

YCFD#2 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes, March 12, 2024

- A. **Call to Order:** 18:31
- B. **Roll Call:** *Commissioner Rex Reed, Commissioner Dan Boyle, Commissioner Brad Helms, Chief Jim Lange, Secretary Christine Willis, Guest Chris Coffin (left after public comment discussion 18:46)*
- C. **Public Comment:** *Chris Coffin would like to address putting in a station at the property by the old Bass farm in the Wenas due to fire safety. Neighbors have talked together about the cost and staffing/volunteers for the station. Chris would like to review the location, cost, what it would take to put new station in, how big of a station needed, possibly do a pole building with electricity to stage equipment. Commissioner Reed said infrastructure and equipment is not the issue, it's the lack of staffing. Commissioners will need a minimum of 6 committed people to be able to address the possibility of Station 28. Commissioner Boyle asked what the primary reasoning for this building was, Chris Coffin said it is for public safety as insurance regulations. Insurance companies have started dropping customers due to the new fire maps, Chris has no home insurance at this time as he was one that was dropped. Chief Lange stated that there are requirements now for volunteers which are state and federal laws. Recruit school is minimum 230+ hours, training Wednesday nights, takes about a year to become a volunteer, after graduation, there are still minimum requirements yearly to stay on. Commissioner Reed asked Chris Coffin to gather the community to try and add the minimum volunteers, Commissioners would then entertain the idea, but it will take time.*
- D. **Approval of Minutes:** *February 13, 2024, Meeting Minutes; Motion to approve by Commissioner Reed, 2nd by Commissioner Boyle, all in favor, approved.*
- E. **General Business:**
1. **Financial Report:**
 - a. **Deposits:**
 - (1) 11/16/23 YCFC Meeting remainder \$\$ from attendee.....\$ 15.00
 - b. **Fund Balances:**
 - (1) Expense Fund.....\$ 266,737.41
 - (2) Fire Inv. Pool\$ 1,948,150.00
 - (3) EMS Fund..... \$ 20,263.63
 - (4) EMS Inv. Pool..... \$ 28,530.00
 - (5) Fire Reserve Fund.....\$ 28.04
 - (6) Fire Reserve Inv Pool.....\$ 1,328.00
 - c. **Review of Expense Vouchers:**
 - (1) Brad Helms.....\$ 835.00

(2) Dan Boyle.....	\$ 1157.00
(3) Rex Reed.....	\$ 805.00
(4) Yakima County Treasurer (41003).....	\$ 23.50
(5) Yakima County Treasurer (33007).....	\$ 2048.43
(6) Washington State Auditor.....	\$ 38.43
(7) Christine Willis.....	\$ 624.45
Total Expense	\$ 5531.81

F. Unfinished Business:

Single Ambulance Provider RFP, Concerns For Ambulance Responses Update – *Chief Lange stated that at the last meeting they came to an agreement, contract is all but final, it is at legal at the County for review.*

G. New Business:

New Training Officer – *Introduced Jason Wood as the new Training Officer to Commissioners.*
 Drill Incentive for Shift Personnel – *Now that Selah has gone to shift, Chief Lange asked if the incentive should continue. Career staff on shift are already getting paid to be at drill, incentive is additional on top of normal pay. Commissioner Reed feels that we want to encourage all staff but need to make it equal. Chief Lange does not feel that career staff should continue to receive incentive pay since they are already getting paid full time and this is part of their job description, this includes Chief Lange and Deputy Chief Willis. Commissioners agree that all career staff should be removed from incentive from this date forward.*

H. Chief’s Report:

Truck 21 – *Had an issue with the inverter not working, Cascade Fire was out and able to fix in time to take the new truck to City Council. It has not been equipped and no training on it yet. Engine 22 is getting rear end replaced as well as fixing the drive lines, estimate \$9,000-\$10,000.*
 Year End Report – *Completed and sent out to Commissioners for their records.*
 Salary Comparison Review – *Chief Lange is finding that the review is worse than last time, 9-14% higher to get to the median. City Administrator has been tasked to review the entire City salary. Chief Lange did his own comparison. There is a turnover of city employees currently in progress, and there has been executive sessions of review of performance of public employee being done, discussing increase in salary to advertise and rehire. Council will need to review for budget.*
 Annual Evaluations – *Completed for 2023.*
 Retirement Pension Benefits Increase – *A year ago the State said there was a large amount in the retirement pool left over and wanted to give the Association of Fire Commissioners a raise in their retirement pay. Chief Lange received a letter that dues are going to raise now to cover the cost. Department has always covered the cost for the employees. Commissioner Reed will speak with Les to get a breakdown and better understanding of the fees.*
 Wildfire Maps & Insurance/Station 28 – *Commissioners understand the concern of Chris Coffin and the neighbors by Station 28. Chief Lange has not heard from anyone other than Chris, the community wildfire protection plan maps just went out to the insurance companies, so he has a feeling there will be more voicing concerns. There is no growth at this time and no staffing*

availability. Fish and Wildlife will not entertain the idea of putting a station on their property. Commissioner Boyle said we need a long-term plan not a short-term plan. Station 26 received about 125 calls last year, 82% were medical.

US Cellular – A representative will be in town Thursday to look at Station 22 at 11:00 AM for location for cell tower. Chief Lange has mapped out NW side of building, flat, graveled, no septic, not used for anything. Lease terms and payment information estimate proposal will be submitted to Commissioners after visit. Commissioner Reed stated we want to learn from the issues West Valley had with US Cellular and look at the details closely.

Station 22 Repairs – Commissioner Helms met his brother and Chief Lange at the Station 22, old building was insulated at the roof, pipes in the attic called a warm space, new part of the building is known as a cold space. When work was done, insulation was torn and left and nothing fixed. Commissioner Helms brother feels the best way to fix is to put attic entrance in the next room, insulate pipes, blow it in and make a cold space in the old portion, Chief Lange also agreed that would be the best way. Chief Lange met with Nick Granger from Mountain States to show him the damage and told him he needed to make it right, March 11 Mr. Granger sent a letter of new estimate, \$6,956.00 plus taxes/fees. Commissioner Boyle would like an additional quote.

Push In Ceremony – Wednesday March 27, 2024 will be the push in ceremony for the new truck.

I. Commissioners' Report:

City Council Discussion – Commissioner Reed kept his speech very simple and general, speaking of the history of the department and how we are unique.

March 28-Joint Board Meeting – Commissioner Boyle confirmed that the Joint Board Meeting will be March 28 at 17:30 and will work with Secretary Willis to put agenda together. Commissioner Helms would like to make sure to have the city employee's salary from the fire department budget added to the agenda. Commissioner Boyle asked if the salary review should be brought up and Chief Lange felt it was too early to talk about it yet. Commissioner Boyle wants to make sure that this does not fall off the radar. Commissioner Helms wants to make sure Commissioners do not look like subordinates in the relationship, we should be partners. Commissioner Reed tried to make clear at the city council meeting of the 60/40 split.

April 9, 2024 – Commissioner Helms will be out of town but does not feel that the meeting date needs to be changed in his absence.

J. Secretary's Report:

Secretary Willis noticed a typo on February 13, 2024 minutes, needs to remove expenses showing as zero from prior meeting and will send out revised copy.

K. Adjournment: 19:49

Next Meeting: April 9, 2024, SFD Sta. 21, 6:30 PM