

CHRISTOPHER KOHL'S FIRE DISTRICT  
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING  
JULY 14, 2008  
STATION 51

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm, 14 July, 2008. Pledge of Allegiance.

In attendance: James Oliver, Administrator  
Electra VanEckhoutte, Fire Chief

Agenda Item 3.

- A. The minutes from the: 9 June, 2008, Board Meeting were approved by Mr. Oliver.
- B. The status of the District Bank accounts for June, 2008, was given by Mr. Oliver.
- C. Chief VanEckHoutte gave the Chief's report and discussed the status of the Department and activities of the members of the Department. The Administrative Assistant, Dionne May, was introduced.

Agenda Item 4. Information/Discussion/Action on adoption of Resolution #93. This resolution adopts the proposed budget for FY 2008-2009. There were no comments from the public on this item. The Resolution and proposed budget was adopted by Mr. Oliver. Item 10 on the agenda, Information/Discussion on future major purchases by the District was discussed at this time by Mr. Oliver, who said a new brush truck, a structural/wildland engine and SCBA's were planned to be purchased. Mr. Oliver said that personnel costs would increase in future years, and the District could afford the equipment upgrade at this time. Some reduction of the capital fund would take place. Mr. Schantz asked if a large capital fund reduced chances of getting grants. Mr. Oliver stated that it may for some, and not for others.

Agenda item 5. This item was for Information/Discussion/Action on adoption of Resolution #94. This allows the District to take steps necessary to adopt the Public Safety Personnel Retirement system for the full time paid firefighters. The resolution was described briefly. Mr. Oliver described the two different systems that the District would have if the Public Safety Personnel Retirement system was adopted. Mr. Schantz asked about the new plan affecting the Pension plan for the volunteers. Mr. Oliver said it would have no effect, and the funding for the Pension plan was described. Mr. Sundra was asked for confirmation. Mr. Seay asked about transferability. Mr. Oliver said the plan is transferable to other Departments that have it, as is the old system. Mr. Oliver adopted Resolution #94, authorizing the District to take necessary steps to adopt the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System.

Agenda item 6. Information/Discussion/Action on Resolution #95. This Resolution is to allow the District to obtain credit cards for use by District personnel when they are sent out of District on official business. Mr. Oliver said the cards were intended for firefighters sent on wildland fires. The personnel now use their own money, and are reimbursed upon their return. This can create hardships. Mr. Oliver said the Chief would have control of the cards until issue, and has instituted controls and guidelines for their use. There was no public comment. Mr. Oliver adopted Resolution #95, to allow the District to obtain Credit Cards for District personnel on official duties.

Agenda item 7. Information/Discussion on the adoption of new by-laws for the District. Mr. Oliver said the previous Board had worked on changing the by-laws prior to the dissolution of the Board. He had finished the revision and had distributed a few copies. Copies were available for the public in the meeting room. Mr. Oliver said he wanted to have the revisions adopted at the next meeting if possible, or prior to the Board being

seated in December. Mr. Oliver said he would like to see the having the Clerk of the Board serve as personnel manager added to the revision. A major modification was to allow a majority vote of all three members to change the by-laws, vice all three members voting in favor of any changes.

Agenda item 8. Information/Discussion on the District Application for a SAFER grant. Mr. Oliver explained the purpose of the grant, which is to enable the District to hire a firefighter, and to promote Volunteer retention and recruitment. It is a five year commitment by the District, and the final decision would be at acceptance of the Grant. Mr. Oliver had just approved the submittal of the application. Mr. Oliver thanked Sam Seay and Caren Christensen for their hard work on the application. A comment was made on residents wanting more service, and Mr. Oliver said he thought they wanted medical response upgrade before fire response.

Agenda item 9. Information/Discussion on the upcoming audit and year end report. Mr. Oliver discussed the requirements for the report and the audit of the report. He stated that he had discussions with the firm of Seely Mullins to do the audit. Mr. Oliver felt that the District could produce the year end report. .

Agenda item 10. This was dealt with during the budget discussion under Item 4.

Agenda item 11. Information on future agenda items. Mr. Oliver mentioned the by-law revision to be on the next agenda. There was no public comment.

Agenda item 12. Call to the public. Mr. Sundra asked for an explanation of the audit requirements which Mr. Oliver gave. Mr. Oliver said there was a difference of opinion on what was the "budget". Mr. Oliver asked if it was what you said you wanted or was it what you actually got. Mr. Oliver said he had asked the Treasurer's office, and received the reply that they did not know. Two years ago the same fiscal situation was present, no audit was done. Last year an audit was done. Mr. Oliver stated that he felt that an audit should be conducted for this year even though he thought the "budget" was below one million. Mr. Oliver said he was going to ask for a legal opinion just as soon as he received a response for a pending legal opinion request, but it would come too late to be any good for this year. There were no other comments.

Mr. Oliver adjourned the meeting at 7:36pm, 14 July, 2008

Submitted : 16 July, 2008  
James Oliver