

IRRIGON RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL WORKSHOP
DATE: 11/29/2023

A special meeting of the Board of Directors of Irrigon Rural Fire Protection District was held on 11/29/23 at 6:30 PM to discuss Fire Department Operations.

The following directors were present:

Robert Vandecar
Ashley Munkers
Gayland Bledsoe
Burrel Cooley

Others present were:

Thomas Roberts, Interim Chief
Joey Munkers
Josey Foster
Thad Marti

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Vandecar at 6:30 PM. The item in discussion is an email received by the board from a few volunteers regarding communication and leadership frustrations.

1. Communication and Respect –
2. Training, Certification, and duties by volunteers –
 - a. One item specifically was signed by the board chair and was questioned as to its content and validity. The form in question was for the current Chief's training and recertifications because he has been out of the active firefighter status for more than 12 months.
 - b. The email also questioned certifying firefighters and doing so outside of normal channels.
 - c. Mike Boseman, a state official, discussed with Josie how to recertify firefighters – it was misunderstood that she sought him out but, in her words, it was simply a conversation she had with him.
 - d. Josie, as the training officer, is upset that recertifying hasn't been communicated to her.
3. Members of the department are upset over things changing in the department, training supplies, equipment, moving offices and other items without communicating it to the people that are affected by such changes.
 - a. Some of the movements were made to secure tools and equipment. Too many projects were started at one time while not finishing them and caused frustration and chaos.
4. Robert Vandecar brought up "chain of command", he reminded the members present that our Chief is still ultimately responsible for all departments within the department.
5. Officer Josey asked about restructuring the department. Chief Roberts stated that having a command structure is necessary, even in a small department – for consistency. Josey feels there are too many officers to the number of staff.

Burrel Cooley discussed communication, which is vital to a successful department.

Joey Munkers suggested a monthly meeting between the Chief and his officers. The directors agreed this was a good idea and should be implemented. He suggested that the meetings start on Thursdays before regular training.

An open discussion was held between the volunteers and Chief with the Directors listening and learning from each other that they are all responsible for a successful department.

Meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM.

Next Regular Meeting December 11, 2023 – 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Charlene Cooley
Recordkeeper