

West Valley Fire District

Special Meeting Minutes – September 8, 2021 – 825 NE Main St. Willamina, OR 97396

*Meeting was held virtually via RingCentral Meetings

Board Members Present	Board Members Absent
West Valley Fire District	None
Rick Mishler	Administration Present
Roy Whitman (V)	Fred Hertel
Chris Greenhill	Christine Talley (V)
Connie Brown	
Mike Alger (ARC)	

Virtual- (V) Arrives after roll call- (ARC)

GENERAL BUSINESS

Call to Order		President Chris Greenhill opens the meeting at 6:00 pm. The agency has a quorum of directors which allows deliberation and decision making. Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
Roll Call		Chief Hertel calls roll as delineated above.
Approval of Minutes		Motion: Mishler Second: Brown <i>I move to approve the minutes from the August 3rd minutes</i> Motion passes unanimously
Financials	Discussion/Action	Board reviews the June financials. Mishler asks if the June report includes the break down of \$300,000 spent. Greenhill states that it isn't part of the June Financials. Hertel explains that expenditure was lower than average and that profit and loss in June was positive. Hertel says he thinks Mishler is thinking of the July financials. Mishler says that may be. Hertel says he will bring all three month's financials to tomorrow's meeting. Motion: Brown Second: Mishler <i>I move to approve the June financials</i> Motion passes unanimously
Audience Participation		Patty Brooks, West Valley Fire District – states she was surprised at the Chief's comment about vaccination. She claims there was an illegal meeting after the SW Polk meeting. She asks the board to make a motion to mandate vaccines. Ila Skyberg, Willamina – distributes photos of the old fire station and library. Expresses disappointment with the lack of respect from board members and asks them to get along. She thanks Chief Hertel for his service and asks what West Valley will gain from joining SW Polk. She expresses hope for a collaborative future. Gary Brooks, West Valley Fire District – asks if Chief Hertel will be gone on October 18 th . Says he has given everyone a Wikipedia definition of FTE. Expresses concern over the number of SW Polk administrative staff. Staci Cocker, Rock Creek Road – asks for clarification on vaccine mandate, whether the board's stance is if it is required.

Executive Session		As authorized under ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.
Attorney Waiver Letter	Discussion	Hertel says he left a message with SDAO, as requested by the board, regarding the attorney waiver letter but has not heard back. Mishler expresses concern that it takes a long time to get anything out of the attorney. Brown asks who came up with the contract for administrative staff. Hertel clarifies that it was a Personnel Action Form negotiated with Sheridan employees and that West Valley is tied to it via the IGA. Brown says she would like to challenge that. Hertel says he is happy to investigate it. Mishler says they shouldn't pay anymore severance until they find out more. Alger asks for clarification on the severance. Hertel explains that Sean Hoxie will be the only one to receive it. Brown asks why that is. Alger and Hertel both say because of the way Hoxie left during a board meeting. Mishler thinks they should decide on the 190 before signing the attorney waiver letter. Attorney waiver letter is tabled.
2019 – 2020 Audit	Discussion	Hertel introduces the audit and says it is for them to look through for the board to accept. Board tables audit to October meeting.
Future Direction	Discussion	<p>Hertel explains there were eight staff resignations last week and they expect more this week. He states they put together a part time pool and hiring lists. He says after the first resignation, six of the eight on the hiring list declined to interview so the Civil Service Commission had to exhaust the list to start the process over. Hertel says they will come to a point where they cannot staff two ambulances, which will put them in breach of their Tribal contract. He says the board should decide if they want to end their agreement beforehand.</p> <p>Brown asks for clarification of which staff was lost from West Valley. Hertel says two Battalion Chiefs and three Firefighter Paramedics. Mishler expresses frustration that they passed a levy to staff an ambulance and now may not be able to. He states they need to work with Sheridan. Discussion of ambulance staffing and breaching the Tribal contract follows. The board directs Chief Hertel to engage the Tribe for a mutually benefited separation of the contract as of October 1. Hertel states he wants to make sure everyone is on the same page; that with payouts for the staff leaving and loss of the Tribal contract revenue, West Valley will be upside down in their cash flow. Greenhill confirms that is understood.</p> <p>Discussion of sharing line staff with Sheridan.</p> <p>Brown asks Hertel for clarification on what he said at the Chamber meeting about not being vaccinated. Hertel clarifies that he said he is not vaccinated, that he doesn't plan to be, and if his employer holds him accountable, he may no longer be able to work after October 18th. He states his employer is ok with him following the law for an exception to getting the vaccine. Brown asks if he has passed out exceptions to the employees. Hertel says they have followed all the guidelines, including providing exceptions to employees.</p> <p>Motion: Greenhill Second: Whitman <i>I move to draft one IGA for the shared services of the line staff and the line staff only amongst the three districts.</i></p>

		<p>Mishler – No; All others – Yes.</p> <p>Hertel asks that the board make a motion regarding the Tribal contract, as well as grant him permission to pursue what tax increment financing would look like and bring it back to the board.</p> <p>Motion: Brown Second: Greenhill <i>I move to direct the Chief to engage the tribe in a mutual termination of the contract October 1.</i> Motion passes unanimously</p> <p>Mishler asks the Chief if he has received a letter about dispatching. Hertel says no, but the Tribe has been granted dispatch service. Mishler asks Chief Warden if the Tribe has a contract. Warden says that it is his understanding that the letter has been signed and is in transit.</p> <p>Motion: Greenhill Second: Alger <i>I move to direct the Chief to draft a financial implications document for how it will affect us as a District and what we will need to do to resolve this through the end of the year.</i> Motion passes unanimously</p> <p>Motion: Alger Second: Whitman <i>I move to extend the current IGA for 90 days</i> Whitman, Alger, Greenhill – Yes; Brown & Mishler – No Motion passes.</p>
Director Comments	Discussion	<p>Brown asks if the Tribe will provide service to non-Tribal members. Hertel says they have a mutual aid agreement that both legal teams are looking at.</p> <p>Greenhill reads a letter from Lincoln City thanking West Valley for their assistance on the Echo Mountain Complex Fire, which included a glass float made of the ash from the fire.</p> <p>Mishler asks if they are going to discuss the IGA. Greenhill says they can discuss at another meeting since they offered to extend the current IGA. Mishler asks if they are willing to look at Sheridan. Alger says they have 90 days to make a decision.</p> <p>Hertel passes out a QuickBooks document regarding Brown’s request for attorney bills in 2020. He also says that the new West Valley ambulance should be completed by September 22nd.</p> <p>Staci Coker of the Bulletin Board asks for clarification on extending the 190 agreement, whether they need the other board to agree. Greenhill says yes, at the next meeting.</p>
Adjournment	Action	<p>Motion: Mishler Second: Whitman <i>I move to adjourn</i> Motion passes unanimously</p>

Upcoming meetings/events:

- September 9th SWP WVFD Joint Meeting
- September 13th WVFD Special Meeting

Board packet and handouts included:

- Attorney Waiver Letter
- Lincoln City Letter
- QuickBooks Document

In our Board Meetings, we agree to...

- Begin and conclude meetings on time
- Be on time and come prepared to participate
- Be respectful, including:
 - Keeping our cell phones silent
 - Listening without interrupting when someone else is speaking
 - Allowing for all to contribute to the discussion
 - Honoring the Chair
- Follow Robert's Rules of Order for parliamentary procedures
- Honor confidentiality
- Have fun!