

**Sublimity Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 11, 2007**

Meeting called to order: by Gary Rychard at 7:02 p.m.

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

Staff present: Chief Tim Frost, Office Administrator Amy Manning

Others present: Gene Ditter, Brandon Hamilton, Frances Wolf, Jim Heater, Tim Heater, Paul Denman, Chuck Sherman

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

Citizen Comments: Chuck Sherman thanked the district and firefighters for help in a bad situation.

-Jim Heater, speaking as a district citizen, said that he spoke on behalf of farmers in the eastern part of the district. Mr. Heater felt that a brush-type vehicle was needed to protect the property in that area. He said that he would like to see Brush 52 left in service this season because it's a stable vehicle that works well on the steep ground. He addressed brake concerns and mentioned that the exhaust brake was never put in. He also noted that NFPA was only making suggestions about military vehicles and that Brush 52 was rated for combat use. He said he felt less safe in Brush 51.

-Frances Wolf echoed Mr. Heater's comments and said that he would prefer that Brush 52 be kept in service awhile longer.

-Chuck Sherman also echoed Mr. Heater's comments and said that it would be nice to have a good rig able to go off-road.

-Mr. Heater said that Brush 52 is an asset to the department and that the district should keep it in service at least through this fire season while making a decision how to replace it.

Firefighters Association Input: Gene Ditter said that Josh Williams had been voted in as a Life Member of the fire district.

Reading of Minutes:

MOTION: Ralph Fisher moved to approve the minutes for March 14, 2007. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Communications:

WHA Insurance letters: The district received letters explaining that the workers' comp premium renewal amounts would not be decided until there is a vote on Senate Bill 560. Jeff Kropf gave details on senate bill actions. There was discussion on whether the bill would just impact city departments. There was also discussion on budgeting for increasing costs in the event SB 560 passes.

Payment of Bills: Chief Frost and Amy Manning reviewed expenditures for March for the board. It was noted that Josh Smith, the former intern who charged about \$750 on the district's gas card, had completed his court-ordered restitution. Chief Frost explained that grants funds are being received and that they are direct-deposited into the district's checking account.

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

Chief's Report:

Alarms: Chief Frost reviewed March and annual alarm totals. At the current rate, the district will end up with about 360 for the year. Gary noted that the EMD cards have been passed to the physician advisor and should hopefully be in place by April 18.

Old Business:

Brush 52: Chief Frost has looked through district records; there is a documented history of brake issues with this rig. The chief then reviewed a safety training sponsored by the district's insurance agency that related to the safe operation of tenders. That presentation was based on an NFPA report from 2003. Chief Frost reminded the board that part of his job is to be the risk manager for the district and he feels that there is risk involved with this piece of apparatus. His recommendation is to take Brush 52 out of service. He also mentioned that Brush 51 was weighed and it does not exceed its GVWR. The chief said that he personally would like to see Brush 52 in service, but just doesn't see how that would be possible. There was discussion on GVWR.

-Rick Kauffman asked how the district would provide coverage if the vehicle is taken out of service.

-Chief Frost said that Brush 51 would provide service and that it meets all the requirements.

-Gary Rychard said that, in looking at the report relating to the safe operation of tenders, the district appears to be the poster child for the report. The board understands the need for fire protection. He wants to provide the safest protection available for all and he doesn't take that responsibility lightly. He is very concerned about the safety of firefighters and citizens. He also has fiscal concerns about the amount of money put into Brush 52 and the amount that still needs to be put into it. He cited the documented history of brake problems. Tim and Jim Heater argued that it just needs a wheel cylinder.

-Rick doesn't want to be liable for someone taking an unsafe vehicle out on a fire.

-Gary mentioned that military surplus rigs are taken out of military service because they are worn out.

-Chief Frost pointed out that the main problem with Brush 52 is not the brakes; it's the GVWR. The brakes can be fixed, but the vehicle will still exceed the posted GVWR.

-Tim Heater pointed out that Brush 51 fits some of the qualities mentioned in the NFPA report.

-Jim Heater wanted to know how the GVWR was determined. He said common sense says the vehicle will carry more than is stated.

-Jeff Kropf agreed with Jim Heater that common sense tells him he would rather drive Brush 52 than Brush 51. He wanted to know if the district would still have liability if Brush 52 met the appropriate GVWR standard. He wanted to see a more accurate determination of weight.

-Rick felt that the district should ask its insurance company for an opinion on a rig with problems. They (the insurance co.) are professional risk assessors.

-Gary noted that the class was sponsored by our insurance company. He then asked how much money the district was going to put toward the rig before enough's enough.

MOTION: Ralph Fisher moved to that Brush 52 remain out of service for another month until more information can be found. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Gary said that the expectation is that a final decision will be made at the next meeting. He also said to keep in mind that the chief makes recommendations to keep the department and the board safe.

New Business:

Grants: The chief asked the board for permission to apply for an AFG grant for extrication equipment. He noted that the \$2200 match was already built into the budget. He then mentioned that a solution to the GI problem brought up in an officers meeting was to look at a grant for a new rig to replace Brush 52. A new rig would be expensive and the district would be responsible for a 5% match.

-Gary Rychard felt that the amount of time to write two grants would be extreme and staff should focus its time on a grant the district can afford to fund.

-Chief Frost said he would like to focus on meeting the district's basic needs before a vehicle. He is most concerned about the match and where it will come from. Mike Patrick has said that he will spearhead the vehicle grant effort.

-Jeff Kropf was fine going forward with two grants.

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to direct the chief and staff to put forward two grants, with the grant for rescue equipment having priority for submission. Ralph Fisher seconded. Motion passed, unanimous.

Dispatch budget: Since last reported to the board, a \$40,000 invoice had been submitted to dispatch relating to the CAD system. It took the interim director by surprise. Gary explained the situation.

Surplus equipment: The district is changing from 1¾" hose to 1½" hose. There has been talk of trading hose with another agency. Also, the district has been contacted by a few agencies interested in the old airpicks. The packs would have no monetary value on the market.

MOTION: Ralph Fisher moved to declare the 1¾" hose and the airpicks surplus. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed, unanimous.

Good of the Order: Amy reminded the board about the open house on June 2nd.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to adjourn the meeting. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Amy Manning

Approved by Gary Rychard