

OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT #6  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
September 11, 2017

**PRESENT:** Commissioner Les Stokes, Commissioner Darold Brandenburg, Commissioner Palm, Interim Chief Cody Acord, Secretary Mark Crum, other people attending include: Jesse Fuller, Rusty Stamps, Paul and Emily Sisson, Max & Jeff Jones, Ross Darling, Tiago Pacheco, Bill McAdow, Jeremiah Fosness, Keith Comstock, Larry Smith, Anne McCreary (MVN), Charles Hammer, Derek Poindexter, Jim Schulz, Brian McAuliffe.

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

MINUTES of the regular meeting, August 14<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 regular meeting minutes, Commissioner Brandenburg made motion to approve minutes from August 14<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Meeting, Commissioner Palm seconded, all were in favor.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Commissioner's reviewed the treasurer's report from August and approved. The ending balance was \$365,461.41 fund balance August. Commissioner Brandenburg made a motion that the August treasurer's reports be accepted and Commissioner Palm seconded, all were in favor.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Ross Darling, thanking Alan, Dave, & Cody for information in the Methow Valley News. Provided good information for the public.

Asking if the commissioner will discuss the selection process for the chief? Palm said it'll be discussed later.

**Old Business:**

**Generator Grant:**

Received one bid for the generator install. The bid is for the installation at all four stations, including the concrete pad. The bid came from Norwil Electric

Commmissioner Palm made a motion to accept the bid from Norwil Electric, Stokes seconded, all were in favor.

Int Chief Acord will put out a bid for the propane install. By next commissioner meeting Acord will have those in place.

**District Chief Contract:**

Discussion was tabled at the last meeting. As a recap, Don Wallers contract expires December 31<sup>st</sup>, and Cody Acords contract changes back to that of assistant chief.

Palm discussed that he believes Cody has been doing a good job, and should extend contract. Brandenburg echoed sentiments. Commissioner Stokes said he doesn't agree, and that the initial hiring (Don Waller) was unfair. Stokes would like the position to be opened up for bid.

*Public Comment:*

Ross Darling thinks it should be put up for bid, so the hiring is open and transparent.

Emily Sisson said that she doesn't think you're going to find anybody to do a better job than Cody.

Max Jones comments that she's sat through the process of hiring a chief five times. Says that based on her experience it takes a chief 1.5 to 3 years for a chief to adjust to an environment.

Jeremiah Fosness commented that fire departments hire from within all the time, and that Int Chief Acord has the support of all his volunteers.

Alan Fahnestock said that people aren't happy with regardless of which way you go.

Larry Smith stated as a former fire chief and commissioner he understands the situation. States that in the interest of fairness you should advertise for the position. Believes that it will keep the public involved.

Bill McAdow, echoes Alan's comments. Said putting job out for bid will cost money, and waste District resources.

Paul Sisson government jobs are merit based hires, and promoting from within has already happened and is how Acord was hired to begin with. Said if job is opened up there will be disgruntled folks regardless.

Charles Hammer spoke in favor of Int Chief Acord, as a firefighter for 25 years, and he has the trust of DNR, USFS, and community members. Also stated that FF's

Tiago Pacheco said it feels like a no brainer, not going to find anybody better, ff's respect him. States that the matter isn't about anything that has happened in the past. States that it would be a waste of time and resources.

**District Chief Contract Ctd:**

Commissioner Brandenburg asked Cody Acord how he feels about the position and situation. Acord responded by stating he'd be humbled to server the community and volunteers as the Chief.

Discussion amongst the commissioners about the position.

Commissioner Brandeburg made a motion to make Int Chief Acord the new Chief, Jerry Palm seconded. Palm and Brandenburg were in favor.

**Town of Twisp Contract:**

Mayor Moody contacted Acord and said she'd like to start looking into the extension of the existing contract. Town is ready to discuss, board needs to decide who wants to work with the Town of Twisp then can schedule the meeting. Comm Les Stokes said he should have the time soon to meet with Moody and the Town.

**NEW BUSINESS:****FEMA Grant**

OCFD6 was awarded a ~\$172,000 grant, 5% matching for a brush truck. Acord presented board with an option. With the current order of brush trucks, GF could re configure one of them as a rescue, then district would re-order a brush truck for the FEMA bid as the bid is specific and replaces a non-working brush truck.

Jerry Palm makes a motion to accept Cody's plan, Brandenburg seconded, all were in favor.

**Methow Valley Emergency Plan**

Committee approved Emergency Plan, Acord was chair of the committee. Towns, Fire, Police, Electric Co-op, & HAM Radio operators were involved. Plan will be working document, and committee will meet each month.

**Chiefs Report:*****Monthly Accruals***

Next month Acord will present August and September accruals.

**Committees:****Community Advisory:**

Sisson sent out an email to committee after last commissioner meeting, didn't receive any further input from members.

Larry Smith spoke with Mike Port and asked Mike to call a meeting. Larry, Mike, and Ross thought that there be another meeting to discuss the report before it was released.

Jerry Palm would like to see another meeting happen.

Jim Schultz said that the report should be ignored before the whole committee signs off on it.

Alan Fahnstock said that there will never be a 100% consensus.

Ross Darling said that there were 3 emails that weren't replied to that were sent on the day of the commissioners meeting.

Commissioners asked if the CAC could meet again, and try to come to a consensus.

Ross Darling stated that he didn't like the report, and didn't think could come to a consensus which was the plan with the report. Would like CAC to look at different methods of writing the results, possibly on a graded point system.

Paul Sisson stated that Ross's idea shows more of an opinion poll because a ranking is arbitrary.

Larry Smith thanks the Chairman and hopes for a meeting to discuss the CAC. Stated that Winthrop needs a new fire station, and that this committee needs to get work things out.

Palm says he wants a pros/cons whether its 1 page or 60 pages. Asks CAC to schedule a meeting.


Jeremish Fosness asks commissioners if there is a deadline for the report, Palm said no.

**Public Comment #2:**

Paul Sisson states that going out for bid would have been for show only. Promoting from within is perfectly fine if you have a good candidate.

VOUCHER APPROVAL: The vouchers were reviewed by the Commissioners. Commissioner Palm motioned to approve Vouchers #17-357 through 17-367 in the amount of \$26,921.72 for payroll and taxes which were presented for payment on August 3rd 2017, Vouchers #17-367 through 17-392 regular bills in the amount of \$40,183.53, for a total of \$67,105.25 which were presented for payment on September 11, 2017. Commissioner Stokes seconded. Motion approved with all in favor.


The ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Palm", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Commissioner Jerry Palm

ATTEST:

  
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Mark Okum, Secretary