

Fire District 16 Minutes Commissioners Work Meeting

Meeting Date- April 28, 2008

Attendance

Commissioners- Sam Wright (absent), Roger Prater, Tim Kenyon

Secretary- Ken Thompson

and about 27 residents and fire district volunteers

6:07 PM- As acting chair Roger brought the meeting to order.

Roger read the minutes of the April 14 meeting. Two changes to the minutes were made and a motion to approve the revised minutes was made and seconded.

A picture of the community bulletin board built and installed by Jim Eisenbarth was passed around for everyone to see. Nice job Jim, thanks for your efforts.

- Ken detailed the fire district budget through April and had the commissioners sign a \$690 voucher to pay for firefighter insurance.

Emails from residents may need to be addressed at our next meeting on May 12th if there is insufficient time to address them during this meeting.

Conducting future meetings at the Sun Ranch is being investigated.

A resolution on a petition has been postponed until our next meeting.

Tim discussed fire chief activities-

- Discussed a burn by BIA in our area.
- Described the current location and status of fire vehicles in the valley.
- Described two leases for fire equipment that need to be drafted.
- Training continues with an emphasis on structure fires.
- Skip discussed fire equipment at Fire District #9.
- Tim and Skip picked up donated equipment that included air packs, boots, helmets, and other equipment. The cost of this donated equipment is estimated to be about \$41,000 if we had to pay for it.
- A written Standard Operation Plan and an Equipment Operating Plan has been obtained that can be used to help draft Fire District 16 plans.
- Skip discussed activities at other fire districts and the dedication of the volunteer firefighters in these districts.
- Tim described the process to move and fill water tanks in the valley and the status of fire tender 1612.
- Tim discussed future plans for the fire vehicles in the district. Mike provided additional information on the status of fire vehicles in the district and the procedures used to move the vehicles in the valley. Fire vehicles are driven to town to be refueled because the fire district has no fuel storage.

Roger discussed how the upcoming fire season and the need for the fire district to respond to fires may slow other activities in the district.

Roger discussed a possible grange in the district, Red Cards, and pictures of fire district equipment.

New business-

- A contract for Tim's tender needs to be written and formalized.
- A contract for a dozer from Taz construction needs to be written and formalized.
- Tim indicated a credit card for the fire district has been approved by the county. Who may use the credit card and under what circumstances needs to be formalized in an SOP. Tim indicated a bank account for the fire district is not allowed by the County.
- The potential purchase of a Lewis County fire truck that could be used on structure fires with wild land applications was discussed. The truck is a 1984 F-800 vehicle in good working order. Skip described the equipment and accessories included with the truck. If the truck is purchased it would be immediately ready for use in the district after the installation of a radio. The truck would allow firefighters to train for structure fires and allow the firefighters to respond to structure fires in the valley. The purchase of the truck would be \$500 down and a repayment plan of \$1,000 twice a year (May and November) until the \$8,000 purchase price had been satisfied. The truck would be a key fire fighting vehicle for the valley and is being offered at an extremely attractive price.
- Roger moved to approve the purchase of the fire truck and Tim seconded the motion.
- Insurance coverage will be needed for the fire truck.
- Tim described the SOPs included on CD's provided by Ephrata that he would like to have printed at about \$17 per copy. The commissioners approved funds to print and copy the CD's.

Old Business-

- Water tanks for the district have been acquired and will be filled and placed in key valley locations.
- Red Card issues have been resolved.

At 7:00 PM Roger determined there was sufficient time remaining in the meeting to address questions from residents attending the meeting. The following is a summary of some of the questions and answers.

- Question- does the fire district plan on acquiring "jaws of life" rescue equipment?
Answer- The "jaws of life" equipment is a very important rescue device and the fire district definitely wants to obtain this equipment. This equipment is very expensive however and it may need to be purchased in subsequent years when funding is available. Skip will do more research on the topic.
- An "Automatic External Defibrillator" (AED) purchase is being evaluated by the Aeneas Valley Community Association. Karen discussed training for the AED.
- Question- can the fire district park fire vehicles in one location for residents to view perhaps on the 4th of July or the 4th weekend in June at Sun ranch? Answer- Yes. This is a good idea and the district will develop plans to do so. Tim also

indicated this may be a good opportunity to recruit additional volunteer fire fighters.

- Question- are there plans for an ambulance with EMT support for the valley? Currently there is a 50 minute response time for this type health care in the valley. Answer- the prospects and requirements were discussed. A fire station would need to be built first to house this rescue equipment. An ambulance with EMT support is very important for the valley but will probably take several years to get everything going.
- Question- If DNR requests help from the fire district for one of their fires will there be any Aeneas Valley fire fighting equipment and firefighters left to fight fires in Aeneas Valley? Answer- Yes. Protecting Aeneas Valley is the primary responsibility of the fire district and Aeneas Valley will always be our first priority.

During a DNR fire, the fire district plans on keeping at least two brush trucks, a tender, and an adequate number of firefighters in Aeneas Valley to protect the valley. Typically one fire vehicle and two firefighters will respond to DNR's request. If a fire outside the fire district boundaries threatens Aeneas Valley it is important to respond to this fire before it gets into Aeneas Valley. Equipment and firefighters can be recalled at anytime there is a need to protect the valley with the added assurance of outside help made possible by the mutual aid agreements between our fire district and other fire districts in the area.

Income from DNR fires is an important revenue source for the fire district and the fire district will continue to respond to DNR requests for help as part of our mutual aid agreement. Protecting Aeneas Valley however, is the first priority of the fire district.

- Questions about grants used by the fire district were discussed.
- Residents are reminded that burn permits are required in Aeneas Valley. Additionally, DNR will come onto your property and assess the fire danger. Their Colville office can be contacted at 687-7474.

The next fire district meeting is scheduled for May 12th at 6:00 PM at the Tonasket Elementary School.

7:51 PM- The meeting was adjourned.

Chairperson

Commissioner

Commissioner