**ELSIE-VINEMAPLE Rural Fire Protection District**

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Elsie Vinemaple Fire Protection District (EVRFPD) Board of Directors SPECIAL MEETING

April 10, 2024 6:00 p.m. Jewell School Library

 MINUTES

REMOTE ACCESS for the meeting:

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83702721057?pwd=YOV63qYgLGaItqKUqcr0i0ZdtQ3kxA.

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1. **Call to Order and Welcome. 6:01 Start time.**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance.**
3. **Roll Call.** Chief Rob Davis; Board membersVivian McCann, TJ Hecox, Staciy Morrison, Wayne Carmichael and Kerry Walsh. Approximately 30 community members and 4-6 participants on the zoom line.
4. **Motion to accept updated agenda.** Motion to amend April 10 agenda to include minutes from March 19, 2024 meeting. TJ moved and Kerry seconded. Motion passed 5 yes, 0 no.
5. **Motion to accept minutes from March 19, 2024 regular meeting.** Kerry moved, TJ seconded. Vote 5 yes, 0 no.
6. **2024-25 Budget Committee. Chief Rob Davis presiding.**
	1. **Recognition of applicants.** Six people registered their interest in serving on the 2024-2025 Budget committee process by the timeline set by Chief Davis. One person registered after the timeline.
	2. **Selection of Committee.** Chief Davis recommends the following for the 2024-2025 budget process: Patty Drew, Jason Evans, Cassandra Messing, Beth MacNicoll and Jan Songer. Alternates are Steven Pickens and Justin Wagoner. Chief Davis said the first meeting of the committee would be April 17 prior to the regular Board meeting and that the first order of business would be to choose a chair of the committee and a decision on who would serve for 2 years and who would serve for 4 years. That would set a pattern for continuous effort to assist the yearly budget process.
	3. **Seating of Committee.** Kerry made a motion to appoint the following for the 2024-2025 budget process: Patty Drew, Jason Evans, Cassandra Messing, Beth MacNicoll and Jan Songer, with alternates being Steven Pickens and Justin Wagoner. Only Jan Songer was present, but others had all said they would accept. Motion seconded by Wayne. Vote 5 yes, 0 no.
7. **Station 2. Vivian presiding.**
	1. **Update.** Vivian asked Deidra Pitkins, who was present, if she would like to report on the progress to date of addressing construction issues at Station 2. Deidra asked if this could be postponed to the April 17 meeting, and it was agreed to do that.
	2. **Discussion of Construction Committee.** Vivian reported that she would like to set a Building Construction Committee for Station 2 to get community input on how to address the issues and decide best what the community prefers to have for a finished project as well as long term goals. Vivian asked for a straw vote on who might be interested in serving on that committee. Two people indicated they would be interested. Vivian thanked them and said it would be part of the April 17 agenda. An audience member asked where a copy of the levy issue for station 2 could be found. Vivian said she has that and will post it to our website within the next day or so. Steve Olstedt asked for a copy of building permits. Staciy said we have them for the building structure. Deidra also has copies of all documents pertaining to the building permits and construction for the building outside structure. Considerable discussion ensued about the inside construction that has taken place and what were the violations. We don’t yet know what violations the county will ask to be corrected. We are having “as-built” plans drawn up and will take that to the county for their decision. NOTE: most of this audience discussion was not recorded due to not being picked up on the audio. Recommend future audience discussion be done at a table with microphone access for proper recording.
8. **Answering Your Questions.** Vivian announced an open Q&A. Chief Rob said he wants to answer any question but if we don’t have the answer right now, we will get it. He also asked for the questions to be respectful. As much as possible, questions and answers will be made public and posted on our website.

Discussion continued with how Station 2 became configured for a community center if the bond specified it as a fire equipment storage and place where volunteers could cleanup and keep their equipment. The main take away from this is that all changes inside Station 2 were made by the Project Supervisor and that those expenses were approved by the Board after the work had already been done.

Questions then moved to what the department budget is. Chief Rob noted that is the main topic for April 17, but that with the levy income it is about $149,000 and without, it is about $100,000. Discussion then focused on other sources of revenue. Vivian noted Chief Rob has ideas for grants from sources we have not tapped into before.

The next questions started with asking what the salary for the current Chief was. Vivian noted we had a set of questions submitted online by Mike Carter and that was one of them, so she proceeded to read those questions and the answers. (see video/audio recording for that dialogue). It was noted that the Chief’s salary will be part of the topic for the April 17 first meeting of the Budget Committee.

Vivian asked for more comment/questions, and they included:

1. Tom Hecox supporting the Boards decisions and efforts to get Station 2 back on track.
2. Wrap up comments from Vivian, Staciy and Chief Rob.
	1. He expects to have some additional trained volunteers come on the department, specifically persons with training as a division chief and operations chief.
	2. Vivian then reported she had received a question as to whether we paid Mist Birkenfeld FD for the assistance they are giving us. Vivian said no, but we are grateful for the assistance.
	3. Chief Rob then explained how mutual aid operated between districts. This aid was with all surrounding districts and even statewide. There was no cost for the first 24-48 hours, and if a major problem like a wildland fire happened, we would get aid and cost assistance from the State Forestry Dept. For example, Senate Bill 762 gave us our summer funding from the Fire Marshal’s office. We have more tools at our disposal when we have significant incidents where we receive an immediate response task force from another county and the State then accepts the tab on those resources when they come in. In summary, mutual aid from Mist/Birkenfeld or Banks does not cost us.

Note: Audio needs improvement for future meetings. It is best to have all questions from the audience done before a microphone and the person’s identity be made known.

**\*Refer to the following recording of the meeting for details of Q&A.**

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/HsnLkN1gamud1qm27mQa050gSOH\_QXGd2nmOKou-W8wW27kt722sBO6ehdMTyYUe.ewzUgwhOrVuNkg-3

Passcode: 6.&TXMcR

1. **Good of the Order.** Chief Rob reported that he has accepted a mutual agreement with Vernonia for his separation. Part of that includes a severance package and his agreeing to assist with their 2024-2025 budget process. He is ready to move on and Vernonia is now with new leadership. Vivian and Staciy thanked our volunteers and encouraged more volunteers to come forward.
2. **Motion to Adjourn. Kerry moved to adjourn and Staciy seconded, vote 5 yes, 0 no.**

**Per Board Secretary**

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**Wayne Carmichael**

**April 15, 2024**