

**Sublimity Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, October 8, 2008**

Meeting called to order: by Ralph Fisher at 7:04 p.m.

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

Staff present: Chief Brandon Hamilton, Amy Doran

Others present: Kent Silbernagel

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: Add to New Bus.: gas bill; Chief's Report: grant

Citizen Comments: None

Firefighters Association Input: None

Reading of Minutes:

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to approve the minutes for September 10, 2008. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Communications: SpeerHoyt PC has changed its name to Local Government Law Group.

Payment of Bills: The board reviewed bills and payments for the month of September. The district is doing a good job of keeping within budget. The chief noted that there will be an increase in the amounts expended from the categories relating to physicals and recruiting because of a new influx of volunteers. There was discussion regarding the increase. The board commended the chief on recruiting new volunteers.

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

Chief's Report:

Alarms: Chief Hamilton reviewed alarms for the board. Call volume has gone down since last year. The decrease is mostly in medical calls. This is partly due to CAD changes. The chief noted that there have been issues with the CAD system implementation. The company will be sending an "implementation team." The full implementation of the CAD system will affect our call totals.

Organizational chart: The chief handed out a new organizational chart reflecting the current district organization.

Support team: The chief explained that he would like to split the support team into two groups—events and rehab. He is looking for someone to lead the support team. He has approached Alan McMahan, but Alan is too busy at this time. The search continues.

AFG: The district was awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for the year 07-08. The federal government had money left over and decided to award those grants they felt were worthy. This makes our 08-09 grant application for the same equipment null and void. Chief Hamilton has already gotten bids on the requested equipment. The pricing thankfully came in at the 07-08 prices.

Old Business:

Policy review: The board requested copies of the policies to review a few days ahead of time. This month, Chapter 4 (Board Meetings), Chapter 5 (Public Records) and Chapter 7 (District Budgeting) are up for review. The board reviewed the policies and made two changes to Chapter 5. Changes were regarding the amount of money charged for copies and clarifying that charges for copies are per page.

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to approve Chapter 4 of the policy and procedure manual as presented. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to approve Chapter 5 of the policy and procedure manual with two noted amendments. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Jim Heater moved to approve Chapter 7 of the policy and procedure manual as presented. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

New Business:

Fuel at Station 52: Jim Heater explained to the board that the practice of fueling up at the farm started about 25 years ago with a “handshake agreement” between himself and Chief Kevin Hendricks. The problem with the system is that the information was not being transferred to the district to be paid often enough. There is a backup of logged info spanning more than five years. Jim presented the log, which includes the name of the person obtaining the fuel, the amount of fuel obtained, the date and the rig being fueled. Jim said that if the board decides to continue with the fueling at the farm, there should be a six-month period for billing.

--The board was glad that the chief’s initial estimate for the fuel bill was quite high.

--Board members wanted to know why it took so long to get a bill.

--Jim said he didn’t know.

--The board wanted to know who was responsible.

--Jim said that he was, ultimately.

--Gary clarified that it was indeed farm fuel being put into the rigs and asked if we could legally do that.

--Jim noted that the district doesn’t pay federal taxes, so that shouldn’t be an issue.

--Jeff said that he was ok with paying the entire bill tonight.

--Gary said it took five years to get the bill. He didn’t feel the district should have to pay everything in a lump sum tonight.

--Jeff said that he would like to get the issue resolved ASAP.

--There was discussion that Pacific Pride presents an element for tracking that just isn’t possible with a handwritten log. Also, there was some concern with ethics laws and exposure for Jim and the farm entering into an agreement with the district.

--Gary didn’t see any reason why the rigs from 52 couldn’t be filled up in town on a drill night.

--Jeff felt like the district is saving money by filling up at the farm.

--Rick felt that it created a potential conflict of interest without saving much money. He felt that the district could make an exception and allow fueling at the farm in the case of emergencies only. He also said that he would like to get the bill off the books this year, but would prefer to pay part of the bill now and part of the bill later, after seeing how the budget is shaping up for the year.

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to approve payment of \$1070.50 to Silver Mountain Tree Farms for an accrued fuel bill. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous. Jim Heater abstained from voting.

--Gary felt that the decision about further fueling at Station 52 was an operational matter and should be decided by the chief.

Good of the Order: The Halloween Open House will be from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

--Ralph will be attending the Joint Conference, along with Mike and the chief.

--The community newsletter will be coming out in November. There will be a focus on recruitment. Amy and the chief requested that board members submit articles. The board asked for potential topics.

--Kent noted that the association is looking for local people with a specialty that they can offer the district (e.g., IT stuff, etc.)

--There was discussion regarding events, support, recruiting, etc.

--Rick suggested the association donate a chain link fence to span the length of Starr Street at the park.

--Next meeting will be November 12, 2008.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to adjourn the meeting. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Amy Doran

Approved by Ralph Fisher