

Okanogan County Fire District # 6

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

February 13th 2023

PRESENT: Commissioner Palm, Chief Acord, Commissioner Brandenburg, Commissioner Milliken, and Asst. Chief Stamps, see attached list of attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

Additions to agenda:

No additions to agenda.

Minute's approval:

Commissioner Milliken makes a motion to approve the minutes from December 12th meeting Commissioner Brandenburg seconded, and all were in favor. Brandenburg makes motion to approve the minutes for the January 9th 2023 meeting, Commissioner Palm second by Commissioner Palm, and all were in favor.

Treasurers Report:

Commissioner Milliken makes a motion to approve the Treasurers Report from January 2023, Commissioner Brandenburg seconded and all were in favor.

Correspondence:

No correspondence.

Public Comment:

Emily Sisson mentions the County Commissioners approval of ARPA funds, and applauds the County for approving.

Paul Sisson asks about the training facility, and asks when we'll be able to put it to use.

Old Business:

Surplused Air Packs:

Chief Acord reports that there were no bids for the air packs, but after the public notice closing date we received an offer from a Canadian fire department.

APRA Request

Chief Acord presents the board the agreement with Okanogan County to approve ARPA funding for the Fire District new station cost over-runs.

Commissioner Brandenburg makes a motion to approve the interoperations agreement to approve ARPA funds between Okanogan County and Okanogan County Fire District 6, Commissioner Palm seconded, and all were in favor.

New Bushiness:

Vehicle Replacement Cost

Chief Acord presents a report for the vehicle replacement schedule. Highlights include a 30% increase on structure engine costs. Acord cites safety standards and aging equipment. Chief Acord discusses through each station's apparatus and talks about replacement strategy for each station.

Questions from Commissioner Milliken about the reliability of Winthrop's brush truck, citing 3 fires over the summer where the truck had issues. Chief Acord talks about what fixes were made.

Discussion between Acord and Milliken about the use of pumper tenders, and if we could get just a pumper to save money.

Chief Acord mentions that we'll be discussing financing matters more in the future, to pay for the engines and trucks..

Chief Brandenburg makes a motion to approve the vehicle replacement schedule, Commissioner Palm seconded all were in favor.

Capital Improvement Plan:

Chief Acord presents the current Capital Improvements plan to the board along with updates and current status. Discussion amongst the board about future plans, Twisp property, potential shift work for volunteers, communication upgrades, etc.

Plan includes staff coverage, potential hiring of new secretary to work in office.

5-10 year plan includes hiring a mechanic / firefighter that could perform normal day to day mechanic duties along with firefighting.

Commissioner Palm makes a motion to approve the Capital Improvement plan, Brandenburg seconded.

Commissioner Milliken talks about challenges of hiring and capital improvements.

2022 Annual Report:

Chief Acord reads through the 2022 Annual Report, and highlights call volume and call types. Discusses the lack of a large incident and its effect on call count, along with the effect on false alarm calls.

Training hours included 4700 amongst all the firefighters.

FTS training structure completed.

3 new recruits trained, 4 new red card ff's, 4 FFA drone pilots.

4 Career staff, 47 volunteers. WSRB (rating bureau) cites that it would take 75 staff members for a district our size.

Grant Funding for extractors, PPE and hose dryer, FIT tester, all funded through the Department of Emergency Management.

Miles Milliken came in as a Commissioner, Twisp contract extension, strategic plan in place, etc.

Captain Position Applications:

Chief Acord presents the commissioners with the job description for the new Captains position. Ad will be posted in the next paper. Chief Acord's goal is to have two new firefighters hired by May 1st.

Chief's Report:

Review of accruals from Chief Acord by the Commissioners.

Review of the call logs.

Chief Acord reports on FEMA grant application and DNR grants. Grants would be paying for PPE, radios, and a mobile repeater station to be used.

Chief Acord reports that we were informed that the vehicle maintenance costs from E&M would be increased by 50% and they would only do 2 per week. Chief Acord talked to Okanogan Truck and Tractor, and they'd be willing to do the work for \$129 / hour, and would do a full DOT inspection.

January Minutes Approval (weren't printed in time for meeting)

Commissioner Palm makes a motion to approve the minutes from the January 12th meeting, Commissioner Brandenburg seconded, and all were in favor.

Executive Session:

No Executive Session

VOUCHER APPROVAL:

Commissioner Milliken makes a motion to approve the vouchers from February, Commissioner Palm seconded, all were in favor.

The ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM

PM.

Commissioner Jerry Palm

ATTEST:

Mark Crum, Secretary