

CHRISTOPHER KOHL'S FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
MARCH 9, 2009
STATION 51

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm, 9 March, 2009. Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance: Deborah Dawson, Chairman
 Margot Fish-Holmes, Vice Chairman
James Oliver, Clerk/Treasurer
 Electra VanEckhoutte, Fire Chief
Dionne May, Administrative Assistant
Department members attending were identified.

Agenda Item 3.

- A. The Minutes from the 9 February, 2009, Board Meeting was approved by the Board after a motion by Mr. Oliver and a second by Mrs. Dawson.
- B. The status of the District Bank accounts for February, 2009, was given by Mr. Oliver. There was a correction to be made to the report form incorrectly detailing the Wells Fargo account information. The correction was made verbally and will be corrected before signing on the report form. The closing of the Chase account was discussed. Mrs. Holmes-Fish made a motion to accept the report, and Mrs. Dawson accepted the Treasurer report as read. Mrs. Dawson discussed bonding of Dionne for the Wells Fargo account.
- C. Chief VanEckhoutte gave the Chief's report and discussed the status of the Department and activities of the members of the Department.

Agenda Item 5. Information/Discussion/ on acquisition of land and new fire stations to replace stations 51 and 52. This was taken out of order. Mr. Oliver discussed a conference he attended on Stimulus money grants. The various Federal grant programs were discussed, with little new information available. Stimulus money to the State for new Fire Stations was felt by Mr. Oliver to be the best opportunity for the District. Mr. Oliver said a letter was sent to the Governor's Office requesting their help. The Assistance to Firefighter grant applications are not out yet, but some Departments are working on the Grants, using last year's application forms. Mrs. Dawson discussed briefly the letter to the Governor's Office.

Agenda Item 6. Information/Discussion/Action on selection of an auditor to conduct an audit of the Annual Report for the current fiscal year. Mr. Oliver said that the firm of Seely, Mullins conducted last year's audit, and he felt that went very well. Mr. Oliver has not been able to locate another local firm that does this type of audit, and out of town firms charge travel and per diem expenses. Selly, Mullins sent the Department an engagement letter with a cost of \$7800.00 for the audit, and Mr. Oliver recommended that the Board approve them as the auditor. Mrs. Holmes-Fish made a motion to engage Selly, Mullins as the auditor for the current year's Annual report at a cost of \$7800.00. Mrs. Dawson seconded, and the Board approved on a unanimous vote.

Agenda Item 7. Information/Discussion/Action on services contract with Tonto Rim Christian Camp (TRCC). Mrs. Dawson said that when the County Assessor's office had an error with assessments, they would correct the current year and look back three years. This would be about \$6,778.00 dollars refund to the TRCC. Mrs. Holmes-Fish asked how the Chairman arrived at that figure. Mr. Oliver gave background on the issue, saying that the District had charged the TRCC for services on several parcels that were in the Fire District. The TRCC proper had not been included in the District boundaries, but were charged a fee for coverage under a services contract. TRCC owned several parcels in the adjoining subdivisions that were in the District. Mr. Oliver said the County Assessor included those parcels in the assessed value statement for TRCC given yearly to the District for computing the Services Contract fee. The District did not realize the parcels in question were in the District until last year. At that time they were not included in the fee charged. The District parcels were listed on the billing statement in previous years that were given to the TRCC. Mr. Oliver said

most likely they had been charged for these parcels since the District was formed in 1988. Mr. Oliver said that the TRCC was asking for a refund. The issue was discussed by the Board at some length. David Lloyd asked about taxes paid on the properties. Due to the various proposals made by Board members, Mrs. Dawson felt that someone from the Board should discuss the issue with the TRCC officials. Scott VanEckhoutte commented on the issue, asking who were the actual owners of the parcels in questions. Mrs. Dawson agreed to discuss the issue and negotiate the matter, with Board approval of the agreement. Mr. Sundra commented on the issue, saying that he felt the Camp was partly at fault. Mr. Lloyd commented on the issue.

Agenda item 4. Information/Discussion on the fiscal year 2010 budget. Mr. Oliver gave the current status of personnel and assessed values of properties in the District. There has been about a 9% increase in SAV of the District. With the same tax rate, the District would have nine percent increase in budget. Mr. Oliver said that the Chief wanted to increase the 24/7 personnel on duty from one to two, with at least one paramedic on duty. This would require a tax rate increase, estimated to be about 40 cents increase per hundred of SAV. Mr. Oliver commented that the basic operating budget was somewhat fixed, with the issue before the Board being the personnel manning level. A discussion of other District rates, salaries, benefits and other personnel matters ensued among the Board and the Chief. Part time employees were discussed. Number of calls, availability of suitable volunteers, and benefits of ALS personnel was discussed. The progress of the Department, and the improvement in service levels accomplished by Chief VanEckhoutte and other personnel was noted by Mrs. Dawson and was discussed. Wage levels proposed by Chief VanEckhoutte were discussed. Future valuations of the District and impacts on the District were discussed. The County concerns last summer when the 2 Board members and the Chief quit were discussed. The following persons commented on this agenda item: Mr. VanEckhoutte, Mr. Bownds, Mr. Ashby, Mr. Schantz, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Fitch, Mr. Sundra, and Mrs. Horner. Mrs. Marazza had previously asked Mr. Oliver to comment for her, and he did so. Mrs. Marazza and Mr. Lloyd felt that taxes should not be increased at this time. Mr. Lloyd felt there should be not be a pay increase for personnel. The other commenter's were basically in favor of the increased level of service. The personnel issue was left open for further discussion. Mr. Oliver said he would prepare a basic bare bones budget with both alternatives listed for the next meeting. The timeline for the budget was discussed.

Agenda item 8. Future agenda items. The FY 2010 budget item was requested by Mrs. Dawson. Another item Mrs. Dawson asked to be included for discussion at a future meeting was an evaluation and probation period for new hires.

Agenda item 9. Call to the public. There was no comment.

Mrs. Dawson adjourned the meeting at 8:50 pm, 9 March, 2009

Submitted: 16 March, 2009, by James Oliver

Approved: _____ Chairman _____, 2009