

Regular Meeting 01-09-2023 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 6:00 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, Methow Station Chief Nolan Tonseth and Methow Station Captain Dave Sorensen

REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY PHONE OR COMPUTER: Commissioners Tim Baird, EMT-A Arthur Smyth and EMT Samantha Rains

Oath of office was given to Commissioner Joe Kitzman.

***Consent Agenda***

**Board Consent Agenda**

Minutes 12/12/2022 regular meeting, 01/03/2023 special meeting

Vouchers 12-26-2022, 01-09-2023

Fire District

December 26, 2022 Financials amounting to \$4,168.55

December 26, 2022 Payroll amounting to \$6,214.38

January 09, 2023 Financials amounting to \$10,612.24

January 09, 2023 Payroll amounting to \$6,195.65

Ambulance

December 26, 2022 Financials amounting to \$40,238.95

December 26, 2022 Payroll amounting to \$14,237.75

January 09, 2023 Financials amounting to \$8,744.89

January 09, 2023 Payroll amounting to \$15,206.47

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

REORGANIZATION:

Commissioner Baird announced he was removing himself as a Board of Trustee member.

Joe/Kris moved and seconded to appoint

CHAIRMAN: Chris Bailey

Motion carried.

Kris/Tim moved and seconded to retain

BOARD SECRETARY: Kaylee Jensen

Motion carried.

STATION CHIEFS:

Eric/Joe moved and seconded to appoint

Methow: Nolan Tonseth

Motion carried.

Kris/Eric moved and seconded to retain

Pateros: Kerry Heen

Motion carried.

Joe/Eric moved and seconded to retain

Brewster: Victor Vargas

Rocky Butte: Sal Rodriguez

Motion carried.

Eric/Kris moved and seconded to appoint Dave Sorensen to the board of Trustees.

Motion carried.

2023 Board of Trustees members include Chris, Dave, Joe, Kaylee, and Sal.

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

Discussion held.

DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF REPORT: Chief Vallance reported a grant was submitted to DNR for a Tender.

SOP/SOG COMMITTEE REPORT: Nothing to report.

WAGE/BENEFIT COMMITTEE: Commissioner Baird reported the committee met with

Tonya to discuss a part time benefit allowance for the new part time EMT position.

Discussion held.

Commissioners studied the wage and benefit committees' recommendations.

Kris/Eric moved and seconded to adopt the part time EMT benefit package. Motion carried unanimously.

PATEROS REPORT: Chief Kerry Heen reported firefighters responded to 3 MVA, 2 structure fire, and 1 Hazmat incident.

Firefighters completed station and apparatus maintenance. SCBA training was done.

Pateros has a few new recruits.

The Pateros firefighter Association held a pizza party for volunteer firefighters.

BREWSTER REPORT: Chief Victor Vargas reported firefighters responded to 3 MVA, a structure fire and Hazmat incident.

Upcoming training schedule was put together.

ROCKY BUTTE REPORT: Chief Sal Rodriguez reported firefighters responded to 1 structure fire and completed training last week at Rocky Butte station.

METHOW REPORT: Chief Nolan Tonseth reported firefighters held their officer elections in December. Jeff Zahn was elected Assistant Chief and Dave Sorensen was promoted to Captain. A training schedule has been setup and there will be some cross training with Pateros and Brewster.

Methow was quiet and had no calls.

Methow station had some water issues and broken valve, and the generator required some R&M. Methow Water system had some issues so no water was flowing for over 8 hours and air circulation in the station was not moving as it should with the HVAC system requiring some maintenance.

EMS DIRECTOR REPORT: Tonya reported on job inquiries received since last meeting. None of the interested parties live in Brewster. One interested party was licensed in another State so it may take several months to go through the process to meet Washington State requirements. All Applicants learned of the job through Worksource or Social media.

Discussion held.

EMS service fees were discussed. No rate increase was done for 2023.

COVID/Influenza update was given.

Chris asked if there was a Plan B if new hires are not brought on. Discussion was held. Commissioners requested that Tonya see about contract/ sale of the Ambulance Service. Commissioners clarified this is to see what the options are and not necessarily what the District will choose to do.

Tonya requested a waiver or variance for requirements of first out Ambulance to have an AEMT due to the staffing shortage that has been occurring for 6 months. If a waiver is granted some relief may be experienced if volunteers/EMT can respond first out.

Some volunteers were not actively volunteering due to the COVID19 State mandate.

#### NEW/UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Local Loan will need to be updated with a new signer for anything that needs to be signed. Commissioners will need to choose to name a person or maybe is the Chairman.

Chief Vallance gave his unofficial notice of retirement to be June 30, 2023.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:53 PM.

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Kaylee Jensen, Board Secretary

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Chris Bailey, Chairman