

FLORENCE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT MEETING
300 WEST MAIN ST
FLORENCE, CO 81226
RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

.....
DATE: March 5th, 2024

Time: 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

BILL SIMMONS President	P	BILL RITTER District Chief	P
DANA ANGEL Vice Pres.	P	CLAYTON MASAR Secretary	P
GREG RALEY Treasurer	P	STATION 1 Assistant Chief	P
DALE CARROLL Director	P	STATION 2 Assistant Chief	P
JAMES SHERIDAN Director	P	STATION 3 Assistant Chief	A

Present P, absent with no excuse A, Excused absence E, Late arriving L with arrival time

MEETING VISITORS

- John Dison, Aaron Boyer, James Peterson

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

- The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- *A motion to approve the monthly reconciliation and treasurer's report was made by Dana Angel and seconded by James Sheridan. Motion carried.*

GUESTS TO MEETING

10 Minute Limit

- None

COMMUNICATIONS & SECRETARY'S REPORT

- None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

- None

DISTRICT CHIEF REPORT

- Chief Ritter reported that the ladder truck is at TA Customs getting the paint repaired, he is working to finish up with ESO by the end of the month, the bids are in for the fire trucks but he is waiting for any mail in bids, Fireman James Peterson did a CBA repair course, on the 14th of this month Chief Ritter will be attending a meeting with the other EMS Providers, there is already a shortage of medical supplies and expected to be worse by the end of the year, the paid fireman went to the high school and helped with a class, SEAT operations out of Fremont County are no longer in service.

STATION REPORTS

- Station 1-
- Station 2-
- Station 3-
- *A motion to accept the District Chief Report and Station Reports was made by James Sheridan and seconded by Dana Angel. Motion carried.*

OLD BUSINESS

- Trucks for Sale- Chief Ritter spoke on this in his report.
- St. 3 Internet- Still waiting on the part
- District Banquet- President Simmons asked each Station Chief if they had talked with their members to see if they would rather have a banquet or a picnic once a year. Chief Carochi said that it is the Board Members District and asked what they wanted to do. Simmons asked if Carochi had talked to his members, Carochi told Simmons not to get cocky with him and that if he wanted to go outside and settle it. Carochi said that he wants the Directors to decide because it is their district. Simmons just wanted some member input. Larry Todd talked to his members and they want a banquet. Bill Ritter gave his report last month. ***A motion to leave the decision of a banquet or picnic up to the stations each year and rotate which station would put it on each year was made by James Sheridan and seconded by Dale Carroll. Motion carried.*** Chief Carochi asked who would be up first. Chief Ritter said that last year Station 1 had their own banquet, Station 2 had their own, and Station 3 went to Station 2. Sheridan mentioned starting with Station 1 and moving down the list from there.
- Station 3 Signage- worried about cold and wind. In the process though
- Parking Lot- waiting for warmer weather to repave and the same company has to fix a spot at Station 3
- Dale Carroll mentioned that Greg Raley made a comment that he wouldn't vote to sell the new ladder truck or pawn it off on another department. Carroll said that for the moral part of it, he has spent twenty years on the department, and you cannot keep moral up. He said that a comment like that would kill moral. Raley stated that is not how the comment was meant, he meant that it wouldn't be right to sell a truck to a department with issues. Carroll asked why he would sell the trucks at Station 3 then. There was some discussion. Carroll asked if anyone wonders why the moral is the way it is at the departments, Raley said that he would make it really easy. Raley said that he will have a letter of resignation turned in tomorrow morning and step away from everything. Carroll said that he isn't looking for confrontation, but he isn't afraid of it either. Ritter stated that in his opinion Raley was talking about fixing the truck up so that is a good useable truck.
- Carroll said that in the budget a couple years the board decided that sets of bunker gear would be bought each year and that hasn't been happening to replace old gear. Ritter said that he had been budgeting them in each year. He has buying sets each year. Carroll asked what we are doing with the old gear, his understanding was that after 5 years the District would be set up with new gear and be able to give the old gear away to another station like Wetmore. Ritter stated that Wetmore has better gear than we do and he is working on getting all members in good gear and almost to the point of getting people two sets of gear.
- Carroll asked what Chief Ritter has planned for District training including all of the departments. He has been working for years to get the District working together as one. Ritter agrees and he has a plan in place to work on that. Ritter said that he is going to have an Officer's meeting soon.
- Carroll asked Ritter how he felt about stepping down from Station 1 Chief to lighten his load. Ritter said that the District needs to reorganize the District in terms of chain of command. To make the district one there needs to be one person in charge. Board members, admin, assistant chiefs, officers, and firefighters. Carroll feels like Ritter has been getting too much put on his plate and would like to make it easier for him. Ritter said that when he isn't on duty he only shows up for the big incidents. Carroll would like Ritter to attend each of the Station meetings, one at a time if he could. Ritter said the last year has been a challenge with the EMS start up and the Station 3 building, but it is slowing down now so he can focus on his goals for the District.

