

SILETZ VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
Regular Board of Director's Meeting
Tuesday, July 7, 2020

The Regular Meeting of the Siletz Valley Fire District Board of Directors was called to order at 18:12 by Board of Directors Interim President Reggie Butler. Also present were Board of Directors Rick Olson, Patti Skauge and Dixie Morford. Staff in attendance included Bunny West, Chief Glenn Fluhr and EMT Coordinator Amber Kuettel. Volunteer Brent Summerlin and member of the public Eric Vanzant were also present.

Director Butler led the Pledge of Allegiance.

GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

None.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. *Rescue vehicle purchase:*** The board of directors discussed the budget resolution that was submitted by Chief Fluhr regarding the movement of \$40,000 from contingency funds to an unappropriated account. The board determined that this was not in the best interest of the district and requested that Chief Fluhr cancel the order for the purchase of the new rescue vehicle. Chief Fluhr noted that at the previous board meeting the board had been in support of the purchase. Reggie Butler asked that another mechanic be commissioned to look at the current rescue vehicle to determine how much it would cost to make repairs to that vehicle instead of purchasing a new vehicle. Bunny West noted that the moving of \$40,000 from contingency funds to an unappropriated account would call for a reconvening of the budget committee. Director Butler asked why Bunny West was asked to leave the executive session on June 27 when the budget resolution for the purchase of the rescue vehicle was discussed. Chief Fluhr stated that there was a conflict of interest between Ms. West and Alison Kalnins which is why Ms. West was asked to step out of the meeting. Director Butler asked that Ms. West oversee the budget.
- b. *Logsden Station Clean-Up:*** Rick Olson stated that the Logsden station has not been touched since the February board meeting. Chief Fluhr stated that the reason that the work at Logsden has not been completed is because of Fire Fighter I Academy. He stated that he would have the clean up at the Logsden Station complete by the next board meeting. Director Olson reiterated that the clean up needs to be addressed. Chief Fluhr noted that according to the timesheets he has from the volunteers that there have been 800 hours of volunteer time. Director Olson noted that the station in Logsden is not ready to respond. Director Butler noted that this was discussed in the February meeting and has not yet been addressed. Chief Fluhr stated that he believes the Logsden station is in

working order. Brent Summerlin noted that the water tender is ready to respond. Director Morford stated that the battery charger that is plugged in at the Logsden station needs to be unplugged. Director Olson stated that one of the vehicles in the Logsden station had a door that was left ajar or something that was causing a buzzer to go off full-time within the building.

- c. **Upstairs conference space:** Director Olson asked that the upstairs conference space be made ready to serve as a meeting space. That space is a mess and needs cleaned up and has become a catch all.
- d. **Covid 19 Response:** Director Olson stated that the district needs to tighten up its Covid response procedures.
- e. **Executive spending limits:** Director Butler recommended that the board institute a spending limit of \$500 for the executive of the district. Any expenditures over \$500 need to be brought to the board for approval ahead of purchase.
- f. **Amber Kuettel Supervisor:** Director Butler asked Chief Fluhr who Amber Kuettel's supervisor is. Chief Fluhr stated that she reports to Benji Conklin. Director Olson stated that Ms. Kuettel's timesheets need to be signed by Mr. Conklin. Ms. Kuettel stated that Mr. Conklin is in the station about twice weekly checking in on her. Mr. Olson asked Chief Fluhr why Director Olson was asked to sign Ms. Kuettel's timesheet last month. He stated that he doesn't know what hours she works. Ms. West noted that other than the last timesheet for Ms. Kuettel which was signed by Director Olson all other timesheets for Ms. Kuettel and all timesheets for Zach Fluhr as an employee were signed by Chief Fluhr. Director Olson asked Chief Fluhr who was supervising Amber's day to day tasks. Chief Fluhr stated that he would ask that Larry Annunzio to assume the duties as Ms. Kuettel's supervisor. Chief Fluhr also stated that Directors Olson and Skauge are in the station every week. He stated that he told Olson and Skauge to not hire his children for the open positions at the district.
- g. **Budget Supervision:** Chief Fluhr stated that he should be the one overseeing the budget not Ms. West. He stated that Ms. West doesn't have the budgetary experience that he has. Ms. West stated there are concerns about the budget that she brought to Chief Fluhr on Thursday regarding the moving of \$40,000 from the district's contingency line item to unappropriated funds. She stated that she was surprised to find that the reservations that she had brought to Chief Fluhr on Thursday had not been expressed to the board before they made the decision to move funds. She stated that the district has several unforeseen expenses coming up including response to Covid, attorney fees that the district is incurring in regards to the nepotism complaints and there is an incomplete audit that may require some financial restitution from the district. Chief Fluhr suggested that the meeting retire to executive session for further discussion. Ms. West pointed out that discussions of the budget do not meet the criteria for executive session. The meeting continued in regular session. Chief Fluhr stated that Ms. West was asked to leave the prior executive session because the board determined that there was a conflict of interest between Ms. West and Ms. Kalnins and that the board would be discussing the hiring of an attorney. Chief Fluhr stated that when Ms. West came and talked to him the previous week that she had 'a whole gauntlet' of items that she wanted to discuss. Ms. West stated that she is concerned that this administration is trying to lay blame on the previous administration for anything goes wrong. Ms. West stated that she met with the board and explained to

them that she does not intend to continue with her employment at the district if Chief Fluhr remains the executive officer. She feels that Chief Fluhr is dishonest with the board. Chief Fluhr stated that he did not want her to continue working with the district. She said she already knows that. She stated that she feels like she was honest with her concerns to Chief Fluhr and that he 'went behind her back' and told the board something different. Chief Fluhr suggested that the board members meet with the volunteers and see how they feel about the chief. Ms. West agreed that was a good idea and also suggested that the board meet with the volunteers that have left this district since Fluhr has come on to see what they think.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- a. Bunny West read letter submitted for the record by Alison Kalnins-McGrath.
- b. Eric Vanzant – Mr. Vanzant stated that he has known Glenn Fluhr since 1988. He believes Chief Fluhr to be of excellent character. He is very committed. He hopes that there will be an opportunity for conflict resolution between Ms. West and Chief Fluhr. He suggested that the board speak with the volunteers. Ms. West agreed that was a good idea and suggested that the board meet with the volunteers that have left this district since Fluhr has come on to see what they think.

BOARD MEMEBERS COMMENT

Reggie Butler: Director Butler asked that we begin looking toward the future of the district and spend less time considering the past. This district has come a long way over the years.

Patti Skauge: Please pick up the old propane tank that is laying out by the generator.

Reggie Butler: Thank you to the district for participating in the graduation parade and the drive-by birthday parties for kids. It has been nice to see the department out doing these activities.

ADJOURNMENT

Director Skauge motioned that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was 2nd by Director Olson. Motion carried with all eyes. Meeting adjourned at 18:59.



President



Secretary