

Sublimity Fire District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Meeting called to order: by Rick Kauffman at 7:02 p.m.

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

Staff present: Chief Brandon Hamilton, Amy Doran

Others present: Tim Gardner, Tim Heater, Jim Heater, Erik Hansen, Tony Menk, Kent Silbernagel, Kevin DeBoer, Jonathan Cartney, Angela Hargin, Dustin Hamilton, Nick Lane, Jan Hupp, Ethan Hupp, Fred Patterson, Jo Tucker, Rick Bergerson, Terry Walstrom, Gary Farmer and George Dunkel (SDAO).

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

Citizen Comments: None

Firefighters Association Input: Nick Lane recapped the Turkey Shoot for the board. He noted that it was the busiest he'd seen in years. The district Christmas potluck is next Thursday. Firefighters will be delivering Christmas dinner baskets on the 17th. The first annual Candy Cane Day was very successful. He also thanked Carl Messick (Silver Ridge Tree Farm) and Jim & Tim Heater (Silver Mtn Christmas Trees) for their donation of the department's lovely community Christmas tree.

**At this time, Rick Kauffman elected to begin with Old Business in the interest of our guest speaker and other guests attending the meeting.*

Old Business: Exploratory Report for contract for administrative services with Drakes Crossing RFPD (DCFD): Chief Hamilton presented the exploratory report regarding the contract for administrative services with DCFD. This same report was presented to the DCFD board last week. Rick Kauffman explained his concerns regarding liabilities. He feels a director's job is to be an advocate for the residents of **Sublimity Fire District**.

George Dunkel, a consultant for SDAO, introduced himself. He is a retired chief who has been very involved in the Oregon fire service. He has experience with mergers and contracts for services. When asked whether the district would be opening its doors to further liability, he said yes, but that happens with any action taken in a fire district. He stressed that he was not an opponent/proponent of the proposal, he was just here to answer questions. He cited some examples of intergovernmental agreements throughout the state. Both boards were afforded the opportunity to ask questions about the proposal. Mr. Dunkel's advice was to weigh the risk vs. benefits of a contract and whether it would be a win-win for both districts.

Gary Farmer from DCFD said that he was interested in providing the best possible service to the citizens of DCFD, that the DCFD board was trying to examine all possible options, that they were not interested in a merger/consolidation, but that they were willing to consider a contract for services.

There was discussion regarding the financial impacts of an agreement. Jeff Kropf felt that one day per week at the DCFD station seemed a little light. There was discussion regarding the impact/benefit of hiring a training officer. Jeff Kropf said that he was open to the idea of the proposal if it makes sense for the district. He stressed

that it has to work for everyone, and it has to benefit the citizens. He wants to be sensitive to issues of fairness and assure that there is “absolute transparency” in the agreement.

The board president opened the floor to the audience. Some of the firefighters detailed the need for a paid training officer. Rick Kauffman wanted to know the benefits of entering into an agreement, aside from hiring a training officer. Gary Rychard said he didn’t see the downside to trying it. He felt an upside would be a reduction in liability (through an increase in personnel and an increased level of training).

MOTION: Ralph Fisher moved to extend an offer of a joint meeting with the Drakes Crossing Fire District Board of Directors, with SDAO acting as facilitator. Gary Rychard seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

There was discussion regarding how an agreement would make improvements in response to the Drift Creek area. There was discussion regarding the success of the current training program put together by Mike Patrick. Gary Rychard commended all of the volunteers for stepping up and putting in the time to train. The board commended the exploratory committee (Fred Patterson & Brandon Hamilton) on its report.

*** There was a 10-minute recess at 8:15 p.m. Upon returning, the board resumed the regular flow as outlined in the agenda.*

Reading of Minutes: The board reviewed the minutes from the month of November.

MOTION: Tom Etzel moved to approve the minutes for November 18, 2009 as presented. Gary Rychard seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Communications: None

Payment of Bills: The board reviewed bills and payments for the month of November.

MOTION: Ralph Fisher moved to pay the bills for November as presented. Tom Etzel seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Chief’s Report:

Alarms: Alarm reports were unavailable, but Chief Hamilton reviewed the alarm totals for the board.

There was discussion regarding the tracking of DCFD training information through FireHouse software.

New Business: None

Good of the Order:

Upcoming Events: Potluck, food baskets

There was discussion regarding the procurement of a permanent Christmas tree and its possible locations.

The district will be hosting a Wildland Engine Boss Academy that should bring in a profit.

Chief Hamilton asked the board if it would be willing to cook for the Firefighters Association business meeting. The board was delighted and made arrangements to cook for the meeting in February.

Chief Hamilton has secured Silver Falls Vineyard for the fire district banquet.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary Rychard seconded. Motion passed; unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Amy Doran

Approved by Rick Kauffman