

West Valley Fire District

Regular Meeting Minutes – November 9, 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 Rick Mishler Roy Whitman Chris Greenhill Connie Brown Mike Alger	None
	Administration Present
	Fred Hertel Christine Talley Scott Magers

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.
Additions/Corrections to Agenda	Discussion	Whitman adds “Stakeholder” under new business item “B”
Financials	Discussion/Action	Mishler asks about the \$250,000 in the bank that he asked about at the last meeting. Hertel explains the money is being spent on bills, per the budget. Mishler asks Greenhill how long it will take to receive budget actuals. Greenhill says they have the October budget actuals here. Mishler asks if the \$250,000 is included in the actuals. Hertel says some of it is included. Motion: Brown Second: Whitman <i>I move to approve September and October Financials.</i> Motion passes unanimously
ASA Letter	Discussion/Action	The board reviews the second draft of the ASA response letter to Polk and Yamhill County Board of Commissioners. Motion: Mishler Second: Brown <i>I move to submit the letter by hand no later than noon on Friday the 12th.</i> Motion passes unanimously
Sheridan/CTGR IGA’s	Discussion/Action	Mishler expresses concern about giving up the Ambulance Service Area (ASA). Hertel states that the IGA is a contract for services and does not give up the ASA; he clarifies that he was instructed to provide a drafted IGA for talking points. Mishler expresses concern that they would receive no income. Discussion follows. Mishler asks who would occupy the Willamina Station. Hertel says potentially a quick response team. Brown expresses concern of the cost of the station. Discussion of the ASA area being divided along with tax dollars Motion: Mishler

		<p><i>I move to write a 190 contracting services for all operations, staffing, and administration with Sheridan asking to provide ambulance and fire services for a minimum of 2 shifts, 24-hours per day.</i></p> <p>Alger states they need to take time to read the IGAs that they have. Brown asks if they would need a contract to provide tax dollars to another District. Hertel states the IGA stipulates providing the tax dollars for the coverage area.</p> <p>Mishler states that Chief Hertel did not change the CAD system when the board asked. Hertel states that the change takes a process, which they are currently working through.</p> <p>Whitman asks Mishler to restate is his motion. Brown states they need time to think about the IGA’s first. Brown asks about selling equipment for extra funds. Mishler expresses concern about lowering their ISO rating. Greenhill suggests allowing the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Emergency Services (CTGR) to use the new West Valley ambulance. Mishler states that the public voted for the ambulance, and it should remain in here.</p> <p>Mishler withdraws his motion. The board decides to table a decision on the drafted IGA’s. Mishler asks to reconvene on Thursday, the 18th, to draw up a 190 for Sheridan Fire District.</p> <p>Motion: Whitman Second: Brown <i>I move that WVFD contract with Grand Ronde Emergency Services and Sheridan Fire District to share the WVFD ASA on a temporary basis.</i></p> <p>Mishler says they should try getting everything under one contract first. Brown expresses concern that resources are tight everywhere and says she doesn’t see anyway to get better service to those that live in Grand Ronde without working with the Tribe.</p> <p>Motion passes unanimously</p>
Stakeholder	Discussion	<p>Motion: Whitman Second: Brown <i>I move that the WVFD create a Stakeholder Committee to prepare a permanent plan and that Committee could include the following:</i> <i>From the WVFD Board – Roy Whitman and Connie Brown</i> <i>From the City of Willamina – Ila Skyberg and City Manager Kenna West</i> <i>From the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Emergency Services – Steve Warden</i> <i>A representative from the Sheridan Fire District to be determined by the SFD Board</i> <i>From the SW Polk Fire District – Scott Magers</i> <i>From Hampton Lumber – Brad Blackwell, or another representative to be determined by Mr. Blackwell</i></p> <p>Mishler asks if Whitman has already talked to these people. Whitman says he’s been getting phone calls and they met with people and had some good discussion. Mishler expresses frustration that he was</p>

		<p>reprimanded for calling to talk to someone to provide a presentation. Whitman apologizes and says they have a lot of great people who want to help.</p> <p>Motion passes unanimously</p>
Audience Participation	Discussion	<p>Jack Scott, Willamina – Asks the Chief if he has three applicants for the Firefighter-Paramedic position and asks what it would provide regarding staffing. Hertel explains that the Civil Service Commission only allows him to hire one of the three. Scott asks if the Stakeholder group are all local citizens. Whitman says yes, except for Vern Olson, who lives in Sheridan, and Deputy Chief Magers.</p> <p>Vern Olson, Sheridan – States that nothing in the IGA’s precludes West Valley Fire District from coming up with ways to be viable in the future. He states they would not be losing their Fire District.</p> <p>Eileen Bono - States she is concerned about the lack of communication. She says all the board members have different agendas and doesn’t understand what is going on. Mishler says it’s been going on for a long time. Eileen says they don’t have financials and asks who’s fault it is. Mishler says it is the Chief’s. Alger states this kind of negativity is why they’re in the situation they’re in.</p> <p>Tricia Young, Willamina – Expresses frustration that Hertel said a Paramedic costs \$100,000. She states she does not understand why the board has allowed the Chief to remain. She asks the board to stop giving up on volunteers.</p> <p>Gary Brooks – Says the ASA committee would be happy to have WVFD contract with any agency. He states that CTGR had a precedent by not asking for Polk or Yamhill County tax dollars for their police department.</p>
Chief’s Report	Discussion	Hertel presents Chief’s report and states the new ambulance had radio installed this week and is set to receive decals next week or the following week.
Adjournment	Action	<p>Motion: Mishler Second: Whitman <i>I move to adjourn the meeting</i> Motion passes unanimously</p> <p>Meeting adjourned at 7:36pm</p>

Upcoming meetings/events:

- November 18th WVFD Special Meeting

Board packet and handouts included:

- ASA Response Letter
- Sheridan IGA
- CTGR IGA