

**Sublimity Fire District  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 9, 2007**

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**Meeting called to order:** by Gary Rychard at 7:05 p.m.

**Members present:** Rick Kauffman, Gary Rychard, Ralph Fisher, Jeff Kropf, Kyle Amsberry (via speakerphone)

**Staff present:** Chief Tim Frost, Office Administrator Amy Manning

**Others present:** Gene Ditter, Tim Heater

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:** None

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Firefighters Association Input:** Gene Ditter noted that the association had two new members, the newest interns.

**Reading of Minutes:**

**MOTION:** Rick Kauffman moved to approve the minutes for April 11, 2007. Ralph Fisher seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

**Communications:**

Thank yous: The district received a thank you from Sublimity PTC for its auction donation and AARP for hosting a driving course.

WHA updates: WHA updated the district on health insurance costs. WHA also sent the district a letter regarding SB 560 and its effects. Chief Frost explained the effects that SB 560 would have on district workers' compensation premium costs. He also noted some of his concerns with the bill, specifically that the bill only pertained to paid firefighters, leaving volunteers to pick up the costs but not the benefits.

**Payment of Bills:** Chief Frost and Amy Manning reviewed expenditures for the board. Chief Frost noted that the district had eliminated the need for a tax anticipation note.

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

**Chief's Report:**

Alarms: Alarm info for April will be available at the next meeting.

**Old Business:**

Brush 52: Chief Frost explained to the board that he had just been contacted by Frank Stratton, underwriter for SDAO, who said that obtaining an ODOT over dimensional permit for Brush 52 would relieve the board, etc., from any liability issues stemming from the vehicle's weight. The district also received a letter from a claims department representative that stated the district and its board members would be liable in the case of an incident with this vehicle.

-Gary Rychard wanted to know which letter to defer to.

-Chief Frost said that it would be Mr. Stratton's letter.

-Gary wanted to know if an ODOT permit would eliminate issues with OSHA.

-Chief Frost said that OSHA defers to ODOT.

-Gary noted that the vehicle has been weighed with one driver and no water and was already overweight.

-Chief Frost said that the amount listed on the plate is the recommended GVWR. This amount cannot legally be exceeded without the over dimensional permit.

-Kyle Amsberry said that his biggest concern is somebody getting hurt. He doesn't want to put anyone's life or safety in jeopardy.

-Chief Frost said that, as far as he understands, with the over dimensional permit, the district will meet all requirements.

-Kyle asked if it was safe to put people on the rig. He doesn't like the fact that it's an unsafe vehicle.

-Jeff Kropf asked what had changed to make the vehicle unacceptable since it was deemed safe when put into service in 1997. He feels that only the standard has changed and that it's an arbitrary standard made by bureaucrats from wherever.

-Rick Kauffman felt that the standards are not arbitrary and are in place for a reason.

-Gary said that, having been on the board in 1997 when the vehicle was put into place, and knowing what he now knows about the vehicle and standards, he wouldn't have put it into service.

-Ralph Fisher cited brake problems with the rig. He said that we know the rigs limitations and should just keep it in service during fire season.

-Jeff said that he wants to keep the rig in service through this fire season only.

-Gary wanted to know the estimate of repair costs to make the rig usable.

-Chief Frost said that it would be \$1000 or less.

-Kyle felt that there were too many safety issues with the rig. He wanted it taken out of service immediately.

-Jeff expressed his appreciation for the work staff has put into researching the issue. He wanted to know what the alternatives would be were B-52 not in service.

-Chief Frost said that the Louisville engine or the four-door engine currently at the sub-station would suffice.

**MOTION:** Ralph Fisher moved that the district proceed with securing an ODOT over dimensional permit. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed; Jeff Kropf, Ralph Fisher and Rick Kauffman voted in favor of the motion, while Gary Rychard and Kyle Amsberry were opposed to it.

-Kyle wanted to know if there was anything that recognized that the vehicle was unsafe.

-Rick said he couldn't imagine that ODOT would grant the permit if the rig were unsafe.

-Chief Frost said that he will make sure that all paperwork for the permit, etc., is taken care of before the district expends funds on the brakes.

-Gary said that he doesn't want Brush 52 to leave Sublimity's jurisdiction.

**MOTION:** Jeff Kropf moved that an operational policy be written stating that Brush 52 will not leave Sublimity's jurisdiction for the remainder of its service life. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

*-Kyle Amsberry was forced to hang up due to a low battery at 7:50 p.m.*

AFG 2007: Chief Frost summed up the district's application for a 2007 AFG for \$47,000 of extrication equipment.

### **New Business:**

Station generator: Station generator bids were submitted by Cummins NW, Curry Marine and EC Company. Cummins NW had the lowest bid. They have also been servicing our current generator and have been doing an excellent job.

**MOTION:** Rick Kauffman moved to accept the bid from Cummins NW for the station generator. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed, unanimous.

**Budget committee:** There are two applicants interested in the open position on the budget committee, Tim Heater and Tom Etzel.

-Gary Rychard noted that Mr. Etzel is also interested in possibly being appointed to the board of directors if there is an opening. Gary also cited the ORS that states an agent of a municipality can't serve on the budget committee. There was discussion about the interpretation of the ORS and whether it included volunteers.

-Jeff Kropf was concerned about a possible conflict.

**MOTION:** Ralph Fisher moved to appoint Thomas Etzel to the budget committee. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed, unanimous.

-Rick Kauffman confirmed that Ralph Fisher's motion was based on a potential conflict of interest for Tim Heater to serve on the committee.

-The board agreed that both candidates were very qualified to serve on the committee. The board then thanked Mr. Heater for his interest.

**Good of the Order:** Amy reminded the board about the open house on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. Also, the district will be publishing another community newsletter this month. The budget committee will be meeting on May 15 at 7 p.m.

**Adjourn:**

**MOTION:** Rick Kauffman moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed; unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

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**Respectfully Submitted by Amy Manning**

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**Approved by Gary Rychard**