

Okanogan County Fire District # 6

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

February 12th 2024

PRESENT: Chief Acord, Assistant Chief Stamps, Commissioner Milliken, Commissioner Brandenburg, Commissioner Lindsey, Secretary Mark Crum see attached list of attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Additions to agenda:

Commissioner Milliken would like to discuss the Volunteer reimbursement stipend amended from the last meeting. Will be added to old business.

Minute's approval:

Commissioner Brandenburg makes a motion to approve the minutes from the January 8th Regular Meeting, Commissioner Lindsey seconded, and all were in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

Commissioner Brandenburg makes a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report from January 2023 with a grand ending balance of \$688,664.79, Commissioner Milliken seconded, all were in favor.

Correspondence:

No correspondence.

Public Comment:

Old Business:

New Full-time District Secretary

Chief Acord presents a job description to the Commissioners for the Full Time District Secretary position. This is the first time the district has hired a full time Secretary, will include full time pay, with retirement and insurance. Will also include annual leave and sick leave that will match the current staff. Pay for the position will be \$45,000 per year or ~\$21.63 per hour. Position will open February 21st and will close on March 8th.

Volunteer Pay Program

Commissioner Milliken asks about whether or not the District can opt out of payment, as it may affect their retirement pay. Chief Acord informed the board that any Firefighter having issues

with our stipend payment or any issues with the affects of our stipend payment can contact him directly and he will work with them to get it resolved.

New Business:

Required Training

Chief Acord reports on required training for public records training. Secretary will send out the link for the training to be completed.

2023 Annual Report (Highlights)

321 incidents in 2023, up 10% from 2022. Copy of report included with Monthly 2024 file. April, May and June represented a majority of the calls for the year. 1, 2, 5, 7 pm seem to be the biggest time frames for calls. Call highlights are Carlton Structure fire, Jamie's Place water issue, and the Eagle Bluff fire in Oroville.

Volunteer shift program was instituted, programs are still in the developmental phase, limiting factors may be availability of firefighters on weekends.

Grants:

\$26,000 from DNR for pagers and radios. Grant for FIT testing machine.

The Washington State rating bureau did their 5 year report. Currently towns are rated at a 6, and the surrounding areas are at an 8. 2023 rating has not been released at the time of the meeting.

7,315 training hours logged by Volunteers in 2023, new training structure and Winthrop Station grounds have been a big benefit in volume and quality of training.

Recruit training class completed for 7 volunteers, training is 50 hours of classroom and practical.

At year end, there were 4 new volunteers.

District hosted an Instructor I training for firefighters around the area (outside of the District).

48 Volunteer firefighters at the end of 2023, rating bureau would recommend 72 firefighters for a District our size. Currently the District has 48 volunteer firefighters. On average 5 firefighters responded to calls.

Other activities include Pearrygin Lake Bike Rodeo, Parades, High School Events, Christmas at the End of The Road, July 4th Parade and Methow Arts - Art in the Park.

Operating budget approved and completed, Capital Improvements plan reviewed, Twisp Annexation.

ARPA funding, Jerry Palm retirement, John Lindsey new Commissioner.

Commissioner Lindsey comments that he noticed that during the report, many of the calls that occur are during "regular" working hours, and stated that it emphasizes the need for more volunteers because many of the volunteers are working regular jobs during those response times.

Lindsey also asks about the recorded response times for calls, and whether or not that's a narrative that we want to discuss as we look at hiring more paid staff.

Commissioner Milliken asks about the impact of the improving response times, but states that the discussion is likely for another date. States that the goal is to ultimately continue to improve the service of the Fire District.

Chief's Report:

Commissioners review call log and staff hours logs.

Public Comment #2:

n/a

Good of the Order:

Commissioner Milliken would like to get a report of turn-out gear, what gear is issued and what is certified, and or incomplete. Chief Acord reports that as of now, gear is qualified for personnel and is adequate to keep people safe. Acord mentions that to live up to the standard of NFPA would be difficult and that the Fire District follows the WAC's.

VOUCHER APPROVAL:

Commissioner Brandenburg makes a motion to approve the vouchers from December, Commissioner Lindsey seconded, all were in favor.

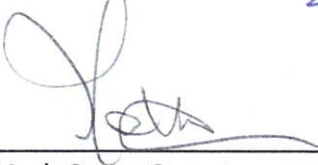
The ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM

PM.



Commissioner Darold Brandenburg

ATTEST:



Mark Crum, Secretary