

Fire District 16 Minutes

Commissioners Work Meeting and Open Meeting

Meeting Date- April 14, 2008

Attendance

Commissioners- Sam Wright, Roger Prater, Tim Kenyon, Secretary- Ken Thompson and about 70 Aeneas Valley residents including several volunteer firefighters

6:15 PM- As chair Sam brought the meeting to order.

The meeting start time was delayed 15 minutes to allow for folks to gather at a new meeting location in the Tonasket Elementary School. A work meeting of the commissioners was held prior to the open meeting. The minutes of this work meeting will be discussed later.

Open Meeting-

At about 7:00 PM the meeting was opened to questions and comments from the public. Of particular note was a substantially improved dialog between both residents and commissioners as both groups begin to understand the issues and concerns represented on both sides of the table. In an effort to improve, it is the commissioner's intent to continually address citizen concerns.

Commissioner Sam Wright apologized for the conduct of previous meetings and those who may have been offended.

It is noted that communication between residents and the fire district is being substantially improved by recent efforts of both residents and fire district volunteers.

- Many thanks to the volunteer firefighters including Mike Woelke and Skip McKenzie for their efforts to construct a community bulletin board at the entrance to the fire district at 404 Aeneas Valley Road. The main structure of the bulletin board is up and finishing touches are in the works.
- Many thanks to Jim Eisenbarth for his pledge to build a community bulletin board at the intersection of Aeneas Valley Road and Cape Labelle Road (near the mail boxes).
- Many thanks to the Aeneas Valley Store to allow fire district information to be posted and an offer to copy documents on the bulletin board for 10 cents per copy.

These bulletin boards will facilitate information such as minutes, meeting agendas and times, maps of the fire district that include escape routes, and other fire district information.

- Many thanks to Gordon Smith for his presentation encouraging community involvement in the fire district.
- Many thanks to personnel from the Tonasket Elementary School for allowing the meeting to be held in their facility.

During the open session of the meeting many questions from residents were presented and responded to by the commissioners and other fire district personnel. Below is a sample of the topics discussed but does not represent all topics addressed during the meeting:

- Publication of agendas prior to meetings
- A procedure to get on the agenda of fire district meetings
- Fire district budget
- The fire district's 5-year plan
- Forms for fire district volunteers
- Status of the fire district web site
- Purchasing tools within the fire district.
- The locations of fire vehicles in the district
- Improving minutes to better represent both sides of issues
- Future plans to assign Mike Woelke as fire chief

Work Meeting-

- The difference between commissioner "work meetings" and "open meetings" was addressed.
 - Work Meetings- Most commissioner meetings are work meetings in which the day-to-day operations of the fire district are resolved. The public is invited to attend and listen to the meeting. The public is generally asked to hold comments and questions until an open meeting is scheduled.
 - Open Meetings- These meetings are for questions and suggestions from the public to be presented to the commissioners. Written questions prior to the meeting are encouraged to allow commissioners time to research and provide a response.
- Sam read the minutes from the March 10th meeting and the two meetings held on March 28th. Motions to approve the minutes from each meeting were made and seconded. Sam also read RCW 42.30.050 to the group.
- Ken presented a summary of fire district income and expenditures through March, 2008.
- Ken presented four vouchers for the commissioners to sign for bills generated by the fire district. They were a \$48.40 bill from Coleman Oil for fuel, a \$7.33 bill from Midway supply for bolts, a \$36.30 from Damskov Auto fire vehicle parts, and a \$336.05 voucher to the Board of Volunteer Firefighters for firefighter physicals. The Board of Volunteer Firefighters typically pays the bill for these physicals resulting in no cost to the fire district.
- Roger presented forms and instructions about how to get on the agenda of a fire district meeting. Roger also presented several forms that could be used by the fire district.
- Tim discussed fire chief activities:
 - Fire district efforts to move from a class 10 to a class 9 rating were discussed. A recent letter from the Washington State Review Board about the status of these ratings was also discussed.

- A 1989 F-350 4x4 pickup recently donated to the fire district from the federal government and made available by DNR was discussed. The Aeneas Valley Community Association funded fuel and per diem costs to transport the vehicle from the East Coast.
- Upcoming training for firefighters was discussed.
- Inventory issues are being addressed.
- Two fire calls were made within the district.
 - The first was to a fire caused by an electrical line that was downed by a falling tree. A resulting brush fire that consumed less than 500 square feet was extinguished by eight volunteer firefighters and district equipment. Roger had questions about safety procedures used when working near downed power lines.
 - The second fire was a controlled burn on private property on Tamarack Road. Inspection of the burn the next day showed the fire was abandoned, had gone underground, and needed to be extinguished. The fire was extinguished.
- The possibility of purchasing a 1984 F-800 fire truck that could be used on structural fires was discussed. Skip provided additional details about the truck and the equipment that is included with the truck. A purchase price of \$8,000 that could be financed was highlighted. An inspection of the truck is scheduled.
- Mike Woelke discussed grants used by the fire district. There are several types of grants ranging from a 50/50 grant (the fire district pays half) to a 100% grant (the district pays nothing). Mike then discussed how the fire district has benefited from the grant process in the past and future grant prospects. Grants have been used to purchase radios and material to build two skids saving the district significant amounts of money. Future costs for a tender, personnel protective equipment, and other firefighting equipment valued at about \$130,000 may only cost the district about \$7,000 using grants. A computer will be purchased for the fire district using a 100% grant, costing the district nothing.
- The commissioners wanted to acknowledge the efforts of Skip McKenzie for soliciting a letter of support from our congressional representative and local commissioner.

Sam discussed the ten items included in petition presented by Jim Eisenbarth at the March 10th meeting. Sam read each of the ten items, proposed a response to each item, and then asked each commissioner if they agreed to the proposed response or not. The proposed response to each of the ten items on the petition was agreed to by each commissioner making the response official.

Sam then read questions from a flyer that been distributed in the district. Answers to each of the questions on the flyer were provided.

Mike Woelke provided a handout to the audience that provided a historical prospective of the accomplishments of fire district. Topics included- the beginning of the fire district, grants, financial status, vehicles, personnel, training, fire district responsibilities, fire district limitations, current projects, how we operate, challenges and staying informed. The commissioners wish to thank Mike for creating this informative handout.

A firefighter drivers training courses using several fire vehicle configurations was discussed by Roger.

Sam proposed the next meeting be held in two week at a location and time to be determined.

8:03 PM Sam moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded.

Chairperson

Commissioner

Commissioner

Secretary
(Meeting minutes to be filed)

