

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

Meeting called to order: by Ralph Fisher at 7:05 p.m.

Members present: Gary Rychard, Ralph Fisher, Jim Heater

Staff present: Chief Brandon Hamilton, Amy Doran

Others present: Assistant Chief Mike Patrick

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: None

Citizen Comments: None

Firefighters Association Input: Mike Patrick mentioned the upcoming banquet. Gary Rychard approached the association regarding a community partnership for the North Santiam School District Homeless and Needy Teen program.

Reading of Minutes:

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to approve the minutes for February 11, 2009 as corrected. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Communications: Our Town Monthly printed a press release about the district's grants received.

Payment of Bills: The board reviewed bills and payments for the month of February. There was discussion regarding the increase in utilities. This was due to an increase in natural gas prices.

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to pay the bills for February as presented. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Chief's Report:

Alarms: Chief Hamilton reviewed alarms for the board for 2009. February was very busy. Alarm totals are up from this time last year.

Firehouse: The software has arrived. We already installed it. Silverton's copy arrived yesterday and Aumsville has had their copy a few weeks.

Old Business:

Chief contract/evaluation: The board reviewed its cumulative evaluation of Chief Hamilton. Chief Hamilton had no issues with anything listed in the evaluation. The board and chief felt it was unnecessary to break into Executive Session. In discussing the chief's EMT class, Gary asked how much time would be spent away from the district. Chief Hamilton explained that his class was from 8:30-10:30 on Mondays and Wednesdays, with lab on Monday afternoons. The board reviewed the new contract, with Ralph Fisher explaining any changes made to the original contract. The new contract will be open ended, beginning May 19th. Also, the termination without cause time period changed from 30 days to 90 days. In lieu of a vehicle allowance, the chief will be provided a vehicle. There was discussion regarding this change and the purchase of an additional vehicle. The new contract also includes a significant salary increase, the amount of which was determined by comparison with districts of like size

and call volume, staffing, budget, etc. There was discussion about level of experience with comparable districts. Jim Heater confirmed that it is standard practice for the district to pay the employee contribution for PERS. Gary Rychard wanted to know how the increase in salary would affect the budget. Chief Hamilton noted that the current budgeted amount for the chief's position was already more than what is needed to cover the increase. Also, the vehicle allowance line item will be going away.

-There was discussion about purchasing a command vehicle and chief's vehicle.

MOTION: Jim Heater moved to approve the chief's contract subject to appropriate language regarding flex time. Gary Rychard seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

Chief Hamilton thanked the board. The board congratulated him and thanked him for his successful service to the district.

Command vehicle: Chief Hamilton presented mechanical inspection information relating to the current duty pickup and discussed some of its various problems. The board decided to fix any and all issues relating to safety on the current duty pickup. Chief Hamilton has located a used Expedition in Seattle that he feels would be just what the district is looking for. There was discussion regarding the outfitting of a new rig or rigs. There was then lengthy discussion regarding whether to purchase a new or used vehicle and funding options. Some of the reasons behind looking at a new vehicle were because of low pricing with the current economy, available warranties and extended life of the vehicle. Mike Patrick noted that you can purchase a warranty for a used vehicle. The board requested the chief call legal counsel to find out if the district was eligible to enter into a traditional loan.

MOTION: Jim Heater moved to have the chief start the bid process on a command vehicle replacement. Gary Rychard seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

MOTION: Gary Rychard moved to approve the recommended repairs on the current command vehicle, including the passenger seat, with the exception of items three and four on the list. Jim Heater seconded. Motion passed; a voice vote was unanimous.

New Business:

The board elected to postpone the personnel policy discussion until the next meeting.

Good of the Order:

Chief Hamilton reminded the board about the upcoming awards banquet.

Adjourn:

MOTION: Jim Heater moved to adjourn the meeting. Gary Rychard seconded. Motion passed; unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Amy Doran

Approved by Ralph Fisher