in configuration would be less efficient, and would take
up more of the training grounds.

Emily Sisson had rebuttal to Ron Perrow's prepared statement. Emily said that just because the levy failed last time, doesn't mean it will again.

Rick Rottman discussed tandem vs side by side bays. States that the side by sides are safer, and should be a consideration. Rottman states that ultimately it should be up to those in charge to decide the best configuration options.

OLD BUSINESS:

Discussion with George Watson architect via conference call.

Watson discussed economics of building. Stated that there's premium costs associated with building location (remote area). Discussed working into the cost backwards, by reducing the budget by the tax, premium site, insurance costs. Watson recommends the high use areas use block construction for durability. States that offices and meeting areas could be stick framed.

Discussion continues. Options could be added at later dates. Kitchen areas, wash areas, appliances can be purchased at later dates. Options like heated floors could be taken out to save money. Commissioner Brandenburg asked Watson if he could talk to the other engineers about what potential re-design costs could be.

Chief Acord asked Watson what the next logical step would be. Watson stated that the floor plan and exterior should be worked out, then see what the costs would be. Stated that he can't get firm pricing until District shows them what is wanted.

Watson stated that he should get together with Commissioners, make the changes and continue with pricing requests. Watson is going to get the Commissioners some ballpark pricing for making changes. Watson asked Commissioners to sketch the changes so he can have an idea on what needs to be changed.

Commissioner Brandenburg is ok with stick framing for the office areas, but would like block in the bay areas.

Commissioner Stokes stated that we should start with a box for the bays and work around (from) it.

Commissioner Palm asked Chief Acord to sketch some changes to simplify the layout of the building, and then to present to Architect Watson.

NEW BUSINESS:

Twisp air bottles on the Town Engine are officially past certification date, and newer bottles need to be purchased. Chief Acord found used bottles for \$150 each. Chief Acord stated that in approximately 4 more years we'll need to purchase 75 new bottles. New bottles cost \$700 each.

Commissioner Palm made a motion to purchase 8 used airpack bottles. Commissioner Stokes seconded, all were in favor.

Workers comp for retired Chief Waller and his cancer diagnosis. Is a file-able claim, and within the 5 year window of allowance. Chief Acord wanted the commissioners to be aware because the L&I fees will probably be increasing because of it.

Chiefs Report:

Monthly Accruals

Chief Acord presented monthly accruals for leave for February.

Committees: N/A

Public Comment #2:

Rick Rottman shared a story about fire call at 7:00 Saturday morning. Rottman showed a photo of the ice danger in front of the Winthrop station. Made the point that the new station will take care of many safety hazards.

Keith Comstock talked about efforts by staff to mitigate ice issues.

Paul Sisson states that he thinks the commissioners are approaching the new site the best way. He thinks you can't compare a fire stations cost with the cost of a non-fire station.

Paul Sisson states that he likes the new station location, and believes it fills the requirements the commissioners set forth in the request for study of properties.

Commissioner Brandenburg comments about Ron Perrows prepared statement. Saying that the commissioners have done their due diligence on purchasing and selecting a site for the property. Commissioner Brandenburg stated that he's not willing to reconsider the site, because the selection has been vetted. Main goal of the new station was to get a station for Winthrop because there isn't one currently.

Rick Rottman said moving the station south towards Twisp won't make response any faster, because the Volunteers will still have to drive to Twisp.

Ron Perrow says that the Berenstein property would provide the best access for future and current fire calls and growth for the future.

Commissioner Stokes would like to go on record with the fact he thinks the Berenstein property would be a good property. If he had the information that Ron Perrow had about the Berenstein site he may not have been in favor of the decision to proceed on the Horizon flats property.

Paul Sisson spoke about the Berenstein property, said that it was looked into, Conservancy wasn't willing to change easement, MPH is 60 in front of the property, and is getting further away from the Winthrop town hub. Sisson thinks that Ron's arguments don't hold water. Site was one of the 16 sites evaluated by the committee, but was not one of the final three. Sisson states that what might get developed shouldn't determine what is built.

Commissioner Stokes disagreed with Commissioner Brandenburg and believes that the commissioners should look into the other options.

Discussion from Rick Rottman, Sisson's, Commissioner Brandenburg, and Commissioner Palm about sticking with the Horizon Flats property and going with the consensus after selecting property for the second time.

Ron Perrow has one last comment, and warned that the Commissioners still have to pass the levy.

Executive Session #1 RCW 42.30.110 (i)(b)

Executive Session starts at 8:24, to last 10 minutes, returned at 8:34. Commissioners discussed the sliver of property near the Horizon Flats site owned by the White Trust, and decided that cost of the property was too high.

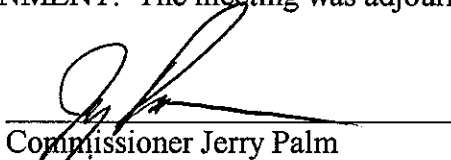
Les Stokes stated that Ron Perrow would like his letter added to the minutes. Attached herein.

Jesse Fuller asked about the size of the training room, and asked if that would be made bigger.

Keith Comstock asked if the size of the locker room could be looked at.

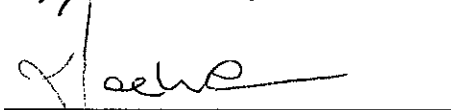
VOUCHER APPROVAL: The vouchers were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Stokes motioned to approve Vouchers #19-043 through 19-052 in the amount of \$26,909.62 for payroll and taxes which were presented for payment on February 12, Vouchers #19-053 through 19-093 regular bills in the amount \$30,952.21 for a total of \$57,861.83 which were presented for payment on March 11, 2019. Commissioner Palm seconded. Motion approved with all in favor.

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



Commissioner Jerry Palm

ATTEST:



Mark Crum, Secretary

Concerned citizens' position statement

We all agree that the Winthrop fire hall facility is inadequate. However, we don't think the existing building plans are realistic; they are extravagant and too expensive. Much of the planned space is unnecessary at present. It may be needed in the future, so the plans should accommodate additions when the need arises. Building costs have only gone up since the last levy failed. We believe a new fire hall is necessary, but the community will only support an economically frugal and justifiable levy.

Twisp just built a large building for their public works. It is a nice one, and will serve well into the future. Twisp built this new facility for \$133 per square foot. We think this construction cost, plus inflation, could be realized by the fire district, and save the taxpayers a bunch of money. We recognize fire halls have unique fire specific needs. Once a shell is built, a kitchen, bunkroom, office spaces and other unique fire hall considerations can be added.

The proposed location of the new fire hall is also wrong. Our new fire hall must be located to serve the Winthrop community as efficiently as possible. Because the majority of fire calls, which Winthrop responds to, come from southeast of Winthrop, it makes sense to locate our new Winthrop Fire Hall along highway 20, either inside or outside the town limit. However, the commissioners limited the location to "within the town of Winthrop", as stated in the location criteria given to the citizens' advisory committee. This logic disregards the call log. The valley will continue to grow. The majority of buildable lots and population will occur southeast of Winthrop, not northwest. Enhancing fire safety must be the primary calling of the fire district. This means minimizing the time to respond. To do that, it's obvious, location is very important.

Agreed to: Ron Perrow, Marty Williams, Quin Christiansen, Art Van Puymbrouck, Paul Christen, Fred Cooley, Ted Jackson and Larry Smith