

Minutes of the February 17, 2021  
Special Meeting of the Glen Carbon Fire Protection District Board

Meeting called to order at 7 PM February 17, 2021 by Board President Luke Harris

Roll Call: Present: Luke Harris, Alan Schake, Jack Humes, Ron Williams. Absent: Chris Otto

Pledge of Allegiance

There was no input from the public at this time.

There was discussion concerning amendment of the District's COVID Policy, with three recommended changes. On motion by President Harris and second by Mr. Humes the changes were approved unanimously.

President Harris opened the meeting to a general discussion.

- Mr. Tony Hargis opened the discussion by pointing out that a better system of notification is needed for such meetings in the future. There was general agreement.
- Mr. Hargis then opened the subject of training, questioning the need for experienced fire fighters who have done the training previously to continue this training. Acting Chief Whitaker explained the State Fire Marshall's requirements. There was extensive input from others on this subject.
- Mr. Andrew Gipson brought up the subject of the 10% rule for fire calls, explaining the burden that it places on some, especially during the pandemic when participation has been limited. President Harris stated that the subject was not closed and that it will be examined further. It was pointed out that people showing up for calls but who do not go out are not being paid. President Harris stated that this was not District policy and that it will be changed.
- Mr. Doug Schultz reemphasized the need to improve communication, with Mr. Gipson then raising the question of the District's direction in the future. President Harris explained the direction in general terms, with the caution that during the period of selection of a new Fire Chief, any changes would be limited in scope. It was asked if there would be an opportunity for the membership to participate in the selection of the new chief and President Harris agreed it would be appropriate.
- Mr. Chad VanRyn, participating remotely and in respond to Mr. Williams's complaint that members of the District were not communicating effectively with Trustees, stated that some, or perhaps many members were afraid of retaliation during the previous leadership. There was general agreement.
- After the subject of graphics on equipment was brought up, Mr. Ralph Wells strongly objected to the removal of the "Glen Carbon FPD" lettering. President Harris promised action on this issue.
- Mr. Russ Kopesky questioned why more input was not allowed during meetings. In response, Mr. Gipson explained that District 7 (Edwardsville Community Schools) allows public input both at the beginning and end of each meeting. President Harris placed this subject on the agenda for the February 23, 2021 Regular Meeting.

- Mr. Ben Bullock notified the Board that the Department had done the second reading of their revised by laws. These by laws may be approved at the May meeting.

On motion of Mr. Alan Schaake and second by President Harris, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:40 PM