

SW Polk Fire District - West Valley Fire District

Joint Special Meeting Minutes – August 4, 2021, 6:00pm – 15455 Salt Creek Rd. Dallas, OR 97338*

*Meeting was held virtually via RingCentral Meetings.

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent
<u>SW Polk Fire District</u> Rod Watson Keith Moore Frank Pender Bob Davis Bruce Sigloh	<u>West Valley Fire District</u> Rick Mishler Roy Whitman (V) Chris Greenhill Connie Brown Mike Alger	
		Administration Present
		Fred Hertel Mariah Prescott (V) Christine Talley (V)

(V) – Virtual attendance (ARC) – Arrived after roll call

GENERAL BUSINESS		
Call to Order		President Rod Watson, Southwest Polk Fire District, opened the meeting at 6:04 pm. Each agency has a quorum of directors, which allows deliberation, decision making and will take public comment per the posted agenda. Pledge of Allegiance is recited.
Roll call		Chief Hertel calls roll call as delineated above.
Audience Participation		<p>Rita Baller, Willamina – Expresses embarrassment for board member behavior. Asks that no votes be made until there have been some public meetings. Expresses she doesn't want to pay for a new ambulance if there is an ambulance that will only run in Polk County.</p> <p>Tricia Young, Willamina – Requests that Chief Hertel be placed on administrative leave with no pay for how her sexual harassment complaint was handled. Expresses support for a merger with Sheridan and Willamina along with an IGA with SWP and a merger after the bond is paid off.</p> <p>Susan Shepard, Dallas – Talks about SW Polk bond and needing to pass a levy.</p> <p>Patty Brooks, Sheridan – Expresses offense that board members would not answer Director Brown's questions. Would like money to cover their district before helping others.</p>
Future Direction	Discussion	<p>Watson discusses finance committee scenarios and the need to have accurate numbers. Mishler suggests having SDAO check the numbers. Moore would like time to do it correctly either way.</p> <p>Discussion of hosting public meetings. Mishler brings up that the Sheridan City Council thought there should be public meetings. Greenhill says it would be premature to have public meetings before they knew it would be placed on the ballot. Alger clarifies that he is not against Town Hall meetings, but they need to show the community that a partnership works. He apologizes for comments made when he felt backed into a</p>

corner. He clarifies that he has no problem with SW Polk or Sheridan, but expresses concern that Sheridan continues to pull out.

Brown asks Chief Hertel what is going to happen to the IGA when Sheridan pulls out in 60 days. Chief Hertel says the two remaining parties could decide to continue, but there may be components that need to be renegotiated. Brown asks how Chief Hertel sees the financials working out. Hertel states he needs board direction to put that together.

Discussion of staffing.

Whitman states he feels that SW Polk has a more solid board. Alger says staff are quitting and he wants to decide to show staff and the community a solid path forward. Brown expresses frustration with having to redo financial numbers. She addresses Alger regarding staff. Watson addresses Brown, saying they've been down this route almost every meeting and they are going to establish a direction tonight. Brown says she has a right to finish and says the staff needs to do what they need to do. Alger responds that they need to watch how they talk in meetings because of what happened at the July 27th meeting.

Mishler asks SW Polk board for a projection of what is left on their stations. Watson asks Chief Hertel if Fackler has been paid. Hertel says they haven't been paid the retainage. Watson says early on some of the bond money was used to pay for operating costs and it needs to be reconciled. He states that there will be money left over from the project.

Motion: Alger Second: Whitman

I move to direct the Chief to create a new IGA with SW Polk to provide administrative services for West Valley Fire District with a 6-month goal of creating a Fire Authority agency and a 5-year goal of full consolidation.

Brown asks for a reason why Alger has made the motion. Alger says there are certain things with Sheridan that concern him. He says that SFD passed a bunch of motions in 15 minutes with no discussion. Brown says Whitman did the same thing at the June 10th joint meeting. Alger says the SW Polk does not have issues like this. Mishler expresses concern about creating a Fire Authority.

Motion Passes

Greenhill, Alger, Whitman– Yes; Brown, Mishler – No

Greenhill asks if SW Polk would like to enter a 190 IGA and provide administrative services. Watson says yes. Moore says he would like to see the IGA first.

Motion: Greenhill Second: Whitman

I move to invite Sheridan Fire District to use West Valley facilities while the Sheridan Fire Station is undergoing the Seismic Retrofit.

		<p>Motion Passes Unanimously</p> <p>Greenhill announces that Michaela Woods has resigned effective August 26th and has requested an exit interview with the West Valley Fire Board. Greenhill asks Chief Hertel to set up a time.</p> <p>Alger asks SW Polk if they would sell a tender to WVFD to replace the engine they just sold. Chief Hertel says SW Polk has not been using the tender in question and he would be ok with putting it in surplus if the board agrees. Pender says he would like to see a report.</p> <p>Mishler ask if there is going to be any action on Tricia Young’s request. Chief Hertel says it is a personnel issue for Sheridan since she was a Sheridan volunteer at the time. He says it would be up to the Sheridan board to address. Brown believes they should address Patty Brook’s complaint of a board member. Greenhill asks to see proof of what the board member violated.</p> <p>Whitman believes an invitation should still be issued to Sheridan if they choose down the road to join. Watson says they should wait.</p> <p>SW Polk workshop meeting set for August 12th at 6pm WVFD workshop meeting set for August 17th at 6pm</p>
Adjournment	Action	Meeting adjourned 7:30pm

Upcoming meetings/events:

- August 12th SWP Special Meeting
- August 17th WVFD Special Meeting

Board Packet and Handouts Included:

-

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
- Honor confidentiality
- Have fun!
- Follow Robert’s Rules of Order for parliamentary procedures