

Okanogan Fire District #16
Commissioners Meeting
February 5, 2007

Meeting was called to order by Sam Wright at 6:00 P.M. on February 5, 2007

Those in attendance:

Mort Yanow	Mike Woelke
Karen Kenyon	Cleo Brock
Jim Wheeler	Shauneen Wheeler
Greg Roberts	Lyman Skow
Pam Skow	Jack Dennison
Tim Kenyon	Sam Wright
Roger Prater	Donna Prater

All actions shall be in the form of resolutions. The form will be numbered as follows: Year-Month-Day-Res.# {07-02-05-01}

Karen Kenyon is the new secretary of the Fire Association. A copy of the operating agreement was presented by Jim Wheeler who made a copy for DNR and fire district. It is usually a five year contract. It is similar to 70-80 other districts. It helps us to agree. No resolution is required for this.

Sam talked to the attorney about the request to hold meetings in Aeneas Valley. He said that if we really wanted to, we could unless someone really complains about the lack of handicapped access. If someone complains, he will talk to them. There are pros and cons on this.

Tim has been very active this past week. He has contacted Wal-Mart and Home Depot looking for donations.

We did not put resolution numbers on our actions at the first meetings.

Sam read the minutes of the last meeting, January 15, 2007. Roger Prater moved to accept the minutes as read. Sam seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report:

Jim Wheeler reported that a list of 36 interested people was developed. These people, plus another 4 or 5 people were invited to a meeting to discuss the Wenatchee Valley Training Program. We had a limit of 15 people to attend that training. Jim developed a form for the people to fill out regarding their desires and abilities pertaining to fire fighting. We chose 15 people to attend the classes that started last Friday. Only one person backed out. It is too late to fill the position that was backed out of. Jim is very impressed with our group of trainees. For the people that were not included in this class, we will be holding other classes later in the year.

Jim suggested that the District Grant Coordinator should be listed under the Fire Chief on the Organizational Chart so that information will be readily available to those who need it.

Grant Activities:

Jim closed out two DNR grants from last year. \$235.00 is coming from DNR grant. The other one is just an issue of getting receipts to DNR for money that was spent. Jim will make an affidavit stating what was spent and for what.

He has also filed for firefighter property equipment grant. He specifically asked for a truck. Two other grants have been applied for. One is for \$11,612.00 and misc. other equipment. Total of \$19,812.00. It is a matching grant. It will give us the backend of a truck but not the truck to put it on. We cannot ask for two trucks at the same time, so he is going for the sure thing. The \$235.00 will go back to the association as a donation from Jim and Tim. There is one more grant coming up. It is a federal grant. Around September we should put on a practice burn of some sort, to help train for structure protection.

Roger asked who will be in charge as fire chief if Jim is not here. At this point, Jim has not chosen anyone, He wants to wait and let the permanent Fire Chief do that, once one is chosen.

EMS Situation:

Sam stated that we really are interested in getting an ambulance in the area. It looks like we will have to wait for a while to see about this. We are getting conflicting information, so will have to put it on the back burner for a while. Jim said he is interested in being a “first responder” so that we can stabilize someone, but not be an Emergency Medical System. The fire district and the Emergency Medical System need to stay separate.

Association:

Karen asked what is expected of her and the Association. The Association will handle donations and raising money for items needed by the Fire District. Grants are separate. Jim felt that a clear definition needs to be set for grants and donations. We need to know who takes care of what. Jim is to take care of Grants and Karen and the Association will deal with donations and fund raising.

Development of Bars:

Sam said that we have to set up what we need and decide if we want to go into debt to get needed items. We won't be getting any tax monies for about 16 months.

Tim has asked Wal-Mart and Home Depot for grants. Home Depot doesn't give money, but they do give tools. We just need to get a list of needed items to them. Jim will put a list of needed items together and give it to Tim. The County will loan us money, but they charge 6 ½% interest on what is borrowed. We need to get insurance first, before doing anything else.

Jim said that we can go through GSA for some items, such as a laptop computer.

Roger Prater asked if we have first aid kits to send with the men when they go on training. Jim said we don't need any at this time. They already have what is needed for the time being. We need insurance prior to getting something like that.

Tim said he will go to Wal-Mart and ask for money for insurance for the rest of this year. It will be \$594.0 plus 10% brokerage fee. The broker is Martin Morris, in Okanogan. That is the cheapest insurance for the coverage that Tim has been able to find. Other districts have gone with him too. Once we start the 6 months, we must pay more in September. They want 12 months notice to switch companies. So we would actually be signing a contract for 18 months. It is the smallest policy Tim could find in the state. The commissioners asked Tim to see if Wal-mart will pay for the 1 ½ year's worth of insurance. If Wal-Mart won't go for that much, then we can ask them for ½ of that and borrow the rest from the county.

Jim said we need a good copier. Roger said he will ask Office Depot if they will donate a copier and paper to the fire district. Tonasket has an old one we can have if we can't get a new one.

Jim is trying to get some doctors to give physicals to our volunteer fire fighters for \$50.00 or less.

Tim reminded us that we will not be getting tax money for quite some time. Probably about 48% by June of 08, and 95% of value by May of 2009. The county will handle us as a Junior Entity which means they handle our bills on a weekly basis.

Tim moved to make a resolution to use Cities Insurance and Mike Morris Agency and they will write the policy for a date in the future. Resolution number 07-02-05-01. Sam seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

They will use April 19 as the date to start the insurance. Tim will make sure the Association has the money to pay for the insurance. Tim would like to take the money Wal-Mart gives us and put it in a bank account that would start us out at about \$300.00. That way we won't have to pay interest fees to the county

Jim said that the Association is for donations and the Fire District is for grants. They are different. We need a list of items that are needed so we know who to ask for what. A grant is a request for a specific item. A donation is money for any use. It depends on who asks for grant as to where it has to go. We need to prioritize a list of items. It was also to pay volunteers who have insurance that we pay their co-pay. The list could be compiled by phone at a later date.

The Dunn and Bradstreet number has been applied for. The FID number needs to be signed. Tim has it. Sam needs to sign it. Tim will approach Wal-Mart for insurance money on the 15th. Sam will submit an article for permanent jobs. If no one applies, the interim people will become permanent.

Tim said Jim came up with a design for letter head. We will use one as an interim logo. Tim would like more input.

Mike will send a list of things he is putting on web sight. There will be a place for pictures. Roger Prater will contact Office Depot for a copier and paper. We will meet in two weeks time. If people have items for agenda they can e-mail them to Sam. We need to spend time on the lists we need to establish how many items we need on the Bar codes. We must use their numbers, but can change the names.

Roger moved to adjourn. Same seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by

Donna Prater