NEW BUSINESS

- James Sheridan wanted to let Station 2 know that he will be seeking approval for the car show. Ritter said that needed to go through him and the Sheriff's department.
- John Dison would like to speak. He is not looking for confrontation, but he was upset with the way the ladder truck panned out. His suggestion would be more time to check out trucks and involve other people to go look at these trucks. He is also upset about the banquet and the moral of the District. He doesn't know why the District doesn't put on their own banquet. William Simmons said that last year the Board tried to put on a banquet, but each station wanted to do their own. Carochi said that is was not District wide last year. Station 1 offered to do it for the District. Ritter said that Station 2 said they weren't interested. Carochi said that everyone always says Station 2 isn't interested and that if they want to play games then he will play games. He said that everyone is pissed off at everyone so either we suck it up now or do it right because they dropped the ball last year. He isn't throwing a fit about that. Carochi said either we solve it or not, either just grow up and break the fucking wall down and we go back and start fighting fire together, or we say piss on it all together like we have the last 18 years I have been on the damn department, I'm sick of it, all of it, I'm done with it. When Calvin was Chief I did everything I could to break the wall down and instead I was treated like shit. When I came up here for the ambulance stuff, I got treated like shit, you got your way with the ambulance from the newspaper and shit, so either we start working together or fuck it I'm done. I'm serious. Simmons asked for suggestions. Carochi again said that Misty was bossing around his guys and they were pissed, the pig roast thing was a committee and that didn't work out. Ritter said that there were meetings for the pig roast committee. Aaron Boyer said he was on that committee, but nobody involved him. Boyer said he has been on every committee, but nothing ever comes of it. Boyer said Raley decided on his own about the pig roast. Carochi said the board should have stepped up and held the banquet. Carochi said if you want to bring moral to the district bring people together. Simmons said that's why they asked the opinion of the Stations. Carroll and Ritter said that they would like to have it together, but need more input. Dison read what he had wrote about the question sent back to the departments, and why he was disheartened. Carroll mentioned having a District banquet and if there isn't any participation, then we won't have another. Boyer said he feels like Station 2 doesn't get heard and that Carochi always presents the board with the members' feelings. Carochi asked for a committee involving the paid Fire, EMS, volunteers, and Board members. Boyer mentioned the truck, Station 2 feels like Station 1 bought the trucks and they got the leftovers. Carroll and Ritter said that's not the case and those feelings are a station 2 issue. Boyer would like to sit down and talk and get more involvement. Boyer said that everyone puts their heart into this District and that's why there are such hard feelings, he thinks that the members need more of a buy in.
- Sheridan asked about the committee for the banquet and who needs to be involved. Boyer thinks one individual from each station, the paid fireman, paid EMS, and a Board member. Simmons volunteered to be the Board member for the Banquet. Carochi said that each station would bring their own awards. Ritter said that on the committee for the banquet it needs to be a member that is not a chief. Simmons asked for recommendations at the next District Board meeting. There was a consensus that summer time is not good for having banquets. ***A motion to form a committee including one person from each station, one paid fireman, one paid EMS personnel, and one Board member that will put together the Banquet was made by James Sheridan and seconded by William Simmons. Motion carried.*** John Dison thanked the Board for listening and taking suggestions. John Dison would like to put Chief Ritter on blast for a bit, but he feels like that is inappropriate considering how everyone has conducted themselves tonight. He asked Ritter for a private meeting after Board meeting. Sheridan said that it is the Stations responsibility to bring the feelings of the volunteers back to the Board. Carroll said that the board is just trying to bring everyone together.
- There has been a lot of change over the last few years and it is all getting worked out.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE GOOD OF THE DISTRICT

- Simmons told each of the board members that they need to read the SDA magazines.
- Sheridan said that the By Laws and the chain on command need to be rewrote. He feels that there should be a committee for that. Ritter said that By Laws go from the top down and that suggestions will be taken but not necessarily used. Dale said that is a good way for members to understand why policies are written.
- Simmons said that Chief Ritter does everything plus more for the District.

NEXT MEETING DATE March 19th, 2024

ADJOURNMENT

- ***A motion to adjourn was made by James Sheridan and seconded by William Simmons at 8:24PM. Motion carried.***

President William Simmons March 19th, 2024

Secretary Clayton Masar March 19th, 2024

APPROVED