

Sublimity Fire District Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Meeting called to order: by Ralph Fisher at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Rick Kauffman, Gary Rychard, Ralph Fisher, Jim Heater

Staff present: Chief Brandon Hamilton, Amy Doran

Others present: Angela Hargin, Tim Heater, Kent Silbernagel

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: Chief Hamilton added BLS patient care to New Business and Neil R. MacDonald Grant to Good of the Order.

Citizen Comments: None

Firefighters Association Input: The association is looking to get a permanent Christmas tree. Once they find a potential tree, they need to pay for the spade to move the tree. They hope to plant the tree in spring. Gary Rychard mentioned Clark Yoder, a tree farm owner who works for the hospital with 25-30-foot trees he's willing to donate.

Reading of Minutes:

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to approve the minutes for January 14, 2009 as corrected. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Communications: None

Payment of Bills: The board reviewed bills and payments for the month of January. The board wanted to square away the Heater fuel bill.

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to pay the all the bills for January to include final payment of Jim Heater on fuel bill. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous. Jim Heater abstained from voting.

Chief's Report:

Alarms: Chief Hamilton reviewed alarms for the board for 2009. January was very busy. He also noted that Randy Simpson is now the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

Old Business: Chief Hamilton explained that Mark Jensen's term on the budget committee was also up. He spoke with Mark, who was willing to continue serving on the committee.

MOTION: Rick Kauffman moved to reappoint Mark Jensen to the budget committee. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Jim Heater wanted to know what had become of the Center Street property that had major fire hazard issues.

Chief Hamilton explained that the deadline for cleaning up the property was tomorrow. The owner has been making efforts to clean it up.

New Business:

New vehicles: Chief Hamilton said that the duty pickup has been burning a considerable amount of oil and that it has had other miscellaneous issues with wear

and tear. He would like to replace that vehicle and look at getting a second staff vehicle. There are used, outfitted vehicles available in neighboring districts for \$2,000-5,000. His main goal is to replace the command vehicle. He would like to set up a 14-year cycle for vehicles, where they are on the front line for seven years, then used as a staff vehicle for seven years. He is leaning toward an SUV (versus a pickup), like a suburban or expedition. The district can purchase the vehicle outright or lease it for three payments of approximately \$14,000 each.

-There was discussion regarding a mobile data center.

-The board clarified that Chief Hamilton wanted to put the duty pickup as a reserve vehicle, and buy a new command vehicle.

-Jim Heater asked about the difference in mileage between a staff vehicle versus a command vehicle.

-Gary Rychard was concerned about issues regarding the economy and possible decrease in incoming funds because of the economic climate.

-Rick Kauffman wanted to know how a command vehicle would meet the needs of the district. He needed more justification as to why the vehicle was needed instead of wanted. He said that he would prefer the duty pickup get checked out somewhere and the problems are documented, so there is a sound basis for purchasing a new vehicle.

-Ralph Fisher thought the prices sounded rather high.

-Chief Hamilton said the prices are lower now than they were in August of last year.

-Gary wanted to know if the new vehicle would have potential for EMS use.

-Chief Hamilton confirmed that it would. He then said that the duty pickup was starting to show signs of wear and tear.

-Ralph asked about the pros/cons of suburban or expedition.

-Chief Hamilton said that opinions were mixed. The differences relate to seating, room in the cab, etc.

-Gary clarified that the purchase would be taken out of the 2009-10 budget. He wanted to know when the vehicle would be road ready.

-Chief Hamilton said that it would depend on whether the chosen vehicle was in stock or had to be ordered.

-Ralph wanted to know what the reduction in price would be to get a Toughbook instead of an MDC and what the time limit was on the quote.

-Chief Hamilton clarified that the price difference would be approximately \$1,500 and the quote was good for 20 days.

-Gary wanted to know whether the district would have to go out for bid.

-Chief Hamilton said that, with the district's contracting rules, the district would have to go out for bid on the vehicle, but not on the other part of the package.

-Rick felt that there was nothing in the documentation provided by the chief that showed an actual need for a new vehicle.

-Gary didn't want the public upset by the impression that "we want to look good going to training." He said that wear, tear and fatigue are important, but the most important thing is that nobody gets hurt.

-Rick asked about the mileage on the county vehicles being replaced versus the mileage on the duty pickup.

-Chief Hamilton clarified that some had more, some had less.

-Ralph felt there is justification. The vehicle is 13 years old and has 120,000 miles on it. Someday the economy is going to turn around and auto prices are going to go back up.

-Gary said that the district could open up for bid now and save some money.

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to authorize Chief Hamilton to open up for bidding the replacement of the command vehicle. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Succession Planning: There was discussion regarding how to train board members. Chief Hamilton said that he would ask area chiefs what they do. Rick Kauffman wanted to keep this topic at the forefront. Gary and Rick are both up for election, possibly also Jim's position (depending on his decision regarding the ordinance).

Employment Contract: Chief Hamilton notified the board that he wants to renegotiate his contract. He would like to look at a three- to five-year contract. Ralph Fisher asked that a subcommittee negotiate with Chief Hamilton and the board do an evaluation as part of the process. Ralph and Rick will serve on the subcommittee.

Firehouse Software: The cost is going to be \$3,900. This software will streamline everything the administration does. There was extensive discussion regarding this software and its capabilities.

MOTION: Rick Kauffman moved to approve the expense for Firehouse Software. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

BLS patient care: Chief Hamilton explained that the board made its motion to drop to BLS care in April 2008 upon the insurance company's recommendation. The firefighters feel that some calls could benefit from ILS care. The chief feels the district is doing a disservice to its patrons by not doing ILS care. He called the insurance company, and a number of agencies increased their insurance coverage or decreased their care level, but none have done both except for Sublimity. Angela Hargin spoke about some incidents when being able to provide ILS care would've been nice. -Jim Heater reminded the board that he voted against the move to BLS-only care.

MOTION: Jim Heater moved to return to ILS treatment. Gary Rychard seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

The board agreed that there was no need to worry about providing extra coverage because coverage amounts had already been increased last year.

-Gary Rychard wondered if there would be additional costs for supplies and training.

-The chief explained that the district utilizes the hospital for supplies. The hospital bills us for the supplies we use, so we won't need to stock up on extras.

Good of the Order:

Chief Hamilton reminded the board about the upcoming awards banquet. He also explained that the Neil R. MacDonald Charitable Foundation awarded the district money for new radios and pagers. The district will need to do a supplemental budget. They don't need the budget committee for this. It just needs to be advertised.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to adjourn the meeting. Rick Kauffman seconded. Motion passed; unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.