

**Sublimity Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 21, 2007**

Meeting called to order: by Gary Rychard at 7:10 p.m.

Members present: Rick Kauffman, Gary Rychard, Jeff Kropf

Staff present: Chief Tim Frost, Office Administrator Amy Manning

Others present: Gene Ditter, Geoff McFarland, Tammy Fitch (WHA Ins.)

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: Amy corrected the agenda to reflect Tammy Fitch from Wilson-Heirgood Insurance would be speaking instead of Paulette Oliver; Amy added an article in the Stayton Mail to Communications; Gary Rychard added an executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(b)&(i).

Citizen Comments: None

Firefighters Association Input: None

Reading of Minutes:

MOTION: Rick Kauffman moved to approve the minutes for January 10, 2007. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Communications:

Ken Jones letter: Attorney Ken Jones sent a letter to the board in reference to his services

Thank yous: Lourdes Parent Teacher Club and Stayton Christian School each sent letters thanking the district for donations of station birthday parties to their annual auctions

Newspapers: The Stayton Mail featured an article on Stayton and Sublimity fire districts and volunteer firefighting. The Statesman Journal printed an article about the Assistance to Firefighters Grant. The board was pleased with the grant award.

Payment of Bills: Chief Frost and Amy Manning reviewed expenditures for January for the board.

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

Chief's Report: Chief Frost reviewed January alarm totals. He noted a reduction in calls as a result of dispatch changes. The changes have ensured that we are going on needed calls now. He noted that the EMD is not quite finalized, but should be soon.

Old Business:

Driving Policy: There was discussion on the driving policy draft. It is still in the review stages. Attorneys from Wilson-Heirgood are looking it over right now. It will be re-reviewed soon at another meeting. There was discussion with Tammy about current trends in driving policies. Jeff Kropf was concerned that Code 1 driving would actually cause more accidents because responders wouldn't be alerting the public that they were responding. Gary Rychard noted that if responders are driving Code 1, they will be following traffic laws, reducing/eliminating negligence. Suggestions were to add a clause that volunteers were not to report to the station if intoxicated/impaired and that members should fill out a sign-off sheet, stating they had read/understood the policy.

New Business:

Insurance: Tammy was present to discuss insurance renewal rates. At this point, rates are not set, but it looks like they will increase 10-20%.

Budget Officer:

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to appoint Chief Frost the FY07-08 Budget Officer.

Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Chief Frost noted that he had already done the budget and there was money leftover.

He predicted a larger carryover and felt that the grant would be a huge help.

-Jeff Kropf asked about recommendations for equipment purchase.

-Chief Frost said the new budget allows for a vehicle lease.

07-08 Dispatch costs: Costs will go down approx. \$6,000, but this is not in relation to a reduction in call volume. Jeff Kropf asked about the reason behind the reduction. Chief Frost responded that he was unsure and that it had not been explained yet. Gary Rychard said early projections are that the costs won't go up more than 3-4% in the next 3-5 years.

Volunteer Pay: Chief Frost explained that staff is still in the process of putting a new system together for volunteer reimbursement. As it turns out, according to the Stayton Chief Jack Carriger, the current system cannot be considered reimbursement, but rather compensation. Gary Rychard asked for a second opinion relating to the matter. There was discussion on defining firefighters as volunteers versus employees.

AFG: Chief Frost summarized the Assistance to Firefighters Grant award for the board. Gary Rychard asked if Chief Frost was still comfortable with the prices he was quoted last year. The chief said that he was because prices had been slightly inflated to allow for the time delay. He mentioned that old air packs would hopefully be donated to another district. He also noted that we are looking at a possible regional grant next year to upgrade rescue equipment.

Good of the Order: Geoff McFarland explained the upcoming Public Safety Open House hosted by the fire district on June 2. Rick Kauffman noted that he really sees the fire district out in the community and is very impressed. People can see that the district is not just here for money. Geoff felt that it was important to get to know your community. Gary Rychard said that the open house had the board's full support. Chief Frost said the district would also be helping support the open house, by buying hot dogs, etc.

Executive Session: The board went into executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(1)(b) & (i) at approx. 8:15 p.m. The board returned to regular session at approx. 9:45 p.m.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to adjourn the meeting. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.