

Town of Twisp/Okanogan County Fire District #6
Council Minutes – 06/25/12 – Special Meeting
7:00 PM

Mayor Ing-Moody called the joint meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Council Members present: Clint Estes
 Bob Lloyd
 Traci Day
 Clay Hill

Council Members absent: John Fleming

Okanogan County Commissioners present: Roy Reiber – Commission Chairman
 Jerry Palm
 Darold Brandenburg

Pledge of Allegiance

Council Member Day led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town of Twisp/Okanogan County Fire District #6 – Contract Discussion

The meeting began with both Mayor Ing-Moody and Commissioner Reiber giving a brief history about the meetings each of their agencies has held regarding the fire contract to date.

Commissioner Reiber stated the proposed budget (to be paid in monthly installments by the Town) was agreeable and that in his opinion the Town has nothing but things to gain from contracting with the District. Mayor Ing-Moody stated that after the Town and the District work out a short-term solution for fire protection in the Town they can then begin looking for a long-term solution.

Commissioner Reiber gave a history of the Twisp and Rural Fire Departments including the struggles that led to the 1997 Agreement and the consolidation of the agencies into the Twisp Station. Mayor Ing-Moody pointed out sections of the 1997 Agreement and the District's obligations to the Town.

Both agencies discussed the issues with the Town's fire engine and staffing after the loss of the previous Fire Chief (Keith Comstock was hired by District #6). All officials agreed that public safety is the main priority. Mayor Ing-Moody explained that dismantling the fire department entirely will take planning and working in accordance with RCWs.

The group discussed the following:

- The difference between a mutual aid agreement and automatic aid.
- County dispatching and tone outs.
- The capabilities and experience of the current Twisp Fire Department volunteers.
- District Chief Waller felt that the citizens would not see any changes if the District took over; and there would be no additional costs to them.
- The 1997 Agreement and the sections currently not being complied with.

Council Members and Commissioners were given a chance to ask questions:

- Council Member Hill asked clarifying questions about the 1997 Agreement and the history of the department.
- Commissioner Brandenburg reiterated what the town's short-term and long-term goals were and the benefits of entering into a contract with District 6.
- Council Member Lloyd asked why Chief Waller sent a memo and the original contract back to the Town stating negotiations would have to start over if the Commissioners already agreed with the proposed budget and only questioned section 14 of the proposed agreement.

The agencies discussed the problem points of the proposed agreement:

- #13 – Related to equipment – purchasing and ownership.
- #14 – It was decided to replace #14 with the original sections #14 and #17 from the 1997 Agreement.

The District presented the Council a list of concerns provided to them by their legal counsel. It was decided that most of the concerns were small excluding #13 and #14. Mayor Ing-Moody stated the Council would review and discuss #13 and #14 in more depth at their June 26th Council meeting.

Police Chief Budrow asked about fire service protection for the Town for the interim period until an agreement is finalized.

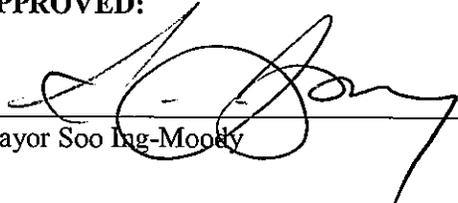
Motion:

Commissioner Reiber moved to approve that Okanogan County Fire District #6 provide the Town of Twisp with fire protection services fully for one week starting on June 25, 2012 while the agreement is being completed. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brandenburg and passed unanimously.

Adjournment

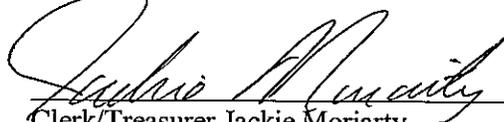
There being no further business to come before the Council/Commission; Mayor Ing-Moody adjourned the meeting at 8:42 pm.

APPROVED:



Mayor Soo Ing-Moody

ATTEST:



Clerk/Treasurer Jackie Moriarty