

Sublimity Fire District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 13, 2008

Meeting called to order: by Jeff Kropf at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Rick Kauffman, Gary Rychard, Ralph Fisher, Jim Heater, Jeff Kropf

Staff present: Chief Tim Frost, Amy Doran

Others present: Gene Ditter, Brandon Hamilton, Jason McKinnon

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: New Business-Additional Liability Insurance

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to amend the agenda and add discussion of additional liability insurance to new business. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; unanimous.

Citizen Comments: None

Firefighters Association Input: Gene Ditter said that things had been rather quiet. The firefighters are discussing options for changing the current point pay system to meet the intent of the law. The association will vote on options at its March meeting. The board discussed some of the options. Gene also mentioned that the firefighters would be replacing a tree damaged while obtaining this year's community X-Mas tree.

Reading of Minutes:

MOTION: Jim Heater moved to approve the minutes for January 9, 2008. Ralph Fisher seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Communications: None

Payment of Bills: Ralph Fisher asked about the district's solution to the unexpected PERS increase. Chief Frost said that the district would be monitoring the situation and will make a decision about what to do when it gets closer to the end of the fiscal year. It will depend on what percentage the category is over budget. There was discussion regarding the unfunded account liability (UAL) increase.

MOTION: Rick Kauffman moved to pay the bills for January. Gary Rychard seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Chief's Report: Chief Frost explained that the EMD system is gradually going into place. He then reviewed the alarm totals for January. The district had eight mutual aid calls to Stayton; those included some working fires. Jeff Kropf asked about the progress of the new brush/rescue rig. Chief Frost said the district is just waiting for a call from Cascade Fire—then we'll need to drive down and get the slip-on unit.

Old Business:

Ordinance relating to volunteers serving on the board:

Jeff Kropf read the proposed ordinance in its entirety, then opened the floor to public comment.

-Gene Ditter said that he had sat in on the board's discussion with legal counsel. Upon hearing the legal advice encouraging the board to pass the ordinance, Gene thinks the board should adopt it. It will help to eliminate some conflict issues.

-Jeff said that he wished we didn't live in such a litigious society where we have to adopt so many things that seem contrary to common sense. He is personally not enthused about going down this road.

-Jim Heater had a question regarding the process and timeline, specifically when the ordinance would go into effect. He then explained that he had attended board member training and understands issues regarding conflicts of interest. He shares Jeff's feelings. His family has served the district from its inception and he doesn't believe many conflicts will come up. He doesn't want to hurt the board or the department, but he will be voting against it.

-Rick Kauffman stressed that it was nothing personal against Jim; however, with the current status, he sees opportunity for polarization. The current status creates a formula for dissention and should be rectified.

-Gary Rychard agreed that it was not a personal issue. He agrees with Jeff's comment that we live in a litigious society; that's why he would like to pass the ordinance—for "the unknowns."

New Business: There was discussion regarding the insurance company's suggestions for changing coverage now that there are changes in the law regarding tort limits. Some of the suggestions relate to Code 3 driving issues, Civil Rights issues and Advanced Life Support (ALS) with an emphasis on pediatrics and obstetrics. Chief Frost will make a recommendation to the board next month. There was discussion about ALS issues. The insurance company feels that it is low frequency, high risk. Chief Frost might recommend doing away with it. There was general discussion about ALS situations, skills and the ambulance service. Jeff Kropf said that he didn't want to have any loss of life issues resulting from a change in policy. Chief Frost didn't feel like there would be any. The increase to \$10 million in coverage will cost approximately \$2100. There was discussion regarding insurance limits, increases, etc.

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to approve additional expense as presented to increase the insurance coverage to \$10 million. Ralph Fisher seconded. Motion passed; unanimous.

Good of the Order:

Chief Frost told the board that it would be acceptable to move the April meeting back to April 9th, because he will be available and the room was not available on April 16th. Chief Frost also reminded the board to RSVP for the upcoming awards banquet.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to adjourn the meeting. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Amy Doran

Approved by Jeff Kropf