

Sublimity Fire District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 9, 2008

Meeting called to order: by Ralph Fisher at 7:03 p.m.

Members present: Ralph Fisher, Jeff Kropf, Jim Heater

Staff present: Chief Brandon Hamilton, Amy Doran

Others present: Gene Ditter, Tammy Fitch

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

Citizen Comments: None

Firefighters Association Input: The Cowboy Breakfast is August 2-3 from 7-noon.

The board went straight to New Business to allow guest Tammy Fitch to speak.

New Business:

Tammy Fitch from Wilson-Heirgood Associates (WHA) came to speak to the board and answer any questions about the district insurance policy. She thanked the board for allowing WHA to be the agent of record. Some highlighted topics:

*Be aware of the increase in MRSA infections.

*The district will be receiving a longevity credit from the Special Districts pool.

*The district is doing well in limiting the number and severity of Workers' Comp claims.

*She recommended the district elect to participate in the program where employers may choose to reimburse SDAO for medical expenses up to \$1500 per non-disabling claim. This can eliminate or reduce claim costs from future consideration in determining experience modifications or other charges based on losses.

*Jim Heater clarified that the cost to the district to increase liability limits to \$10 million was approximately \$1800 for the year.

*The appraisal is complete and district values have increased. This will result in a "trending increase" so as not to put the entire burden of the increase on the district all at once.

*Cancer—The presumptive bill will probably return in some form.

*Ethics—Tammy distributed an updated "Guide for Public Officials."

*Volunteer Pay—Tammy cautioned the board to keep on top of this issue. She noted that switching to W-2s may open the door for the IRS to look back and ask for past dollars.

*The district still needs an operational statement.

*The insurance company is emphasizing safe driving. Safety Committees are also a priority.

*Pre-loss legal—Call SDAO no matter what on a possible claim. If you call right away, there is no deductible. If you wait, there is a \$10,000 deductible.

-Jim asked Tammy about the cost of switching to \$20 million liability coverage.

-Tammy said that it would be a significant amount, but she wouldn't have the exact numbers until fall.

*Property rates are down.

*Liability is staying steady, but it's too early to tell what rates will do.

*There will be an update in September.

-Chief Hamilton noted that the 1982 Pumper is still being used as a front-line apparatus, so the value needs to be changed to something in the \$150,000 range.

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to have Wilson-Heirgood send the district the non-disabling claim form. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; unanimous.

Reading of Minutes:

MOTION: Jim Heater moved to approve the minutes for June 11, 2008. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Communications: Chief Hamilton let the board know that the district had received the contract review packet from SpeerHoyt. He will go through the packet and discuss it with the board at the August meeting.

Payment of Bills: The board reviewed bills and payments for the month of June and the fiscal year 07-08.

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to pay the bills for June as presented. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Chief's Report:

Alarms: Chief Hamilton reviewed alarms for the board. He noted that we had the exact same number of calls for June of last year. Overall call volume is up slightly. There was a fire at the local motel, but it ended up being very small. There is a slight increase in motor vehicle accidents at the Hwy 22 interchange. Also, the construction has caused an increase in response times. Chief Hamilton has authorized an increase in response mode through the construction zone.

Recycling container: Someone lit the newspaper on fire in the large recycling container.

Air pack testing: All air packs had their annual service done yesterday.

Parking lot lines: Chief Hamilton had all of the lines in the parking lot repainted.

Old Business:

Rescue 52 update: Chief Hamilton contacted Braun Northwest regarding R-52. The folks at Braun said they would sell the vehicle for around \$75,000. To build the same rig today would cost \$120,000-135,000. He discussed waiting on a new rig because the new rescue has not been used enough to know for sure if it's the best rig for the district.

-Jeff Kropf asked about coming up with the funds to make up the difference between the revenue from the sale of one rig and the cost of a new one.

-Chief Hamilton said that there was money in the Equipment Reserve Fund to cover it.

-There was discussion regarding Gates and Depoe Bay fire districts both showing an interest in obtaining R-52. There was discussion regarding whether to sell the rig.

-Jim felt that selling it, but keeping it until delivery of the new rig, would result in the best of both worlds. He noted that he would like to see something that would carry more water.

-There was lengthy discussion about declaring the rig surplus and putting it out for bid. Additionally, there was discussion about how long it would take to get a new rig.

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to declare Rescue 52 surplus and put it out to bid as soon as all legal requirements are met, with a minimum bid of \$80,000, a two-week bidding window, a contingency that the board can reject any and all bids,

the rig will go to the highest bidder, and the sale will be contingent upon delivery of the new rig. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Sandy Fire update: Sandy's fire chief called and explained that they will receive the findings from the IRS audit on Friday morning. Any changes will be approached with great caution. It's possible that, even if the findings suggest switching to W-2s, they won't make the change. Their legal counsel has told them that there is some case law to support the issuing of 1099s instead of W-2s. This audit has been in process since March. There was discussion regarding the Estacada embezzlement scandal.

Good of the Order: The Cowboy Breakfast is the first weekend in August. Ralph Fisher said he would work Sunday; Jeff Kropf said he would work Saturday; Jim Heater said he would work the early shift on both days. Brandon noted that he and other department members are currently in the process of recruiting four new volunteers. The Joint Conference is coming up in November. The board asked for reminders at the next meeting.

Adjourn:

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

Respectfully Submitted by Amy Doran

Approved by Ralph Fisher