

YCFD#2 Board of Commissioner Meeting Minutes, May 14, 2024

- A. Call to Order: 18:32
- B. Roll Call: *Commissioner Brad Helms, Commissioner Rex Reed, Commissioner Dan Boyle, Chief Jim Lange(18:37), Secretary Christine Willis, Guest Cliff Peterson(18:45)*
- C. Approval of Minutes: *April 9, 2024, Meeting Minutes; Motion to approve by Commissioner Reed, 2nd by Commissioner Boyle, all in favor, approved.*

D. General Business:

1. Financial Report:

a. Deposits:

(1)\$ 0.00

b. Fund Balances:

(1) Expense Fund.....\$ 940,490.63
 (2) Fire Inv. Pool\$ 1,948,150.00
 (3) EMS Fund..... \$ 213,852.02
 (4) EMS Inv. Pool..... \$ 28,530.00
 (5) Fire Reserve Fund.....\$ 34.26
 (6) Fire Reserve Inv Pool.....\$ 1,328.00

c. Review of Expense Vouchers:

(1) City of Selah(Fire).....\$ 466,566.00
 (2) City of Selah(EMS).....\$ 116,989.00
 (3) State Auditors Office.....\$ 208.65
Total Expense \$ 583,763.65

E. Unfinished Business:

Single Ambulance Provider RFP, Concerns For Ambulance Responses Update – *AMR working on final signature, supposed to be on the agenda for the Board of County Commissioners meeting on May 20th. Commissioner Curtis mentioned this needed to get done. There will be a 90-day implementation period.*

Retirement Pension Benefits Increase – *Commissioner Reed has not had a chance to look into this, will have for next meeting.*

US Cellular – *Lease Exhibit handed out to all Commissioners for review. Chief Lange stated the drawing included in the exhibit was exactly what was mentioned onsite when he met with US Cellular representative. There is no dollar amount as of yet. Looking into possible camera to be*

placed on tower. All Commissioners agree that the exhibit looks acceptable and Chief Lange can continue with the progress of moving forward with the representative.

Station 22 Repairs –Of the two quotes received, the first from Mountain States Construction Company for \$14,999 plus W.S.S.T. and the second from Mark Helms Construction Company for \$5,085.99, it was agreed upon via email by the Commissioners for Chief Lange to move forward with Mark Helms Construction. Chief Lange has not heard back from Mark Helms Construction, will be circling back around with him.

F. New Business:

Nepotism Policy/Evans – Mr. Evans posted on numerous social media platforms including contacting County Human Resource Department requesting resignation of Chief Lange and removal of Deputy Chief Willis and Secretary Willis due to nepotism. Secretary Willis does not work for the Selah Fire Department, nepotism does not apply. If anything further continues, it was advised by Commissioners to have staff/volunteers not respond, allow Chief Lange and/or Commissioners respond and fact check. Chief Lange mentioned concerns about incorrect/bad comments on social media pages, Commissioners decided to continue to allow comments since 99% are positive.

Station 22 Irrigation – Spoke to Rod Chumley said that he talked to irrigation company to do 4” pipe under road, a lot of dirt to move due to slope, roughly \$30,000. Irrigation costs the department \$1749.60 a year. Future planning if DOD Grant received, would like to put a training tower on the upper portion where it’s flat. Unsure if potential lease of property would be worth the money in the long run. The only use for the sloped portion is the ATV training course. Commissioners have decided to table the discussion, back up for discussion at next month’s meeting.

Station 28 Property – Spoke to Rod Chumley who has been working with the Department of Ecology about doing possible trade from surface water rights to ground water rights. He wants the property and proposes that he would put in the power, access and fill station in trade for the property itself. Commissioner Boyle stated that he would want a 100-year contract to allow mutual aid access, permanent easement to water source. Chief Lange to call Rod to discuss and will have additional information for next month’s meeting.

G. Chief’s Report:

Naches – Naches had a change of leadership and 2 former employees from Selah went to work for Naches. Naches Town Administrator contacted Chief Lange, they are in need of Fire Marshall services as they do not have one and asked for assistance. Chief Lange let them know that we do not have the manpower to do all of their inspections full time but said in the meantime, Selah is willing to assist with 2 new Naches businesses that are trying to open until they hire a Fire Marshall. Chief Lange will not put anything in writing as a formal write up but will give suggestions.

Generators – Working on bids for the generators. Tony Miller working on ways to assist with funding of projects.

Fire Chief Conference – Chief Lange will be out of the office at the conference in Kennewick Monday through Thursday next week, back on Friday.

PP&L Policy – *Power did not go out in Selah, half of Yakima and Glead due to fire. Due to the new PP&L Policy, if there is a fire within 2 miles of a transmission line, power is automatically shut off. Commissioner Reed stated this is a new corporate policy from California. He recommends seeing how it goes, might possibly need to bring in higher political power such as Dan Newhouse, Patty Murray, and/or Maria Cantwell to get involved with corporate. Concerns are if power is shut off, no water from wells to fight fire and to fill trucks. Unable to get rescue out of the station for an aid call due to power being cut, had to get the generator out to open the station door. Rumor of another potential policy, anything within 6 miles within red flag to be shut down.*

H. Commissioners' Report:

Commissioner Boyle asked Chief Lange to discuss the DCR. Chief Lange stated that at EMS Admin Meeting, discussed the DCR program, true blood money that was funding through law enforcement is no longer. County Commissioners have committed to funding this program. At study session yesterday, hoping to have new program planned out by June. Master level DCR's know money is running out and are starting to look for jobs elsewhere. Commissioners agree it should be a state funded program not through the county commissioners. Commissioner Reed feels that a letter needs to be sent to the legislature on a state level to fund the program. County Mental House Tax has \$7 million that isn't being spent.

I. Secretary's Report:

No new business.

J. Public Comment:

No new business.

K. Adjournment: 19:54

Next Meeting: June 11, 2024, SFD Sta. 21, 18:30 PM