

SW Polk Fire District - West Valley Fire District

Joint Regular Meeting Minutes – October 7, 2021, 6:00pm –15455 Salt Creek Rd. Dallas, OR 97338*

*Meeting was held virtually via RingCentral Meetings.

Board Members Present		Board Members Absent
SW Polk Fire District Rod Watson Frank Pender Keith Moore Burce Sigloh Bob Davis	West Valley Fire District Connie Brown Chris Greenhill Rick Mishler Mike Alger Roy Whitman (V)(ARC)	
		Administration Present
		Fred Hertel Scott Magers Christine Talley (V)

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

GENERAL BUSINESS		
Call to Order		President Rod Watson, SW Polk Fire District, opens the meeting at 6:01 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.
Approval of Minutes	Discussion/Action	<p>Motion: Pender Second: Greenhill <i>I move to approve the meeting minutes for the joint boards August 26, 2021 and September 9, 2021.</i> Motion passes unanimously</p> <p>Motion: Pender Second: Sigloh <i>I move to approve the SW Polk minutes for September 9th.</i> Motion passes unanimously</p> <p>Motion: Alger Second: Whitman <i>I move to approve the minutes from the September 13, 2021 and September 28, 2021 special meetings.</i> Motion passes unanimously</p>
Audience Participation	Discussion	<p>Michaela Woods, Union Local 4861 – Reads a letter from the union. Watson asks that the board be provided with the letter. Woods states she already sent it to his email.</p> <p>Harry Cooley, Sheridan Board – States that staff that recently lateraled to Sheridan were forced to get payouts for vacation and have their sick leave erased. Sheridan feels this action is wrong.</p> <p>Brian, Willamina – Says there is a lot of misuse of money for personal gain and believes before West Valley and SW Polk make any big decisions that they should do a forensic audit.</p> <p>Vern Olson, Sheridan – Says he’s been a consultant for fire departments and sees the struggles they are having as normal. Asks what caused</p>

		<p>Sheridan to pull out of the agreement. Watson says it is a long story and this isn't a question-and-answer session, they're just listening to the public.</p> <p>Connie Brown, West Valley Board Director - Connie said last night at drill they found the wildfire hats had been removed along with one of their turnouts, that they were told there were SW Polk's turnouts. She states she thought they discussed that they didn't have to be in an IGA to share things, that they had no use for those turnouts and had no problem taking things.</p> <p>Steve Warden, Fire Chief of Grand Ronde – Provides an update of Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Emergency Services staffing an ambulance to cover for West Valley. He states they've expended approximately \$38,578.23 to make sure this happened. Says there are rumors about what the Tribe owes West Valley. He states they are three months earlier than what was negotiated, and they should keep that in mind.</p> <p>Staci Coker, Sheridan Bulletin Board – Asks that those who are speaking identify themselves because there is not any video.</p> <p>Rick Mishler, West Valley Board Director – Asks if the Union requested to be on the agenda. Greenhill says no. Mishler says to the Chief, 'you said if you ever became a problem you would resign,' and asks since he's been identified as a problem what is his answer. Davis asks who is saying Hertel is the problem. Mishler says the Union. Davis says he's lived through 37 years of Unions fighting the Chief and they maintained a fire response while the administration stayed the same. Hertel says he doesn't have an answer to Mishler's question.</p>
EXECUTIVE SESSION		As authorized under ORS 192.660(2)(f) to consider information or records that are exempt by law from public inspection.
Attorney Waiver Letter	Discussion/Action	<p>Motion: Pender Second: Sigloh <i>I move to approve the attorney letter as presented.</i> Motion passes unanimously.</p>
Staff Sharing IGA	Discussion/Action	<p>Brown asks Chief Hertel how many staff have been hired. Hertel says West Valley has an EMT starting on the 14th. He says SW Polk has three staff.</p> <p>Pender asks Mishler for clarification whether he wants to move forward on the staff sharing IGA. Mishler states that he wants to see the whole thing dissolved and West Valley work with Sheridan on a merger. Pender asks if Mishler wants to have the staff agreement with SW Polk. Mishler says he doesn't have a problem with the staffing IGA. Brown states they need to be working with the Tribe or Sheridan.</p> <p>Alger states that they have not heard the whole truth from the Union. He goes on to say he respects the Union highly, although he's spoken to members previously and they had not given him any indication they had a problem with Chief Hertel.</p>

