

The Rye Fire Protection District

**MINUTES OF THE RYE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS MEETING**  
Special Meeting February 22, 2012

Present Directors – Mr. Ed Hurtado, Mr. Bill Monck, Mr. Jeff Oswald, Mr. Garry Melchi

Absent Directors – Mr. Gunny Pagnotta

Others – Debra Eiland-Legal Counsel , Co-Interim Chief Zane Owens, Co-Interim Chief Steve Bennett, Captain Jim Beach, Firefighter Sid Swartwood

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Jeff Oswald. Board President Gunny Pagnotta could not attend.

Mr. Oswald took roll call and introduced the Board Members that were present.

Mr. Oswald asked for a motion to approve the agenda for February 22, 2012. Mr. Bill Monck made the motion and Mr. Garry Melchi seconded the motion. Mr. Ed Hurtado stated that this should be an emergency meeting with a limited agenda based upon citizen concerns. Upon further conversation, Mr. Bob Cook noted that he felt that the meeting was not properly posted. Ms. Debra Eiland asked several questions of Co-Interim Chief Steve Bennett and Mr. Bob Cook. Ms. Debra Eiland advised the board that the meeting was sufficiently posted in three (3) public places, that it was adequately posted, and that the meeting can proceed as posted.

Motion to approve the agenda for the Special Meeting for February 22, 2012.

Motion:	Mr. Monck
Second:	Mr. Melchi
Aye:	Mr. Monck, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Melchi
Nay:	Mr. Hurtado

**Public Comments**

Mr. Sonny Hood inquired about the number of staff that has been noted in the newspaper. It was unknown to the Board Members present where the information came from. Mr. Hood will present a Records Request for the Current Staff Roster.

Mr. William Ellis noted his concern for the department to maintain financial stability and to maintain services to the district.

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Ms. Norma Mower noted her concerns on how her husband was treated during the recent grievance process and other concerns regarding board members' recent actions.

Mr. Bob Cook noted his concern regarding recent board actions and impacts on services to the residents.

### **Board Officer Appointments**

Mr. Bill Monck recommended that the current board officers remain as is until the May elections. The consensus of Board Members was in agreement.

### **Designation of an Election Official**

A new election official is necessary due to the resignation of the current Election Official.

Motion to appoint County Clerk and Recorder as the Election Official.

Motion:	Mr. Oswald
Second:	Mr. Hurtado
Aye:	Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Monck, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Melchi
Nay:	None

### **Financial Audit**

Mr. Oswald noted that a full, independent audit was going to occur. Input from the public noted that several firms need to be considered and not just the firm that has done recent audits.

Motion to table the audit until several firms can be researched.

Motion:	Mr. Oswald
Second:	Mr. Hurtado
Aye:	Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Monck, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Melchi
Nay:	None

The public was encouraged to submit firms for consideration to Interim Co-Chief Bennett by 5:00 pm. Monday, February 27.

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### Department/Personal Cell Phones

A recent policy issued by the former Chief noted that no personal electronic devices are to be used at the station or for department use. There was discussion including input from the public regarding this item.

Motion to rescind the policy regarding electronic device use and allow staff to use their electronic devices in a responsible manner, and to limit cell phone use for medical calls to only department issued phones.

Motion: Mr. Oswald  
Second: Mr. Monck  
Aye: Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Monck, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Melchi  
Nay: None

### Appointment of Progress Check Point Committee

This committee is to monitor new hires and the department on a 1, 3 and 5 month period.

Motion to appoint Board Members Mr. Ed Hurtado and Mr. Garry Melchi to serve on Progress Check Point Committee.

Motion: Mr. Oswald  
Second: Mr. Monck  
Aye: Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Monck, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Melchi  
Nay: None

### Appointment of Restructure Committee

This committee is to oversee the restructuring of the department.

Motion to appoint Board Members Mr. Ed Hurtado and Mr. Garry Melchi to serve on Restructure Committee.

Motion: Mr. Oswald  
Second: Mr. Monck  
Aye: Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Monck, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Melchi  
Nay: None

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### Update on Chief Search

There is an out-of-district fire chief candidate and an in-district candidate who have expressed interest for the interim fire chief position. There was discussion on avenues for advertising the full-time chief position, and on timing for bringing on an interim fire chief. Various members of the public offered input. It was noted that no decisions have been made. The meeting became emotionally charged. At 8:12, Ms. Eiland read the Rye Fire Protection District Statement of Conduct for Attendees at Board Meetings. Ms. Eiland noted that the public has given a lot of good feedback and the board appreciates that. Ms. Eiland suggested to the board that the meeting should proceed and that all parties should adhere to the policy.

Motion to solicit applications and find an interim fire chief as soon as possible, and begin the process of advertising and interviewing for a regular full-time fire chief.

Motion: Mr. Melchi  
Second: Mr. Monck  
Aye: Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Monck, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Melchi  
Nay: None

### Goals – Visions, etc.

Discussion concerning the goals and vision for the fire department. Mr. Hurtado noted that he wants to see adherence to NFPA, as far as can be afforded, with health and safety of the fire fighters being a top priority so they can better serve the citizens.

### Board Correspondence

Mr. Oswald read a letter from Ms. Norma Mower dated February 17, 2012. It addressed the board regarding the insensitivity of the board towards her husband, Dave Mower, while he was dealing with important family issues.

### Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:24 p.m.

Motion: Mr. Oswald  
Second: Mr. Monck  
Aye: Mr. Hurtado, Mr. Monck, Mr. Oswald, Mr. Melchi  
Nay: None

Dated this 22<sup>nd</sup> of February 2012.

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Beach".

Submitted by Jim Beach, Captain