

Spokane County Fire District #5
May 25, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Jim Ryan and Todd Lehman; third commissioner position still open.

District Administrator: Carol Harrington

Guests: see attached sign in sheet

Time Meeting Began: 7:02p.m.

- **Flag Salute**
- **The minutes from the April 27, 2009 Regular Meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.**
- **The treasury report was reviewed.** Carol read the report aloud.
- **The May bills** were reviewed. The expenses were approved unanimously for \$1,951.15.
- **Correspondence:** No correspondence this month.
- **Administrators Report:** Carol got a quote from Centurytel regarding phone and internet charges. We now pay approximately \$70 per month for our landline with Centurytel. We can get high speed internet here which would raise our monthly fee to approximately \$125/mo; a \$55 difference. Carol has declined the need for high speed internet in the past but it has become time consuming and burdensome to do research for grant work, download emails containing large files from seminar info to training info and upload required files to FirePrograms by the Washington State Patrol. Would the board consider adding high speed internet for the district computer? Jim said his son may be able to get internet for us for about \$35/mo. He will continue to check on this and let us know.
- **Fire Chief's Report: Ron Wood**
 - Training for the first Tuesday was a practical for wildland regarding a Red Card refresher; we have completed red card training now. The second training was a wildland interface practice on Martha Ln. Everyone worked well together. Practiced ops on staging and setup for command center as well as exit technique for narrow lane. Noted where all homes were located.
 - Ordered name tags for accountability from West Plains Trophy. Going to pattern our system after SCFD10. Not only is this required for Spokane County Protocol but is wise for FF safety.
 - We have ordered all of our 2008 AFG Grant items for the wildland turnouts.
 - This is a business meeting and Ron said he will no longer answer questions about individual personnel matters because he believes it not only has nothing to do with district business, but may also be against the law to discuss an individual in an open public business meeting.

Old Business:

1. **EMS/Lid Lift:** Jim and Todd said they went through the information they both received regarding the levy at the April 27, 2009 meeting. **Jim** said we can go to \$1.00 without a full time person. It would be about a .09 cent increase if we went to a lid lift for six years, which would put it at \$1.00. At six years then it could be eroded back by I-747. Jim looked at an EMS Levy possibility to go for a .20 cent raise on it. It could be for six or ten years. So we are talking about a .29 cent total raise. Compared to what we have saved the taxpayers through the lowering of insurance rating, it is a good deal for the kind of coverage we are providing. The .20 cents would be just for EMS. Jim asked if we should proceed with the levy wording. **Todd** said until we have a third commissioner, the topic will probably need to continue onto each month's agenda so it could be put to a vote including all positions. **Jim** asked how it sounds to run it at .10 cents to round it out for six years. **Gary Pietz** said when we started it was \$1.50/1,000 and now it's to .09/1,000. Before, it was for the station and reserves. Nowhere does anyone say we have a definite need for EMS. If we're asking for more, you need to have a plan for it. Is .20 cents enough for EMS? **Jim** thinks it is a start. We haven't seen a lot of luck through other districts trying to pass things like this. These are trying times. Valuation was discussed. Jim said it has approximately doubled since the last six years. He and Gary discussed valuation and property protected. The budget increase was discussed between the two of them also. **Gary** thinks it is not clear regarding the money they want to ask for. **Jim** said the wording is pretty clear on the ballot samples. We can get it written up and explained should we choose to go for it. He discussed Stevens County FD1 and the problems they are facing. Fire insurance savings were discussed; some saved quite a bit on their property insurance and some did not.
2. **Station 53 Well:** **Ron** found a 20 horse submersible, single-face pump. We may be able to get it under the well. **Todd** left a message with the county regarding permits. The person he needs to talk to does not work on Fridays so it has been difficult to make contact as Todd has Fridays off and that is when he was working on getting this information. **Jim** asked if there is anyone who will drill under the road. **Ron** said he talked to Don Crawford from Cheney FD#3. We need to have a system engineered to have a Class B

water system which is a potable water system. As per Don, it is better to do it now and get it registered with the county and state. Ron says his personal thoughts are to design our own system. He called Spokane Ditch and Cable Company and they said permits are not too costly. Digging under the road they can go about three feet deep only if there is no dense rock there. They suggest digging a ditch to four to five feet. Inland Power and Light said a transformer would run about \$2,500 for regular home and shop type service. If we want something larger put in than that transformer, we would have to have an engineer out to inspect the site. We need to know how much power we are going to use. Ron would also like to see a hydrant put in. **Jim** said we don't have a lot of money to spend. The EMS funds must go toward EMS. **Ron** said he doubts there would be a station there in the near future so why would we pay Belsby Engineering \$3,000 to make a plan. **Todd** asked if Spokane Ditch and Cable would give us an estimate. **Ron** said they probably would. **Todd** said the Hutterites tried to have the county put water in for them but they wouldn't do it. **Jim** said we may have some more money coming up if we got EMS as that would free us some monies from the General Fund that goes to EMS now but we need to refuel our reserves also. **Todd** agreed.

3. **Station 52 Outdoor Security Lighting:** Jim said it doesn't shine as bright but he can still see the ground around that side of the station. Ron says it is not a safe thing to have up there; he doesn't know what the shroud is made of. Todd said it is sheet metal painted black.
4. **2009 Assistance to Firefighter's Grant:** Carol said the past grants offered a section of technical and office support and equipment including computers, high speed internet, etc. That portion has been taken away just recently when the grant monies were redistributed. Because that is what we were going to apply for and it is not available, no grant will be turned in for 2009.
5. **Board Position Open: Board** Four interviews have been conducted. Todd made a motion for Larry Wendlandt. Jim would not second. Todd made a motion for Gary Pietz; Jim would not second. Jim made a motion for Greg Lucht; Todd would not second. Todd made a motion for Marvin Davis; Jim would not second. The board position remains open. The ninety days our board has to decide ends on June 21, 2009 which is a Sunday. If, at that time, our remaining board members do not agree on who to appoint then it goes to the Spokane County Commissioners who have 90 days to appoint someone. Carol asked when she could get the notes from the interviews to type them up. Jim and Todd said they would get them to her as soon as possible. Carol then discussed that those notes would be typed up, presented as drafts to Jim and Todd for their approval and signature before they can be made public record and go to the Spokane County Commissioners. Jim and Todd agreed.

New Business: There was no new business.

Public Concerns:

- **Patty Bonner:** She asked for the update on the status of personnel. She said she is tired of being called a liar by Ron Wood. Ron said he's never called her a liar. Patty read a letter aloud from the Department of Health from a Jack Bucknell; she provided copies for the board as well.
- **Ed Lynch:** He asked if the board has ever asked the people if they want another station. Where are we going to get the money for a \$860,000 station? Jim said we do not have set figures on what it would cost; we are discussing its possibilities. As far as what the people want, that is what the ballot is for; that is how the people can use their voice and vote or approve what they want or don't want. Ed said there's no way we're going to afford a million dollar station.

There was no other business.

The next regular meeting will be June 22, 2009 at 7:00p.m.

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:04p.m.

Spokane County Fire District5 Chairman

Sheri Rhoads resigned
Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Spokane County Fire District5 Commissioner

Attest: Spokane County Fire District 5 District Administrator