

Spokane County Fire District #5
January 26, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Ryan, Sheri Rhoads and Todd Lehman

District Administrator: Carol Harrington

Guests: see attached sign in sheet

Time Meeting Began: 7:02p.m.

- **Flag Salute**
- **The minutes from the December 15, 2008 Regular Meeting and the January 20, 2009 Special Meeting were reviewed and approved as presented unanimously.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The January bills** were reviewed. The expenses were approved for \$14,064.57.
- **Correspondence:** BVFF Proposed WAC 491-03 re: further definitions of terms “firefighter, emergency worker, reserve officer, active”, Snure Law Office letter to all FD’s on volunteer compensation (we are already compliant), WFOA Legislative Report.
- **Administrators Report:** Carol sent the fax to the Spokane County Treasurer for the bond transfer amount of \$2.139 that is due bi-annually. Please note the new balance on the first page of this agenda. We have made eight payments and have six more to go before it is paid off. Carol has faxed the Vendor’s List request to The Spokesman Review. Carol requested the use of the district’s computer and the c.harrington@scfd5.org e-mail address to conduct business for the Spokane County Fire Commissioner Association (SCFCA); their board has recently appointed her as their new secretary. **Jim made a motion** for Carol to use the computer and e-mail address as new secretary for SCFCA, Sheri seconded and it passed unanimously
- **Fire Chief’s Report: Kjell**
 - **Personnel:** N/A
 - **Training:** N/A
 - **Stations:** Snow removal occurred at both stations by Ron Wood and Kjell; no damages.
 - **Equipment:** N/A
 - **Other:** Kjell reported he had been working with the Emergency Operations Center; he had driven our district’s roads to give a full snow report to the EOC. Carol was asked to send out two thank you cards: one to Marv Davis and one to Bill Lynch for their assistance in snow removal during a medical emergency where we could not gain road access to a home. He has not had time to contact Brian Belsby regarding Station 53 site water information; Todd said he has not contacted Brian either.

Old Business:

1. **Smoke Alarm Grant:** Ron Wood reported that 68 smoke detectors were installed in 18 homes and that the grant is closed now. Carol will ship remaining alarms back to Dept. of Health.
2. **EMS/Lid Lift: Board:** Jim said this was discussed at the Special Meeting and recapped what was discussed: We could raise the rate per thousand to \$1.50 for one year (2010); then 747 would decrease it after that. He estimated that it would raise approximately \$44,000. We are not sure of what it will cost to get water from the well on SE corner of Wood and Coulee-Hite under road to the Station 53 site on the NE corner. But whatever is left over would go into reserves. The timing of the ballot was discussed and needs to be researched further. We could have hyperinflation because of the nation’s financial problems. What came out of the discussion at the special meeting was that a lift would have a good chance to pass. No action was taken and the board will present more information as they receive it.
3. **Station 53 Well:** No news; move to next month’s agenda.

New Business:

1. **Elect Chairman for 2009:** Sheri motioned that Jim Ryan chair for 2009. Todd seconded and the motion passed.
2. **Approve 2009 Budget:** This was worked on at the January Special Meeting. **Jim** read the budget draft from that meeting aloud and the guests also had a copy. **Gary Pietz** said he attended part of that meeting and that not once in the conversation did he hear any board member mention, is there a way we can save money? Some of the items the board increased seemed to be a guess. No one ever asked how we can reduce expenses in an area. Why? **Jim** discussed repair services and how much we have saved. Utilities and propane went up as well as fuel. **Gary** said but the question of how can we save was not asked or discussed. **Todd** said we budgeted certain amounts for certain things but that doesn't mean we are going to spend it all. **Gary** asked so you don’t plan on spending \$14,000 in fuel? **Jim** said we have always endeavored to save in all areas. **Todd** said we understand what you are saying, Gary. **Jim** said that this budget is a guide. He asked the board what they want to do. **Sheri motioned to approve the 2009 budget as presented and not spend it if we don’t have to. Todd seconded and it passed unanimously.** **Debi** Davis asked has there been any discussion or plans where you can be saving money with cuts. **Sheri** replied, we are all trying. **Debi** asked if you have made any decisions where excessive spending can be cut. **Sheri** said no. **Ron Wood** said yes, as far as grants that

require a big match, such as DNR (50% match), we are not applying for those at this time. **Carol** asked the board if she could start including points for truck maintenance checks in the \$6,800 budget as before only training and drill were included. The board agreed to begin that as of January 1, 2009.

