

Scappoose Rural Fire District
52751 Columbia River Hwy., Scappoose, OR 97056
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
May 7, 2020 7:00 pm

Special Meeting: After due and legal notice the Special meeting of the Scappoose Rural Fire District Board of Directors was called to order at 7:00 pm by Board President David Graham.

Present: David Graham, David Sorenson, Andy Krieck, Mark Gift, Ron Cairns

Absent: None

Others: Chief Hoke, FD Salisbury

Call to Order: President Graham called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Flag Salute: President Graham led the flag salute.

New Business:

A: Consider modification to the Fire Chief's contract. President Graham referred to a letter from Chief Dennis Hoke, saying that Chief Hoke agreed to a modification to his contract. The Board has decided to accept his resignation. He has voluntarily resigned effective July 1, 2020 due to family reasons. As part of the modification, Chief Hoke will receive three months severance pay, thus modifying the contract dated Sept 3, 2019 to terminate on July 1, 2020. Chief Hoke will take vacation June 11, 2020 to June 30, 2020. Chief Hoke agreed to return all fire district equipment and uniforms prior to June 11, 2020. He will be available via phone or email to assist in transition issues for a period of six months at no cost to the District. By accepting this agreement Chief Hoke agrees not to bring any litigation against SRFD. Written approval binds the Board of Directors and Chief Hoke in agreement not to make negative comments about any member of the agreement or the District. Media inquiries will be directed to the Board President. President Graham wished Chief Hoke the best in all future endeavors and thanked Chief Hoke for his work with the district.

Director Sorenson moved to accept Chief Hoke's resignation. Director Krieck seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

All Board members thanked Chief Hoke for his work here.

Chief Hoke wished the Board the best success in the future. He proposed that Division Chief Jeff Pricher be promoted to Deputy Chief, saying he had agreed to do that at no additional salary increase, then moved to Interim Chief, saying both Division Chiefs Pricher and Marks are well equipped to move the district forward.

Director Gift said he would like to wait until the next regular board meeting to make the appointment to Deputy Chief.

President Graham agreed to wait to appoint the Deputy Chief/Interim Chief until May 14th regular board meeting.

Director Sorenson asked how much work it will be to unwind the IGA. Chief Hoke stated that the issue of Duty Officer needs to be worked out, Battalion Chief tone, and materials owned by each district sorted. Columbia River Fire and Rescue's executives would like to begin the separation on a trial basis June 1, 2020 so they have a month to work out issues. If there is conflict, Chief Hoke stated the Boards of Directors will need to sort it out.

Director Gift asked that Chief Hoke keep both DC Pricher and DC Marks fully informed regarding all discussions of IGA termination until the Board makes their decision for the Interim Chief position.

Director Graham asked for further comments. He then asked if they needed to go into Executive Session to discuss union negotiations.

Director Gift asked to see the proposed budget figures with a possible retirement in December. He wanted to know how that will affect the budget figures due to the trickle-down effects of a returning employee, FMLA leaves, and savings associated with six months fewer fire chief salary.

President Graham mentioned that he attended the retirement celebration in the engine bays for Angie Meres' 18 years of service to SRFD.

Chief Hoke mentioned the first round of COVID-19 money was received. He followed up with the 19% increase SDW will charge due to the increased workload billing is seeing due to COVID-19 requirements. He said there would be internal discussion to move to another company for billing.

Director Gift mentioned that there seems to be a lack of communication regarding the recoupment of GEMT funds and when to expect them. They may not be disbursed by the end of the fiscal year. Chief Hoke said that money from conflagrations will be in before the end of the fiscal year.

Director Gift asked DC Pricher and DC Marks that if further reductions were to be made, where should they come from? He asked that they present their ideas in writing by the next board meeting. He then asked if there were any grant applications we could apply for. DC Pricher mentioned that a \$100,000 reimbursement grant that is a pass-through grant will start this fiscal year and be on the books next fiscal year.

Director Kriech said that SAFER grants tend to have a number of restrictions. DC Marks mentioned that he had begun working on a recruitment and retention grant for SRFD, which is due Friday, May 15, 2020.

President Graham called for good of the order.

The Board entered Executive Session at 7:37 pm.

Being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.