

OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #6
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
April 11, 2016

PRESENT: Commissioner Les Stokes, Commissioner Darold Brandenburg, Commissioner Jerry Palm, Interim Chief Cody Acord, Secretary Brian Colin, other people attending include: Ron Perrow, James Schulz, Paul and Emily Sisson, Rusty Stamps, Ross Darling, Larry Smith, Linda Stanforth, Mike Port, Jeremiah Fosness, Brian McAuliffe, Tiago Pacheco, Rick Nordby, Jesse Fuller, Charles Hammer, and Kevin Stanforth.

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

MINUTES of the regular meeting, March 14, 2016 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.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The Commissioner's reviewed the treasurer's report from March and approved. The ending balance was \$422,564.00 fund balance March. Commissioner Stokes moved that the March treasurer's reports be accepted and Commissioner Palm seconded. Motion approved with all in favor.

CORRESPONDENCE: The district did not receive any correspondence.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Paul Sisson presented the board with, "An Evaluation of the Objections to the December 2015 Addendum to Don Waller's employment agreement and his current leave," (a copy will be attached to the minutes).

Commissioner Stokes disputed Paul Sisson's argument against "Claim #2". Paul Sisson and Les Stokes discussed the matter in depth.

Commissioner Brandenburg feels that Don Waller has used comp time and since it has been in place for so long that you can't dispute whether or not Don should get comp time.

Ron Perrow stated that he wrote a letter to the County District Attorney. He gave him a chronological order of what happened. He said that the District Attorney will be responding with a letter to the district.

Chief Acord also talked to the County District Attorney. The attorney stated that the district has done nothing illegal. The District Attorney will be giving a letter with suggestions to the district.

Larry Smith asked if the district is still in a holding pattern on Don Waller's contract. The district is waiting to hear from County Prosecutor.

Commissioner Brandenburg talked about how the district has been working including more people within the fire district. He reiterated that the community needs to decide is “what level of fire protection do the people want?” What do they expect when they call for a fire emergency? Commissioner Stokes feels that more “B Squad” firefighters would be better than a few “A Squad” firefighters to show up first on scene.

Ron Perrow feels that it is not an easy answer. He feels the district needs to do overlays of a map and what the response times will be.

Commissioner Stokes feels that the citizen’s group would help with getting more volunteers.

Mike Port feels that the first thing that the district needs is to “clean house.” He feels that the district is making progress toward this end.

Ron Perrow feels that the district needs to work on the website and maintain it more. This will help more people be involved.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND CHIEF’S REPORT:

The State Auditor is still reviewing the district time sheets. The district has not heard anything more. We will wait to hear from him.

The commissioners will be tabling the Don Waller’s contract decision till next month.

The agenda is now posted online. Chief Acord discussed the progress. Commissioner Stokes would like to see the agenda posted at the same time every month.

Commissioner Stokes made a suggestion that the district set the compensation for Don Waller’s contract. Chief Waller will receive an hour per hour compensation for any additional time that Don Waller works.

Commissioner Stokes feels that Don Waller is no longer required to be a member of the fire district. Chief Acord feels that he is. Commissioner Brandenburg feels that the district needs him.

As it currently stands, Don Waller decides whether or not he is available to respond. Chief Acord says that he can let Chief Waller go at an incident if it is deemed that he is not needed.

Ross Darling feels that Don’s contract reads that he shall respond “if necessary.” He also feels that the district needs budget for unexpected retirement compensations.

Commissioner Stokes would like to see a tracking of Don’s hours that would be presented in the monthly meeting. Chief Acord feels that this could be done but it would

cause more work. The commissioners discussed this in depth. Don Waller has accrued 44 hours in the last 3 months.

NEW BUSINESS: Chief Acord gave the commissioners a summary of the comp time. The option to pay the comp time out completely would cost the district \$59,414.50. Commissioner Stokes made a motion that the district pay out the accrued compensation to the four paid employees out of the building budget. Commissioner Brandenburg seconded. All were in favor.

The server for the fire district is 10 years old and is need of replacement. The commissioners would like to see Chief Acord investigate new servers. He will report next month.

The Town of Twisp wrote a letter to the district concerning the command structure within the district. Chief Acord will be having a meeting with the mayor to address all of their concerns.

The Mutual Aid Agreement between the fire districts in the county is currently being updated by the county fire chiefs association.

Commissioner Stokes made a motion that the district put corrections in the minutes be put in the following minutes. Commissioner Brandenburg seconded. All were in favor.

Commissioner Stokes made a motion that the district allows changes to the agenda as the first order of business on the day of the meeting. There was not a second. Commissioner Stokes withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Stokes would like to see the command rigs hold a 100 gallon tank and equipment.

Chief's Report: Interim Chief Acord gave the commissioners sick/comp/and annual leave summaries for all employees through March. The commissioners reviewed.

Interim Chief Acord will be going to the chief's conference in Spokane. The district has a number of fire fighters going to training in Wenatchee also.

The commissioners will be in executive session for 15 minutes at 8:45 PM. They will be done at 9:00 PM. The commissioners returned at 8:58 PM. No decisions were made. The commissioners discussed contract negotiations.

VOUCHER APPROVAL: The vouchers were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Brandenburg motioned to approve Vouchers #16-132 through 16-151 in the amount of \$26,915.72 for payroll and taxes which were presented for payment on March 1, 2015 and Vouchers #16-152 through 16-180 regular bills in the amount of \$29,119.81 for a total of \$56,035.53. Commissioner Palm seconded. Motion approved with all in favor.

The ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Commissioner Jerry Palm

ATTEST:

Brian Colin, Secretary