

CHRISTOPHER KOHL'S FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
MAY 10th, 2010
STATION 51

Meeting called to order at 7:00pm, 10 May, 2010. Pledge of Allegiance.

In Attendance: Deborah Dawson, Chairman
 Margot Holmes, Vice Chairman
 James Oliver, Clerk/Treasurer

Electra VanEckhoutte, Fire Chief
Fire Department members were identified.

Agenda Item 3.

A. The Minutes from the 12 April, 2010, Board Meeting was approved unanimously by the Board after a motion by Mr. Oliver, with a second by Mrs. Holmes.

B. The status of the District Bank accounts for April, 2010, was given by Mr. Oliver. Mrs. Holmes made a motion to approve the report, Mrs. Dawson seconded. The vote to accept the Treasurer's report was unanimous.

C. Chief VanEckhoutte gave the Chief's report and discussed the status of the Department and activities of the members of the Department. The Chief discussed the status of the Mutual Aid Agreement that was recently approved by the Board. Mrs. Dawson asked about the title status of the recently burned building, and if it had been examined by the Chief. Chief VanEckhoutte said the property had just been purchased by the owner, who was a respected longtime resident. Mrs. Dawson questioned the period of time since the last ISO review, saying that she had been told there had been several reviews over the years. Chief VanEckhoutte and Mr. Oliver said they knew of no reviews other than the one that ISO said was 17 years ago. Mrs. Dawson asked if the fifth wheel had been sold, if a new trailer had been bought, and if a quad had been bought. Chief VanEckhoutte said the fifth wheel had been sold, a trailer was obtained in a swap, and a quad had been bought. Mrs. Dawson questioned the purchase of the quad, stating that it was a Board issue, said it was an illegal purchase, and violated the Open Meeting Law. Mr. Oliver said that District procedures were followed, and it did not violate any laws, especially the Open Meeting Law. Mrs. Dawson said that she disagreed, and would see what the Attorney General had to say about it. Chief VanEckhoutte said that the new engine tires were purchased the same way. Mrs. Dawson inquired about several items that she had asked to be included into the Chief's report, noting that Chief VanEckhoutte did not respond to her request. Chief VanEckhoutte said that was a Board decision to be made, and Mr. Oliver said that he was going to discuss the issue under future agenda items.

D. Correspondence of Interest: Mrs. Dawson read and gave a letter to Chief VanEckhoutte responding to the Chief's letter read at the last meeting. Mrs. Dawson gave her reasons for the inquires made to the Chief at the Board meetings. Mrs. Dawson brought up her requests for the Chief's report, and Mr. Oliver said that he was going to bring that up under future agenda items. Mrs. Dawson said that the Board would discuss it now. Mrs. Dawson read another letter giving her reasons for her request. An extensive outline was presented by Mrs. Dawson of items requested and her justification for them. She discussed the lack of reconciliation statements that had been given to Board Members in the past. Mr. Oliver said that when Mrs. Dawson took office she had said that she did not want the reconciliation statements as she did not understand them. Mrs. Dawson said that was not true. Mrs. Dawson continued with her requests for the Chief. Mrs. Dawson said that any

refusal by the Chief to comply with her requests would result in a letter of reprimand being placed in the Chief's personnel file. Mr. Oliver discussed the upcoming election and the dates associated with the election. Mrs. Dawson asked why we would be notifying the County, and Mr. Oliver said we would tell the County that there would be two Board members up for election at the General election.

Agenda item 4. Information/Discussion/Action on approval of a proposed FY 2011 Budget for publication and posting only. Mrs. Dawson said that the Department was too tightly run, and she wanted a rainy day fund and a five year plan. Chief VanEckhoutte and Mrs. Dawson discussed the five year plan. Mrs. Dawson and Mr. Oliver discussed the capital fund. Mr. Oliver explained the budget limitations, the capital reserve fund, and what it is intended to be used for. Mrs. Dawson said that the Department should reduce expenditures so as to increase the capital fund. Mrs. Dawson asked what the average cost of a call was, and Mr. Oliver said to divide the operating budget by the number of calls. Mrs. Dawson asked the number of personnel on the Department, including volunteers, and what was the cost of the volunteers. Mr. Oliver asked that the Board confine itself to the issue at hand, which was approval of the budget for publication and posting. Mrs. Dawson said she was uncomfortable in approving the budget without answers to her questions. Mrs. Dawson asked if the Department had to pay overtime for training. Other budget items were discussed by Mrs. Dawson. Mrs. Dawson presented several ways to reduce the budget including reducing staffing, having reserve on call, having firefighters assume health care costs, pooling insurance costs with other districts, salary reductions, selling or leasing out equipment, and leasing out station 52 to Hellsgate. Chief VanEckhoutte and Mr. Oliver stated that Chief Hatch did not want station 52, but wanted to charge for responding to our calls. Mrs. Dawson and Chief VanEckhoutte discussed further budget reductions. Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the presented budget for publication and posting. Mrs. Holmes seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

Agenda item 5. Information on Future Agenda items. Mr. Oliver brought up correspondence between the Chairman and the Chief that all Board members had received. The issues raised were the Chief's report, the Treasurer's report, and reporting of nature of EMS calls. After some discussion, it was agreed to place this issue on the Agenda for the August meeting. Mrs. Dawson said she wanted the issue of hiring an Assistant Chief be placed on the Agenda. Chief VanEckhoutte cited budget concerns. Mr. Oliver said that the only Board concern, besides budget concerns, was to approve the Chief's choice for Assistant Chief.

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

Mr. Oliver made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mrs. Holmes seconded, the vote to adjourn was unanimous.

Mrs. Dawson adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm, 10 May, 2010

Submitted: 17 May, 2010, by James Oliver

Approved: _____ Chairman _____, 2010