

**TURNER FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Minutes
June 28, 2011
7605 3rd St SE, Turner
6:00 pm

Meeting called to order by President Craig Anderson at 6:10 pm (preceded by the Budget Hearing). Other board members in attendance were Director Glenn Pennebaker, Director Gene Schaefer, Director Gary Tiffin, and Director Pat Walsh. Also present were Chief Henson, AC Remy, AC Robinson, Rebecca Shivers Singleterry, Joe McNarie, Dave Gulledege, Ed Humber, Claude Kennedy, Kathy Puckett, Cindy Brammer, Jordan Donat, Dave Lawton, and Anna Kraemer (recording secretary).

Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Minutes: Director Walsh made a motion to approve the May 19, 2011 minutes. Seconded by Director Schaefer. Unanimous.

Proclamations/Awards: Chief Henson announced that the Chemeketa Paramedic graduation is scheduled for July 14th. Volunteers Andrea Martinez and Nick Coleman will be graduating in this ceremony.

Financials: No discussion

Individual/Organizational Input:

1. TFD Vol. Assoc.: Cindy Brammer thanked the Directors for their assistance at the Turner Breakfast. More than \$2,600 was raised and 561 people were served.
2. Local 2557: No report given

Chief's report:

1. Chief Henson thanked personnel for their service at the volunteer breakfast stating that it was a great event and that he is grateful for the community support and involvement.
2. Dean Bender of Polk County Emergency Management sent an email thanking Chief Henson and others involved for their help securing funds for the Salem Hospital communications project. When the new tower was built at Salem Hospital, a dead zone of radio traffic was created. Through the work of two committees the group has amassed approximately \$75k to move forward with correction of this problem. Chief Henson stated that it was this great example of interagency cooperation which enabled this project to move forward.
3. An application has been submitted by Captain Lawton for the VFA Wildland grant. This is a \$20,000 grant with a 50/50 match requirement. The grant application has been sent in and more information will be reported as available.
4. Medical Director Dr. Marc Houston sent a letter to staff last week stating his support and appreciation for the additional training and EMS involvement of our personnel.
5. Chief Henson thanked outgoing Board members Gary Tiffin, Glenn Pennebaker, and Pat Walsh for their involvement and commitment during their tenure on the Board.

Old Business:

1. The Medic 95 data report was provided. Data on Medic 95 has been presented to the board monthly since January. Year-to-date totals list specifics of each call including response times and whether the call resulted in a transport. In regard to other agency transports, the majority of these transports occur after hours when Medic 95 is not in service. In these cases, the first responding apparatus is likely a fire engine from TFD, with a medic unit coming from another agency.
2. The FEMA AFG grant application for multi-platform defibrillators was denied for Turner Fire. This narrative for TFD was the same as the narrative for MCFD who was awarded this grant. The reason for the denial is unknown.
3. Continuation of the WVFRA/TFD relationship conversation. Director Anderson read the following statement into record and requested it be included in it's entirety:

At the May TFD Board meeting we conducted an extensive discussion about the TFD/WVFRA relationship. Anna Kraemer has recorded that discussion very thoroughly and accurately as part of the official Board minutes for that date. If you have not had a chance to read them, I encourage you to do so. Over the past several weeks I have reflected on these discussions, and Chief Henson, Assistant Chief Remy and I have discussed them at some length. I am going to share a summary of the thoughts that the three of us developed with you.

The challenges faced by this organization are common to many organizations. In that sense, we are not unique. What makes us unique is the life-and-death nature of our mission, our unusual reliance on excellent volunteer service and the necessary trust relationship that we share with our community. I conclude that these three features are not only our greatest resources but they make our progress extremely difficult. What we do is very important and our service is only helpful when it is done well. So, we face extreme pressure to create and maintain a high-functioning organization and we never get even one minute off. This is a 24/7 project.

The potential for collaboration in the fire service is just as real and just as important today as it was when we launched WVFRA. We must be involved in constructive partnerships. I am not convinced that WVFRA, in its current condition and form, represents a viable partnership for TFD. I am convinced that we cannot continue with the current strategies and expect different results. The reality is that there are very large and complex issues surrounding this partnership. While the focus of this comment is Turner, I believe that MCFD board members share my belief.

We knew when we started this, that there would be challenges though I have to admit that the problems are far more difficult than I expected. I have come to believe that while there are huge, perhaps insurmountable challenges, there are some pockets of value in the WVFRA. Training, Administrative services, Fire Marshal services and the coordination of medical services are just a few of the benefits.

