

Regular Meeting 02-13-2023 1

DOUGLAS OKANOGAN COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 15  
APPROVED MINUTES

Ambulance Hall

Brewster, WA

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Douglas Okanogan County Fire District 15 was called to order by Chairman Chris Bailey at 6:02 p.m. at the Ambulance Hall.

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Chris Bailey, Kris Erlandsen, Joe Kitzman, F. Eric Zahn, Secretary Kaylee Jensen, EMS Director Tonya Vallance, District Chief Bill Vallance, Pateros Station Chief Kerry Heen, Brewster Station Chief Victor Vargas, Rocky Butte Station Chief Sal Rodriguez and Methow Station Chief Nolan Tonseth

REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY PHONE OR COMPUTER: Commissioners Tim Baird

***Consent Agenda***

**Board Consent Agenda**

Minutes 01/09/2023 regular meeting

Vouchers 01-23-2023, 02-13-2023

Fire District

January 23, 2023 Financials amounting to \$3,617.65  
January 23, 2023 Payroll/EFT amounting to \$10,243.32  
February 13, 2023 Financials amounting to \$3,690.56  
February 13, 2023 Payroll/EFT amounting to \$3,921.78

Ambulance

January 23, 2023 Financials amounting to \$3,762.64  
January 23, 2023 Payroll/EFT amounting to \$15,031.11  
February 13, 2023 Financials amounting to \$18,355.48  
February 13, 2023 Payroll/EFT amounting to \$9,742.74

Chris/Eric moved and seconded to approve all items on the Board Consent Agenda.  
Motion carried unanimously.

SECRETARY REPORT: The January Secretary report was studied by Commissioners.

DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF REPORT: Chief Vallance reported the F150 was at Jess Ford for diagnostics for several days and they were not able to determine what was wrong with the truck. A trade-in value of \$2500 was offered for the F150. A quote for a Dodge Ram 2500 on the Jess Ford lot was studied by Commissioners. Discussion held.

Commissioners directed Chief Vallance to proceed with the truck servicing and check to see if Jess Ford can offer more trade-in \$\$\$. A supplemental budget was appropriated in 2022 for the replacement of the Command truck and will need to be appropriated to 2023 from beginning fund balance.

Local Loan Apparatus update was given. A change order was presented to the District for 2024 Chassis due to global supply chain shortage, a change order was necessary for both trucks. Discussion held.

Grant applications and opportunities update was given.

SOP/SOG COMMITTEE REPORT: District Chief presented the UTV use policy and

requested the Commissioners approve the policy.

Joe/Eric moved and seconded to approve the UTV SOP policy update. Motion carried unanimously.

**PATEROS REPORT:** Chief Kerry Heen reported firefighters responded to 1 EMS assist, 1 MVA incident, 1 mutual aid structure fire, and 2 activated fire alarm calls. Firefighters completed hydrant location, an EVIP refresher, SCBA, and thermal image camera use training.

**METHOW REPORT:** Chief Nolan Tonseth reported firefighters responded to 1 EMS assist call. Firefighters completed SCBA quarterly training and completed truck maintenance. Firefighters discussed conditions, actions, needs, scene size up and protocol to list geographic location when on scene. Methow has a new firefighter recruit, a volunteer from about 20 years ago.

**BREWSTER REPORT:** Chief Victor Vargas reported firefighters responded to 2 false alarms or cancelled in route, a tractor trailer fire at Gamble Sands and an MVA incident on SR 173.

Firefighters completed training at the Rocky Butte maze.

A live burn is scheduled for February 25, 2023 near the hospital and an invite was extended to Commissioners.

**ROCKY BUTTE REPORT:** Chief Sal Rodriguez reported firefighters responded to a MVA incident on SR 173, a structure fire and completed training with Brewster firefighters. Firefighters were learning new techniques with hoses from firefighter Hunter Cooper. Firefighters are implementing new techniques in their training at Rocky Butte maze and will incorporate new training in live burn training.

**EMS DIRECTOR REPORT:** Tonya reported a new Fulltime employee started on this day. Discussion held.

The SAO has begun the process for an Accountability Audit. A list was provided to SAO with names, phone numbers and email addresses of current Commissioners and those that served during the Audit period. Discussion held.

Medicare update was given. Data collection was done for a year and now we are in the final stages of submitting data to PCG so it can be submitted to Medicare in May 2023. FEMA grant update was given. Items were depreciated and the District received some of the funds in the fall of 2022. FEMA grant is currently in the closeout process and we have been told that after the final depreciation was done all items were under the \$5000 threshold and we should receive 100% reimbursement of the actual costs. The closeout is in the final review stage so an update will be given after final funds are reimbursed.

Tonya reported communication with DOH to see if it was possible to get some relief of the 80% requirement of AEMT onboard of all calls 80% of the time. It was determined that we must meet the requirement. A downgrade in licensing to BLS was discussed and how that would effect the amount of revenue and service available. Tonya didn't recommend a downgrade in licensing. DOH suggested Tonya do a class and they will push through the application process time for expedited approval to provide the class to a few EMT-B employees and a few volunteers. Discussion held.

A commitment of continued employment, volunteer participation or reimbursement of books may be required for those that take the class.

Tonya discussed an upcoming class to be held March 17, 2023 Structuring Volunteer Programs and stated changes may be necessary in the future.

NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS: : A Volunteer Recruitment/Retention Appreciation Dinner and Award Ceremony will be held at Legion Hall Brewster, WA March 11, 2023. A special meeting will be scheduled to hold a plaque ceremony at Pateros Station. A tentative date of Thursday February 23, 2023 at 6:00pm and will be confirmed at a later date.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:55 PM.

---

Kaylee Jensen, Board Secretary

---

Chris Bailey, Chairman