



## **LEFTHAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

### **Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lefthand Board of Directors**

Date: July 23, 2009

Location: LH Station I, 900 Lefthand Canyon Drive

Time: 10:00 AM

**Call to order:** Board President Deborah Stirling called the meeting to order at 10:12 AM. Directors present: Austin Blood, Jack Kutscher and Hildy Armour. Others present: Fred Huff, Seth Patterson, Kristi Rutledge, Russell Leadingham, Tom Stoffel and David Miller

#### **New Business**

##### **Purpose of Meeting**

The purpose of this meeting is to consider the current situation affecting the workers comp diagnosis and treatment of Chief Patterson, the interactions with Pinnacle Insurance and authorization for certain steps involved with the situation concerning Chief Patterson.

##### **Status of Workman's' Compensation Treatment**

Lefthand Fire Protection District's insurance company, Pinnacol has not provided a level of care that is allowing Chief Patterson to make an effective recovery. The Board has intervened and has been in contact with management at Pinnacol to help aid efforts to find a suitable medical practitioner for Chief Patterson. In addition, Chief Patterson has hired a lawyer to assist in these efforts.

##### **Authorization for Payment of Medical Bills – Chief Patterson**

Director Armour made a motion to approve payment of Chief Patterson's medical bills over the course of the next 90 days while his is on Administrative leave. The motion was approved unanimously.

##### **Authorization for LHFPD to review prospects for legal action(s) with Pinnacol Insurance**

Director Blood made a motion to approve reviewing legal options against Pinnacol Insurance. The motion was approved unanimously.

##### **Authorization for President Stirling to discuss options with members of neighboring Fire Districts**

President Stirling would like to meet with adjacent Fire Departments and members of other Fire Districts in the state to determine options that would result in producing better treatment from Pinnacol.

Director Armour made a motion to approve President Stirling discussing options with members of neighboring Fire Districts. The motion was approved unanimously.

#### **Temporary Command Structure**

The command structure will be as follows:

##### **Operations**

2 Acting Chiefs will work on a rotating basis, every other week. There will only be 1 Chief on duty per 7 day period. Each will continue to respond to calls during the weeks they are not on duty as Chief.

##### **Administrative**

1 Acting Administrative Chief will handle all the office/administrative duties.



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### Communication structure:

Weekly meetings will be established in order to maintain communication between each area. There will be an Administrative meeting and an Operations meeting. All Board members are welcomed to attend those meetings. President Stirling and Director Kutscher will be attending.

In order to increase communication with our entire crew and the Board members, firefighters will be encouraged to attend the Board meetings to become more familiar with their Board Representative. There was also a suggestion to have the Board members attend the monthly fire trainings, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month. Weather permitting, there will be a cookout held after each of the monthly fire trainings to give the BOD members and fire fighters the opportunity to communicate with each other.

### Administrative Leave:

A discussion was held regarding Chief Patterson's medical condition.

Due to his medical condition, a motion was made to place Chief Patterson on Administrative leave with full pay for a period of 90 days, subject to the requirements of Pinnacle Insurance policy or the Workman's Compensation Statute. The motion was passed unanimously.

Director Walko made a motion to name Russell Leadingham and Tom Stoffel, Acting Chiefs for Operations on a rotating basis and to name David Miller as Acting Chief Administrative Officer for a period of 90 days. Director Walko moved to approve the motion. Director Armour 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, which passed unanimously.

### Notification Process:

A notice will be drafted to key members in the district and surrounding areas to notify individuals of this situation. President Stirling suggested that the notice be sent on behalf of the Board of Directors.

### Adjournment

Director Walko moved to adjourn the meeting. Director Blood 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, which passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 11:19 AM.

Respectfully submitted, Kristi Rutledge, Secretary, LHFPD