I have a hope that we can make large enough changes to WVFRA that we can survive and thrive without having to dismantle the parts that work so well and benefit both our personnel and our community. This hope is now my focus. We must create and implement a series of changes that acknowledge and fix the problems while preserving the benefits of this partnership. Simply stated, if we can't make the needed adjustments within the necessary time frames, we will lose this partnership and TFD will return to its previous state. While a return to our previous condition is very attractive in many ways, it would present new and large challenges.

Finally, I have come to see that we do have incredible people in this organization. At all levels, we have smart and dedicated people who are willing to work hard in our shared efforts to grow. The way forward is going to be complex and difficult but it is a path we must

travel. Tonight we will honor the contributions of volunteer board members who have participated faithfully. As we acknowledge their contributions, know that we have engaged incoming board members in structured orientation which includes considerable reading of foundational material. In July, we will continue the careful process of understanding the full range of options that belong to us. We may decide the best move for TFD is to immediately and permanently withdraw our membership in WVFRA. Or we may decide that a number of lesser adjustments can get us to a productive and sustainable position. That work will be difficult but it has begun and it will continue until it is finished. This is my goal and you have my commitment on this point.

New Business:

1. Resolution 2011-03, Establishing Policies for Fund Balance was presented for approval. Director Tiffin made the motion to adopt resolution 2011-03, establishing policies for fund balance classification for fiscal year 2011-12 as presented. Seconded by Director Pennebaker. Unanimous.
2. Resolution 2011-04, Making Transfer Appropriations was presented for approval. Director Schaefer made the motion to adopt resolution 2011-04, transferring appropriation for fiscal year 2010-11 as presented. Seconded by Director Walsh. Unanimous.
3. Resolution 2011-05, Making Appropriations, Imposing Tax, and Categorizing Tax was presented for approval. Director Walsh made the motion to adopt Resolution 2011-05, adopting the budget, imposing the tax, and categorizing the tax as presented. Seconded by Director Tiffin. Unanimous.
4. The abstract of election results was presented for approval. Director Walsh made a motion to approve the abstract of election results as presented. Seconded by Director Pennebaker. Unanimous.
5. Social Media Policy was presented to the board for adoption. This policy was proposed at the OFDDA/OFCA conference for organizations that manage a social media site. Clarification on allowable content and public records retention is included in this policy. Motion to adopt the Social Media policy made by Director Walsh. Seconded by Director Tiffin. Unanimous.
6. Board Policy Revisions have been under review for the past several months. Director Anderson proposed postponing action until the July meeting as there are some remaining questions. Board consensus to wait until the July meeting.
7. Ambulance Billing Impact. A few months ago EMS providers became aware of an administrative rule change in workers compensation that would have affected ambulance reimbursement rates from auto insurance providers as well. Fire and EMS lobbied through OFCA and was successful in getting the language revised. In a separate action, a 1% Medicare efficiency cut at the federal level has been approved. The Oregon Health Plan is following suit and proposing an 11% efficiency cut for reimbursement. The hearing on that takes place later this week and Chief Henson will be speaking against the proposed cut. The group proposing the 11% cut is the same group that continues to deny claims as medically unnecessary, many of them cardiac cases.
8. The proposed Volunteer Policy & Procedure manual has been reviewed by Director Anderson and some changes are proposed. Once these changes have been drafted, the manual will go back to the Volunteer Association for review.

Division Reports: No discussion.

Good of the Order:

1. Director Pennebaker thanked the Board stating appreciation for each member. He added that he had learned a lot and held much respect for each member of the Board.
2. Director Walsh stated that his experience on the board had been a great honor and that he was thoroughly impressed with the many dedicated individuals at TFD. The resilience of the organization is a credit to TFD and he thanked the Board for their wisdom and leadership. He furthered that he was impressed with Chief Henson; he has the characteristics to handle a great amount of information, to articulate it in an outstanding manner, and to involve himself politically in the best interest of the fire service. Director Walsh offered to volunteer his services in the future if needed.
3. Director Tiffin stated that the job of Director is an important task and one to be treasured. He thanks Director Anderson and stated that he would be with the Board as the task is continued. Director Tiffin appreciated he volunteers and realizes the dynamic of a volunteer fire district; he is overwhelmed by the dedication of time spent on behalf of the organization.
4. Kathy Puckett stated that she was thankful for the Board and appreciates them staying involved and connected.

Next Meeting: July 21, 2011, 6:30 pm at 7605 3rd St SE, Turner.

Adjourn: 7:06 p.m.

D. Craig Anderson, Board President

Board Secretary