

**Sublimity Fire District
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 14, 2005**

Meeting called to order: by Kyle Amsberry at 7:00 p.m.

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

Staff present: Chief Tim Frost, Office Administrator Amy Manning

Others present: Gene Ditter, Alan McMahan

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

Citizen Comments: Gary Rychard noted that the Harvest Festival committee said thank you for letting it be a part of the Turkey Shoot. The committee would be interested in being involved again.

Volunteer Association Input: Gene Ditter said that the association appreciated the help from the Harvest Festival folks at the Turkey Shoot. Without them, there would not have been enough people. The Turkey Shoot did well, clearing \$1,200-1,300. The Christmas tree lighting also went well. Gene felt that next year it would be beneficial to use Pacific Power's high boom. He noted that at least 100 people came to the station afterward for cocoa and cider and to visit with Santa. Also, there were many compliments on the tree and the new lights. Ralph Fisher confirmed with Gene that the Christmas tree was not one that is scheduled to be cut down.

Reading of Minutes:

Motion: Ralph Fisher moved to approve the minutes for November 9, 2005. Gary Rychard seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Communications: None

Payment of Bills: Ralph Fisher asked about the tax dollars coming in. Amy Manning explained that things were looking good in the month of December. Amounts being received were about what was expected.

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

Chief's Report: Alarms: Chief Frost reviewed the alarm totals for the board.

Icy Weather: There was general discussion about the recent spell of icy weather and slippery roads. He noted that the rescue and the duty pickup now have studded tires to help combat slippery roads.

Tailboard Riding: Chief Frost was approached by a member from Station 52 who was no longer willing to ride the tailboard. The chief noted that tailboard riding is a practice that isn't done anymore. It's not illegal. In his opinion, it's just a bad practice. He contacted the insurance company to find out its opinion. The company said that if anyone gets injured while riding the tailboard, the workers' compensation insurance could increase by 140 times over the amount it is now. This is a huge risk for the district, especially while there is a remedy. There are currently two four-door engines

at Station 51. It would be possible to put one of them at Station 52. Chief Frost feels this is an issue for the board to decide.

- Jeff Kropf asked why the past decision prohibiting tailboard riding was reversed.
- Alan McMahan said that members from Station 52 had come in and discussed the issue with the board and the board reversed its decision.
- Jeff asked about the possibility of responding with two vehicles instead of the one.
- Chief Frost discussed possible remedies.
- Gary Rychard said the decision for the board is whether to allow the practice. Then it becomes an operational decision for the chief to find a remedy.
- Jeff asked about the outcomes of departments that have had problems with tailboard riding.
- Chief Frost said that most of the cases were from out of state.
- Rick Kauffman asked what was so important about tailboard riding.
- Chief Frost said that the issue was not so much about the tailboards; the issue is that the Station 52 members really want that particular engine (E-52).
- Ralph Fisher asked how often both of the engines from Station 51 go out at the same time.
- Chief Frost said he was comfortable, with Stayton being so close, responding with one engine from Station 51.
- Alan said that the staffing just isn't there to roll the second engine.
- Chief Frost would like the members from Station 52 to work with him to find a solution. The original reaction he got from them was that they didn't even want to discuss it.
- Kyle Amsberry asked how the issue came about.
- Chief Frost said a member approached him with concerns so he investigated. NFPA 1901 states that all positions shall be seated and belted (with the exception of old equipment).

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to permanently eliminate the use of tailboard riding in the district due to safety and liability issues. Ralph Fisher seconded. Motion carried; a voice vote was unanimous.

- Kyle wanted to be sure that members knew this was not a knee-jerk reaction from the board to someone speaking up. The board is looking out for members' safety.
- Chief Frost said he would try to work with Station 52 members to find a desirable remedy.
- The board felt that there would be less friction if the Station 52 members were involved in the decision. More possible remedies were discussed.
- Kyle asked Chief Frost to look into the costs for fixing the brakes on or replacing the brush rig.

Old Business: None

New Business: PERS pool: Chief Frost explained the PERS offers the option to join a pool. He recommended against it.

- Alan McMahan said that the district has never joined the pool nor thought it would be a good idea to do so.

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved not to join the PERS pool. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Insurance: Amy Manning presented the board with new options for employee health and dental insurance. It is not feasible to continue the HSA program because Chief Frost is not eligible for it. The new healthcare options would all be provided by Pacific Source through Wilson-Heirgood. Amy recommended a PPO with a \$20 co-pay, an additional 10/20/40 prescription plan, and a dental plan provided by Special Districts Association of Oregon. The new plans will actually save the district money over the current plans. Also, instead of providing vision insurance, staff recommended providing a \$200 vision allowance, available on a reimbursement basis. There was some discussion relative to allowing opposite-sex domestic partners to be covered. The board felt that not to do so would be a discriminatory act.

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to accept the new insurance policies as recommended by staff. Ralph Fisher seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to establish a reimbursement policy for the chief and office administrator, capped at \$200/year/employee. Ralph Fisher seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Jeff Kropf moved to approve coverage for opposite-sex domestic partners. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Good of the Order: The annual district Christmas potluck is on Thursday, December 15, at 6:30 p.m. Santa got injured and will not be attending this year.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Kropf seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Amy Manning

Approved by Kyle Amsberry