

Regular Meeting 10-10-2022 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 Lonnie Fenton at 6:02 p.m. at the Ambulance Hall.

IN ATTENDANCE: Commissioners Chris Bailey, Kris Erlandsen, Tim Baird and F. Eric Zahn, Secretary Kaylee Jensen, EMS Director Tonya Vallance, District Chief Bill Vallance, Rocky Butte Station Chief Sal Rodriguez, Pateros Assistant Chief Matt Coffman, EMT-A Arthur Smyth, EMT-A Kristina Martinez and Volunteer EMT Caroline Cooper

REMOTE ATTENDANCE BY PHONE OR COMPUTER: Commissioners Lonnie Fenton

Public Hearing

Notification of the Public hearing was published in the Quad City Herald on September 28 and October 05, 2022.

The meeting was open for a Public hearing at 6:02pm to discuss 2023 Fire and Ambulance Preliminary Budgets. Tonya presented ambulance preliminary budget and detailed changes over the previous year. The Secretary reported Tax values were calculated using the previous year's method. Fire and Ambulance Tax values included a 1% increase and 5% was added to the total. No adjustment to the preliminary tax numbers will be done due to a worksheet is completed at the Assessors office and we do not expect to receive any more than the amount we have already included in the preliminary budget. Chief Vallance presented Fire District preliminary budget. Revenues mostly come from taxes and on the expenditures Local loan repayment was budgeted for the two new trucks. Both Fire and Ambulance budgets will need to be balanced before the final budget is approved.

The final budget will be approved at a special meeting October 24, 2022 at 1pm.

No public comment.

Commissioner Fenton announced end of the public hearing at 6:16pm.

Employee Benefits discussion

An employee present at the meeting discussed that they had been on PFML and District policy says benefits are paid for 12 weeks and she was seeking clarification on the policy since she hadn't used her 480 hours of PFML. Discussion was held. Tonya explained that when the employee went on leave, we did not have a policy to allow for continued benefit for the situation and the policy we put in place says we would pay for benefits for 12 weeks. Commissioner Baird noted PFML is separate from employer paid benefits regardless of whether the employee chose to use sick leave or other benefits. PFML is between the employee and the State. Commissioners agreed the 12 weeks of employer paid benefits was 12 weeks from the date the employee began using leave, regardless of whether the employee chose to use benefit hours. The employee does not want to pay the medical insurance premium and will seek insurance through the State. At the employees request the District will check to see how open enrollment may affect restarting employer paid medical plan after employee returns to full time hours.

Consent Agenda

Board Consent Agenda

Minutes 09/12/2022 regular meeting

Vouchers 09-26-2022, 10-10-2022

Fire District

September 26, 2022 Financials amounting to \$847.05

September 26, 2022 Payroll amounting to \$5,889.17

October 10, 2022 Financials amounting to \$4,336.13

October 10, 2022 Payroll amounting to \$6,621.78

Ambulance

September 26, 2022 Financials amounting to \$49,682.41

September 26, 2022 Payroll amounting to \$12,560.91

October 10, 2022 Financials amounting to \$9,639.19

October 10, 2022 Payroll amounting to \$15,132.86

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

SECRETARY REPORT: The September Secretary report was studied by Commissioners. The Secretary reported extraordinary items were Okanogan County MOU \$\$, FEMA Equipment reimbursement was depreciated so we didn't receive the full cost reimbursement and USDA Emergency Rural Health grant funds were received. Discussion held.

DISTRICT FIRE CHIEF REPORT: Chief Vallance reported Surplus equipment is listed on publicsurplus.com. The listing will be live October 5, 2022 to October 26, 2022. Bids have been received and reserve met on some of the listings. Discussion held.

The District responded to 38 calls since last meeting including 24 MVA incidents, 2 wildland fire, 1 unauthorized burning.

An average of 4 volunteers are responding per call. Lack of Volunteers and low volume volunteer response was discussed. Chief Vallance ordered 200 pizza boxes for advertising and recruitment efforts and will ask Brewster Market Place to distribute their pizzas in the boxes. Other ideas for recruitment were requested. Discussion held.

WSRB rating review will be completed for 2023. New hydrants have been installed at Rocky Butte since last rating and Flow test will be completed for the upcoming review. Local Loan update was given. An email had been received from the State regarding local loan and delivery of the new engines. Chief Vallance reported we are still looking at January 2023 for delivery.

Okanogan County Dispatch is changing communications to 800 mhz. The District will need to start replacing all of our radios with dual band radios to work with their repeaters and VHF frequencies. Discussion held.

SOP/SOG COMMITTEE REPORT: Nothing to report.

PATEROS REPORT: Chief Kerry was absent. Assistant Chief Matt Coffman reported firefighters responded to 2 wildland fire calls, 2 activated fire alarm, 2 EMS lift assists, 1 MVA incident and 1 water rescue call.

Firefighters participated in an emergency response walkthrough at the Ag warehouse on Industrial Way.

Pateros public works employees painted new guidelines at Pateros Fire Station.
R&M battery replacement was completed on the 5ton truck.

BREWSTER REPORT: Chief Victor Vargas was absent. Firefighters responded to 3 MVA incidents and provided mutual aid to Okanogan County Fire District 6.
Brewster firefighters will have an open house October 20, 2022 at 6pm.

ROCKY BUTTE REPORT: Chief Sal Rodriguez reported firefighters responded to 2 wildland fires and 1 MVA incident on the Bridgeport Bar. Firefighters completed vehicle maintenance and fired up the snowmobiles before they were listed on the auction site.
A snake was reported in the Rocky Butte station restroom.

METHOW REPORT: Chief Joe Kitzman was absent. Methow firefighters responded to a MVA motorcycle vs deer collision. No transport. Firefighters responded to 1 wildland fire call that was referred to DNR and assisted Okanogan Fire District 6 mutual aid.

EMS DIRECTOR REPORT: Tonya reported advertisements were placed in the Wenatchee World and Omak Chronicle for the open EMT positions. There have been 3 applicants interested and 2 live out of the District and may be interested in a schedule change 3-day work week. Tonya will continue to work towards bringing on new employees and a schedule change may be accommodated to bring people on.
COVID update was given. Funding and Covid19 services will end October 31, 2022.
A fuel line was damaged when the box was installed on the new ambulance. Ford is not going to warranty the work necessary due to the damage was done when the box was installed. Parts are being ordered and R&M scheduled. The second new ambulance is at the Ohio plant and expected to be received before the end of the year.
Radios will need to be ordered and installed.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:12 PM.

Kaylee Jensen, Board Secretary

Lonnie Fenton, Chairman