

Fire District 16 Minutes

Meeting Date- September 4, 2007

Attendance

Commissioners- Sam Wright, Tim Kenyon, Roger Prater
Secretary/Treasurer- Ken Thompson
George Warter, Mike Woelke, Skip McKenzie, Penny Wright, Gordon Smith,
Rick Taylor, Karen Kenyon, Pam Skow, Lyman Skow, Lynn Taylor, Jan Wittmayer,
Reva Eisenbarth, Nadia Aronson

6:00 PM- As chair Sam brought the meeting to order and summarized the agenda.

General Discussions-

- Sam read the minutes of the last meeting.
- Gordon Smith- Gordon would like his and Janet Smith's Aeneas Valley Fire District personnel files returned to them. Gordon read a letter to the group outlining his reasons and justifications to have the files returned. Gordon presented this letter signed by himself and Janet to the Commissioners.

The commissioners discussed their reasons for keeping the files which, as with all personnel files, are kept in a locked file cabinet for security reasons. Sam had previously contacted a County lawyer who advised the Fire District to keep the records. Sam had sent the Smiths an email explaining this decision; however the Smiths did not receive the email. Sam will resend the email.

Gordon stated he would like a copy of the minutes of this meeting.

- Roger- Discussed bulk mailing information within the Fire District. To mail about 200 pieces would require a \$160 permit and a \$160 fee. The Fire District may find using stamps more cost effective. Obtaining addresses of registered voters in the Fire District was discussed. Yvonne said she has a list of registered voters. How to determine which folks in the Fire District should receive the mailing was discussed.
- Sam read a letter from Jim Wheeler resigning his position as Fire Chief for personal reasons. A resolution (#090407-1) was presented to accept Jim's resignation. The resolution recognized the amount of work involved in bring this district into existence and wishes to extend its gratitude to the efforts put forth by Jim Wheeler. The resolution was signed by the three commissioners.
- A resolution (#090407-2) was presented creating the position of Assistant Fire Chief and placing Tim Kenyon into that position on an interim basis. The resolution was signed by commissioners Sam and Roger.

- Sam presented charts to the group that need to be updated. Sam needs dates of the fires the Fire District responded to. Revisions to the organization chart were discussed.
- Training- First aid and CBR training may be held in November. This training does not include Automatic External Defibrillator training. Radio training should be held in about two weeks. Drivers training for emergency vehicles was discussed. Tim handed out a publication from our insurance company that discussed training the Fire District could participate in. Fire fighter training is scheduled for September 11th.

General Discussions-

- Roger- will attend a Washington Fire Commission meeting scheduled for October 25-27 in Pasco, WA.
- The Fire District budget was discussed.
- Grants were discussed.
- The tender is about 98% complete.
- Distribution of fire equipment within the Fire District was discussed.

Action Items-

- Yvonne is creating thank-you letters that can be personalized to show appreciation to folks for their help and contributions within the Fire District.
- Roger will send Yvonne a potential list to use in the distribution of thank-you letters. Sam will sign the letters.
- Yvonne is creating a letter detailing the progress the Fire District has made. This letter will be mailed to folks within the Fire District.
- Tim brought up a reimbursement that needed to be modified. Sam signed the modification.
- The necessity of and options for putting a Fire District 16 logo on Fire District trucks was discussed.
- Roger has a form folks can fill out if they want to participate or ask questions during Fire District meetings.

Several questions were presented to the commissioners from folks who attended this meeting. A brief summary of several of questions and answers follows:

Question- When can folks come to Fire District meetings and ask questions?

Response-Commissioner meetings are generally work meetings. If someone has a complex question they should submit it in writing to the commissioners who will research a response and provide an answer at the next meeting. During public meetings anyone can ask a question. It is suggested complex questions be provide in writing before the meeting to give the commissioners a chance to research a response.

Question- What if someone has a simple question?

Response- The commissioners will answer the question immediately.

Question- How does money come into the Fire District?

The Fire District is currently using a \$5,000 loan from the County to operate until tax revenues become available probably next March. The Fire District doesn't know how much the tax revenues will be but the County provided a rough estimate of \$17,000. Sam mentioned this type information could be included in the information letter Yvonne is working on.

Question- Is there a minimum number of fire fighters needed to maintain a fire district?

Response- Sam responded he was not aware of minimum numbers.

Question- Why are various types of information required from volunteer fire fighters?

Answer- A lengthy discussion followed describing many of the information requirements of the Fire District. Tim will investigate information requirements from our insurance agency.

Question- Can the Fire District currently respond to fires?

Answer- Yes. If some calls 911 and reports a fire, the Fire District will respond. In addition, mutual aid agreements provide much additional support if a major fire should occur in the Fire District. For example DNR fire will respond to rangeland fires and Tonasket fire will respond when needed. Structure fires can be fought from the outside by the Aeneas Valley Fire District and Tonasket Fire can enter a structure to fight a fire. More training is needed before Aeneas Valley Fire Fighters will be able to enter a structure during a fire.

The next commissioner's work meeting is scheduled for September 17th at Florence Sicks home.

