

WILLIAMS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Workshop Meeting Minutes

October 10, 2023

Called to order: 09:05am

Roll Call:

Board Members Present

Position 1 – Heather Glass

Position 2 – Brian Barton

Position 3 – Claudia Pratt

Position 4 – Bill Ertel

Position 5 – David Applegate

Williams Staff Present

Administrative Assistant – Jennifer Vetter

Community Members Present:

None

Announcements:

Board Member Bill Ertel discussed his health and his potential participation and attendance on the Board. Any items for voting will take place in the regular board meeting.

Mission/Vision/Goals

Board Chair Heather Glass recognized the Fire District’s Mission from the website. She then asked each member what they think are the challenges that they as a board may encounter.

Board Member Bill Ertel stated that the Board has a responsibility to the tax payers that he recognizes as “always a challenge”. He says that someone is always pilfering or diverting money and as a board there needs to be enough controls in place. Board Chair Heather Glass believes that “we do very well with 17 financial documents in the board packet”. Board Member Claudia Pratt stated that in another department the A/P person delivered checks for signature with no background paperwork present and that she is grateful that Jennifer Vetter provides information to why payments are generated. Board Member Bill Ertel stated that Jennifer Vetter “has her fingers in a lot of levels of the organization and this is something the Board should be aware of”.

Board Member Bill Ertel stated that the department is doing things that doesn’t have anything to do with putting a fire out. Board Chair Heather Glass stated that she thinks that is what makes us a part of the community. Board Vice Chair Brian Barton stated that public meetings allow the community to be a part of the department and discuss issues. Board Member Bill Ertel stated that such consumes resources from the staff. Board Chair Heather Glass stated that some of that falls on the Support Team and Board Member Claudia Pratt recognized that it is a conjoined effort between staff and support. Board Secretary David Applegate stated that people don’t realize the

amazing day to day operations that go on and he is seeing and learning that and would like to continue with this. Board Chair Heather Glass stated that it builds trust and brings the community together.

Board Vice Chair Brian Barton stated that events use to be in different areas of the community and the fire department has become a hub. Board Member Claudia Pratt stated that the community should have a say in who attends Coffee with the Chief. Jennifer Vetter confirmed that the community has input through the Community Resource Officer and that officer brings such information to the Chief to execute visitors to fit that. Board Member Bill Ertel and Board Secretary David Applegate suggested asking for input through social media.

Does each Board Member have a specific reason that they wanted to be on the Board?

Board Secretary David Applegate stated that he wanted to learn.

Board Member Bill Ertel stated that he wanted to be on the Board because he wanted to be someone who put into action devotion and time as opposed to those who say they want to and don't put any time in.

Who are the constituents and what do they value about the board?

Board Member Bill Ertel stated that there is a small group of people that have an agenda and claim that they represent the community. Board Chair Heather Glass says that in her store she hears how wonderful the department is. She says that she does hear from others what 'should be' when there are those that offer something that truly sells. Board Member Bill Ertel recognizes that it is hard not to be a Hero Worshipper and that needs to be balanced in the organization asking if the department is the right size and scope for the community.

What kind of image do we want to send to the outside?

Board Member Bill Ertel stated to continue to be recognized as an outstanding asset to the community; Continue to promote the image and recognize the asset to the community. Board Vice Chair Brian Barton stated that he can squash misconceptions of those that really don't know and he can be informative to things such as why the fire department needs "x" trucks and a building and such. He stated that we are built the way we need to be with the recognition that the department is also awaiting receipt of a new tender that will be coming with no out of pocket to the district. Board Secretary David Applegate stated that when there is a fire or medical need that the department is there. Board Member Bill Ertel stated that the Board should be a "gatekeeper to the henhouse to make sure we are not acquiring equipment that doesn't fit the size and scope of our vision".

What do you like about being on the Board?

Board Secretary David Applegate stated that he likes to meet the community members and it is a good time to support and feel more connected to the community. Board Member Bill Ertel likes to be on the Board because he can contribute and he recognized Board Member Claudia Pratt as doing an outstanding job in reference to the possible property purchase in the past. He also stated that there is a little prestige and he likes hanging around with the department

members. Board Member Claudia Pratt will contribute later. Board Vice Chair Brian Barton stated that he likes to be on the board to be a contributor and feels it is a “natural thing” to be around fire departments and personnel, recognizing people from his past and previous board members Wes and Sue Nevotti. Board Chair Heather Glass likes it because she learns so much all the time and likes to see the community come together. She says she is proud of the department and to see the department how it has grown on the medical side.

Jennifer Vetter stated that the Board is very dynamic. When she first started Board Member Bill Ertel put the most into the department, very diligent, and was a sole contributor for some time. She recognized him as a self-motivator. Now, each member carries their own weight. She sees that now the Board has 5 self-motivators. She appreciates that the Board shows an effort in trying with interpersonal and task items and is motivated in the fundamental good side that is brought to the table. It is nice to see that the people are there because they want to be there. It helps with her desire to be more diverse and she appreciates the Board’s help with that.

Where do we want to see this department go as a Board?

A discussion ensued of how to incorporate more homes into the taxing district and the current area that is covered. Some of the board members recognized response times in the area that they live in terms of what fire district serves them. There is an area that is intermingled and speckled with the two jurisdictions and a potential lag in dispatch time depending on which dispatch unit receives the information.

Do we want to come up with a Mission Statement?

Board Member Bill Ertel requested Board Chair Heather Glass to take the information home and develop a white paper for review by the Board.

Other Discussion:

Board Member Claudia Pratt stated that she was unable to review the admin position on the agenda and could it be put aside until she can review it. It will be moved to the next workshop.

ORS at the bottom of the agenda:

This was reviewed as should be saying Chapter 4, 4.1b and 4.3h.

Motion to adjourn was made by Heather Glass and seconded by Brian Barton and it passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58

Respectfully,

Heather Glass, Board Chair