		<p>Pender asks Chief Hertel what happens if they decide not to agree to the staff sharing IGA. Hertel says West Valley and SW Polk districts can still share staff under the old IGA, but Sheridan would not be able to. Pender says he feels like they should not approve the staff sharing IGA.</p> <p>Motion: Pender Second: Mishler <i>I move not to approve this intergovernmental agreement for services operations staffing shift coverage mutual aid, etc. for all three districts.</i></p> <p>Watsons states he is growing weary of all the discontent and behavior of board members and agrees with Pender. Sigloh states the IGA is not very clear on which Districts will cover each other, and sites potential bookkeeping issues as a reason not to approve it.</p> <p>Alger – No; All others – Yes Motion passes</p>
SW Polk and West Valley Fire District IGA	Discussion/Action	<p>Sigloh states, since the IGA goes into effect on January 1, 2022, that they have adequate time to look through it.</p> <p>Meeting between Presidents and Vice Presidents of each board on October 21st at Salt Creek Station.</p>
Staff Sharing IGA Cont.	Discussion	<p>Mishler suggests meeting with Sheridan to see if they can work something out. Greenhill says they can re-present an IGA with only Sheridan for staff sharing. Mishler asks if they can meet in person. Harry Cooley says he would need to check with the board. Greenhill asks Chief Hertel if he can have legal draft a shared services for the line staff only IGA between West Valley and Sheridan to present at Sheridan’s next meeting.</p>
Tribal Funds	Discussion	<p>Mishler asks for an agreement that says what CTGR provides, and what West Valley receives, by operating in West Valley’s ASA. Mishler asks Dave Fullerton if anyone from West Valley board has requested a meeting with Tribal council. Fullerton says no one from the board has requested it. Mishler expresses concern about being put out of business and asks if an agreement would be possible. Fullerton says they have mutual aid agreements signed and that’s what they’re operating under. Mishler expresses frustration that CTGR continues to attend meetings and hears that the tribe is taking over and should be charged for operating in West Valley’s ASA. Mishler asks who has asked CTGR for money. Fullerton says it’s on tonight’s agenda. Mishler clarifies that he asked to talk about an agreement that clarifies “everything you were just talking about”. Fullerton says that is the mutual aid agreement. Mishler argues that it does not clarify enough. Fullerton says the tribe will continue to operate under the mutual agreement.</p> <p>Greenhill reads an email from September 18th from Mishler to the board and Chief Hertel regarding CTGR operating in West Valley’s ASA: “The board needs to decide how the Tribe will reimburse calls they take covering M182 for the dispatching. The current agreement calls for West Valley to be dispatched by YCOM and the Tribal car take the call if West Valley is not available. This results in West Valley paying the</p>

		dispatch fee.” Mishler says it has been resolved by an agreement that was signed by the tribe that it would be worked out no later than the first of the year.
Fire Chief Evaluation (not on agenda)	Discussion/Agenda	<p>Motion: Sigloh Second: Mishler <i>I move to designate a four-person volunteer committee, with two directors from SW Polk and two directors from West Valley to prepare a Fire Chief performance evaluation document and present it for approval of both boards at our November regular meeting, and each board member has to complete their evaluation by the December regular meeting.</i></p> <p>Pender asks if they already have a standard form in place for the Chief’s review. Hertel says they have a process they’ve used the last few years but can make adjustments or use one from SDAO. Sigloh says last year there were a lot of questions about how the evaluation was conducted.</p> <p>Davis – No; All others – Yes Motion Passes</p> <p>Sigloh and Moore volunteer from the SW Polk Board. Alger and Brown volunteer from the West Valley Board.</p>
Chief’s Report		Hertel introduces Scott Magers as the new Deputy Chief of Operations for SW Polk and West Valley Fire Districts.
Director Comments		Mishler asks for an update on the ambulance delivery date. Hertel says it’s in Springfield, Oregon, but he does not know when it will arrive here. Brown asks for an update regarding the West Valley changing Banks at the next November meeting. Brown asks to receive printed packets in advance. Hertel says he can get them printed off, but he doesn’t know if he can get them delivered.
Adjournment	Action	<p>Motion: Pender Second: Davis <i>I move to adjourn</i></p> <p>Motion passes unanimously</p> <p>Meeting adjourned 8:05pm</p>

Upcoming meetings/events:

- October 14th WVFD Special Meeting
- November 11th Joint Regular Meeting

Board Packet and Handouts Included:

- Attorney Waiver Letter
- Staff Sharing IGA
- SW Polk & West Valley IGA
- Chief’s Report

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