

WILLIAMS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Special Board Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2022

Called to Order at 10:05am

Roll Call:

Board Members Present

Position 1 – Heather Glass

Position 3 – Claudia Pratt

Position 4 – Bill Ertel

Position 5 – Brian Barton

Community Member Present

Grisela Marmey

Absent:

Position 2- David Applegate- came late at 10:20

Announcements:

Board Member Claudia Pratt stated there will be a 2 minute for the public at the beginning of the meetings and any other questions need to be put in writing and submitted to PO Box 80 before the next board meeting.

Board Member Heather Glass acknowledged the letter written by a community member. She spoke of how the board will work to do a better job of following meeting rules by ORS and guided by Roberts Rules of Order.

Board Member Brian Barton spoke about the museum. He stated Greg Cox is interested in the job. Board member Claudia gave a list to Brian, and he is working thru the list. Claudia suggested we add a couple of beams for hanging and would like this to be done. Beam doesn't need to be constructional. Greg bid 7124.00 with material labor and includes the stairway to be rebuilt, and the back staircase which just needs railing re-done. 1st priority is the electrical. Power is coming out to relocate the meter. Electrical will come in and re-route to existing panel and re-do all that is unsafe. For the construction- they will build a wall and beam to support and replace. We will paint the stairway first before it is rebuilt. We need to update Oscar and Rosie since they are on the committee. Board member Bill Ertel asked if the rest will stay the same. Brian answered it will be addressed later. The main priority is to be done appropriately and safely. Claudia stated the second bay may need electrical. Brian said this will be addressed during initial electrical. Rosie is also on the support group and can do some fundraising to help pay for this. It was discussed to approve 10K dollars in case there is something that pops up and we need more money.

Motion:

-A motion was made by Board Member Bill Ertel to allocated 10K to upgrade the museum project under the supervision and guidance of Brian Barton including electrical, building material, and labor.

It was seconded by Board Member David Applegate. It was unanimously approved by the board.

Board Member Bill is going to reclude himself from the vote for the possible purchase of the property being offered to the fire department. He will still provide input and we may ask questions. Bill thinks the property is too much of a burden for us to move on right now given the state of the property and no clear path on how we can pay for it. He thinks we need to get back to the seller sooner than later, so he isn't waiting for us. Board member Claudia brought up there are two parcels and wanted to know if we would be interested in both. We have still not been able to get into the house. Bill talks about all the inspections that need to be done. Chief Vetter said he liked the house and thinks there are a lot of valuable assets the fire department could use from the property. Chief said a value for the fire department to buy is to get the druggies off the property. Claudia said we need to check on the house before we try to work on the price range. Chief found a lending institute for us to check with. Bill said there is another loan place called USDA that does these kinds of loans as well. Bill said we got the 8 acres through Umpqua bank. They struggled with the load because we are a governmental agency without a credit score and etc...Board member Heather talked about the benefits to the property would be the water rights and the two structures that can house equipment. Oscar had told her it would be 150K to build a shop and we could get it with both. Claudia brought up there are actually no water rights. We can access the water for emergencies only. Brian brought up we would need to deal with easement if we only bought the front property. Chief brought up Casey would like to buy the back property which would make it easy to get an easement. Claudia called Pacific Power and the power lines in the back are not legal. Bill said if we would need to put something in the intent to buy that all the structures and etc would need to be removed. Chief said if we had the land, we could lease it for pay to other agencies. We typed up on the board pros and cons of buying both properties. I am including the pictures. Chief and Claudia talked about how we can annex some people back into our district. Houses that are not on our coverage right now but are in our area. To change the district coverage lines both Applegate and Williams voters would have to vote for it. Chief suggested if we rent the house in the back there is rental income which could offset the mortgage. Chief said property being annexed does not have to go to the voters unless it is taking from another district. Claudia brought up that Jen (person representing Doug in his absence) needs to get power of attorney in order to be working with us on selling the property and even though it is notarized it needs to go to the courthouse.

Motion:

-Board Member Brian Barton is asking for a next step toward the property purchase be to find a expert to give advice for the purchase of the property. Board Member David Applegate seconded the motion. All approved.

Board Member Claudia is going to schedule another walk thru and bringing the surveyor on at the same time to get some more information.

Board Member Bill is asking about the executive meeting. Claudia explained the executive meeting is not able to be held because the items we were bringing up were not able to go the executive meeting. Bill brought up Griselda's letter. Heather said she had addressed it earlier and re-read the acknowledgement to the community. Chief asked for her intentions on the letter. Bill's problem with the allegations held against him he was given remedial steps to take in executive session and he feels that two board members are being held to different standards. Bill stated there is a letter in his file about mismanagement and that he is not able to speak that way anymore. Heather clarified that Bill feels he is being held to a different standard. What happened to him was in an executive meeting and he was made to take a course. Bill gave the letter so we can re-read it. Claudia talked about the letter from Griselda, and she didn't know what race she was, and she didn't say anything about race to her. Bill said she felt Claudia was hostile and she talked down to her and left the room. Heather talked about how Claudia left the room because she wanted to let the heat die down and remove herself from the situation. Brian said as he remembers it Claudia and Bill were disagreeing, and the public jumped in and interrupted. Griselda and Claudia then got into it, so Claudia had to leave to put water on the fire. Bill said we are the board and that he over-reacted about the fire chief moving the department in a new direction and it ended up in a letter going into his personal file. Claudia said Bill is the only one allowed in his personnel file. Bill feels there are two standards and if Bill reacts to something out of tone, he suffers a different punishment than a comparable situation with another board member. Bill said we are all equal. Claudia said that anyone mentioned in the letter should have a corrective action. Claudia talked about how Jenny explained to her what the rules of the meeting are. Bill said we should handle this with a little more tact as she is a member of the public. Heather asked what the response should be to her. Bill stated someone should get back with her and ask if she is satisfied with the outcome. David said reading this letter had a persecution complex and there was no mention of ethnicity. This is a minor issue between Claudia and Griselda and not the community, but she just wants to put more fire onto it. Brian thinks what Heather read should put the lid on it. Bill likes meetings where we let people comment. Bill suggests we could let the public talk again or offer to talk to the public after the meeting. Chief said we need to have control of our meetings and that he is wondering what Griselda wanted with the letter. Chief thinks we should not allow all to talk during the meeting. Bill asked for someone to contact Griselda and ask if she is satisfied with the outcome of the meeting. Claudia thinks this sets a precedent for the future and is saying we can do that but doesn't know if it is a good idea. Brian said that when she got up to leave Claudia thanked her for coming to the meeting and smiles were exchanged and it went well. He feels that with the letter Heather addressed and with the exchange and it should cover it. Bill said he thinks we will hear from her again. Bill said we will just handle it the way we did. Claudia claimed all situations are different. Bill wants to make sure he is not a target. Chief said we are all targets to the community. Chief said he enjoys working with him. We will work through it.

Motion:

-Board Member Bill motioned to adjourn the meeting. David Applegate seconded. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 12:04pm

Respectfully,

Claudia Pratt, Board Chairperson