3. **Transfer funds from General Fund to Excess Fund:** Carol also asked the board if she would be transferring \$5,000 from the General Fund into the Excess Fund. **Jim motion that the transfer be made, Sheri seconded and it passed unanimously.**
4. **Letter from Bob Harding:** Sheri mentioned a letter received from Bob regarding the exterior security light at Station 52. Bob says there is a problem with the light shining in his bedroom window and is creating problems for his telescope use. Jim said he had talked to Bob and put a half wrap around the bulb. Bob said it did not help. Todd went over to Bob's driveway at night to see how bright it was. Bob told Jim he is light sensitive. Motion lights were discussed and whether Bob would be satisfied with that. Ron Wood said then Bob should pay for it; this has to do with security issues and previously Bob has complained about the activity on that side of the station anyway. Todd will call Bob and see if he would pay for it.
5. **Jim read a letter from Chief Kjell Anderson:** Kjell wishes to resign from the Chief's position as of January 31, 2009 and thanked the board for the opportunity to serve in that capacity. He will still remain as a firefighter and EMT. **Sheri motioned to accept the resignation, Todd seconded and it was approved unanimously.** Sheri said an exit interview needs to be scheduled.

At 7:55p.m. regular session was ended and executive session began for reason g) to review the performance of a public employee and discuss need for a temporary Chief. Executive session will be for 20 minutes.

At 8:17p.m. executive session ended and regular session resumed.

Jim said the exit interview has taken place with Kjell Anderson. **Sheri motioned to appoint Ron Wood as temporary Fire Chief until February 28, 2009 or until interviews could take place and a new Chief was appointed. Todd seconded and it was approved unanimously.** The board discussed opening for the Chief's position and receiving applications followed by interviews. The position is open to any current volunteer member. The board asked Carol to put out information alerting all volunteers to the opening ASAP. She will mail it with their W-2's. The interviews will take place on either February 9th or 16th, 2009. Carol will let the board know how many interested volunteers want to apply.

Public Concerns:

1. **Patty Bonner:** She wanted to know what the board was doing regarding the paperwork she gave them at the last business meeting that contained the training and incident stats. Jim said the board would review them as well as the district's stats and address them as needed. He said that we have used fuel more in recent years but that all the rigs are running and the volunteers are more experienced at driving them. Patty asked how do you justify the excessive fuel usage on several trucks. Sheri said we are looking at it.
2. **Debi Davis:** The Command Rig is in the station now. Why aren't we using it? The epipens and other medical items are heated. Ron said the blazer (Command Rig) is not being used other than running to town for meetings or errands at this time. He said that the medic bag is taken inside with him out of the cold.

Patty wanted to know where the stolen SCBA's were found and when. Ron said off of a summer road just before Thanksgiving. They have been fingerprinted, tested and are now serviceable. Todd said we should have been notified. He did mention that Carol had let him know why the board was not notified per the investigator's instructions; that she was simply following the investigator's instructions. Patty then said that Melodie Westmoreland had told her that two of our EMT's were no longer certified. The board will get back to her next month regarding this as they need to check with our EMS Coordinator, Rod Heimbigner.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be February 23, 2009 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:34p.m.

Spokane County Fire District 5 Chairman

Spokane County Fire District 5 Commissioner

Spokane County Fire District 5 Commissioner

Attest: Spokane County Fire District 5 District Administrator