

WILLIAMS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Special Board Meeting Minutes

July 2, 2024

Called to order: 10:00am

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

Interim Fire Chief & Captain – Nicco Holt
Administrative Assistant – Jennifer Vetter
Fire Marshal Jon Scaroni
Lieutenant Oskar Sundell
Firefighter Ash Martell
Firefighter Liz Dunlap (arrive 10:12)
Firefighter Charles HooperLee

Community Members Present:

Marni Brown, Community Member
Griselda Marney, Community Member
Allison Cleveland, Community Member, Support Team
Wilma Hyde, Community Member (arrive 16:16)

Zoom Attendees:

Fire Chief John Holmes – Illinois Valley FD

Department Personnel Mediation:

An original motion was made and seconded by the same people for \$1600 and updated to the below motion:

- A motion to was made by Brian Barton to hire Bill Gallegher from TeamWorks for \$3700 for mediation with the number of people increased from the estimate given. The motion was seconded by Bill Ertel.

Discussion: Board Member Bill Ertel is shocked that this is where the department is as he is proud of the department and thinks this is one of the best rural departments in the state. This will take 2 days to accommodate schedules. The change in the motion was to accommodate all that want to participate including members of the Board of Directors. This is for teamwork and morale.

Board Member Claudia Pratt inquired where does it go from there after the mediator does his documentation? The mediator will make an assessment and it is up to the Board to follow the assessment.

Marni Brown's question was clarified that the mediator was for morale and not regarding the fire chief position. Griselda Marny inquired if the Board would follow the mediator's recommendation or does the Board do what they want? Board Chair Heather Glass stated that the mediator specifically stated that if the Board doesn't follow his recommendation for the department that the monies spent are wasted. Basics and not details will be open to the public. Allison Cleveland inquired what the basis is for spending this kind

of money (1 hour interview per person at \$175 per hour)? Board Vice Chair Brian Barton stated that his feeling is that there seems to be a lot of turmoil in the department that isn't resolving by itself and therefore the department needs a professional to give advice on what to do. Board Chair Heather Glass says that her thought is that this may help that a new fire chief may not have to deal with this if it is dealt with ahead of time. Board Member Claudia Pratt stated that the Board has issues as well. Board Member Bill Ertel stated that there are other opportunities such as the SDAO to receive a board assessment.

Jennifer Vetter inquired the point of the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Applegate Fire. She asked "Wasn't the point of the IGA to facilitate what we couldn't facilitate through our own leadership?". Board Chair Heather Glass stated that Applegate is a bit too involved potentially and we can still utilize the IGA. Jennifer Vetter inquired if Applegate people are objective professionals why not use them at their lesser rate than the mediator? Board Chair Heather Glass stated that Chief Wolfard didn't want to deal with this. Board Chair Heather Glass stated that an outside person would be more objective. Board Member Bill Ertel felt that the IGA was a bigger umbrella type of agreement where if an officer was out that the level of service could still be maintained.

Marni Brown inquired for a place to get a copy of the Board of Director's code of conduct. Board Chair Heather Glass stated that it is on the website.

- ✚ Heather Glass – Aye
- ✚ Brian Barton – Aye
- ✚ Claudia Pratt – Aye
- ✚ Bill Ertel – Aye
- ✚ David Applegate – Aye

- Motion passed unanimously.

Collapsing the LB-10:

The LB-10 was not properly collapsed during the previous fiscal year with a resolution.

- A motion to accept the resolution to collapse the LB-10 was made by Heather Glass. The motion was seconded by Bill Ertel.

- ✚ Heather Glass – Aye
- ✚ Brian Barton – Aye
- ✚ Claudia Pratt – Aye
- ✚ Bill Ertel – Aye
- ✚ David Applegate – Aye

Discussion: This was discussed in a previous meeting, however, not motioned and approved to collapse. Collapsing means that during the 2022-2023 FY it was stated in the Chief's letter that this would be removed from the packet. Since there was no resolution letter and this is to rectify the technicality.

- Motion passed unanimously

A motion to adjourn was made by Brian Barton was seconded by David Applegate.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24am

Respectfully,

Heather Glass, Board Chair