

Huntington Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Board of Directors conference Call Minutes
November 28, 2006

Present: John Slater, Bob Leach, Brother Chris, Phyllis Thomas, Bob Wilson, Ned Fox, Steve Soares, Karen Bare Kamimoto

John Slater, President, opened the meeting.

MINUTES: Bob Leach moved to approve the minutes from the October 24, 2006 as written. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Inventory: Bob Leach sent the inventory list to Karen as requested.

Southern California Edison: Nothing new – the contribution is expected by June 1, 2007. Bob Leach suggested the department order the new vehicle in 2007, but defer delivery until April 2008 when the department can be assured funds are in hand.

Fire Chief: Brother Chris spoke to Nichols, a captain in Fresno and gave him the training schedules, budgets, draft policies and history of the department. Brother Chris talked to him about what the department is about, where we've been and where we plan to go. Brad Driscoll is a new captain in Fresno and as a new captain is on probation for one year. To be politically correct it would be better if he did not take on the role of Fire Chief for HLVFD at this time. Brother Chris suggested that if (1) Nichols is interested in the job and the board chooses him for the Chief, then Brother Chris and Brad Driscoll will act as co-assistants with Nichols and Brad maintaining a presence in Fresno for the department and Brother Chris handling the Huntington Lake area. (2) If Nichols doesn't work out as Chief then Brother Chris is willing to apply for the position and Brad Driscoll will be the assistant.

Bob Wilson moved to authorize Brother Chris to move ahead with option (1); form a committee of firefighters to interview Nichols and make a recommendation to the board. If the board agrees with the recommendation they will interview Nichols. If this process doesn't work option (2) will be explored.

The motion passed.

Architect: Bob Wilson contacted Steve Bowker of Omega Architectural Group in Benicia, CA. Brother Chris has been in contact with him and will meet with him to discuss the dormer, extending the front rafters, and engineering a pole building at Camp LaSalle.

Niles Kant at Lakeshore is willing to provide lumber at a reasonable price.

Policies: Brother Chris circulated the policies. Brother Chris explained the policies had been reviewed by several fire chiefs prior to presenting them to the board.

Bob Wilson moved to formally adopt the policies and direct the fire chief to implement them. The motion passed.

Coca Cola: Brother Chris reported they have given approximately \$11,000 worth of large diameter hoses and a fully rated stoker basket.

Tracts: There was question as to the best way the checks should come to the fire department – (1) a check from the Tract payable to the department or, (2) a check from the individual made payable to the department. Bob Wilson said it would be better for the individuals to make checks payable to the fire department.

Brother Chris circulated draft documents to be sent to the presidents and cabin owners. The letter to the presidents says why we are doing what we are doing and tells them what we want them to do. The board agreed this letter is OK. The letter to the owners still needs some work. Phyllis Thomas offered to work with Brother Chris on that letter. The letter to the owners explains why we need the \$140. Brother Chris also circulated information about the “Club” giving levels.

There was discussion about how to proceed with the letter to the Presidents. It was agreed contact should be made before the end of January 2007. Karen was asked to co-ordinate a list of Tracts with board members. Brother Chris will contact Chris Oberti to get a list of Tract presidents.

Brother Chris will also send a “final package” of what will be sent to the presidents and the cabin owners to the board.

Newsletter: Bob Leach will send a draft of the December newsletter in the next couple of days. He will acknowledge the contribution from Coca Cola and provide Club information. He needs to board to give him feedback on the format and content – “how does it feel” feedback.

The newsletter will be published before Christmas. Contact with the Tract Presidents needs to be made by the end of January and the letter to the cabin owners should go out in February.

Presentation of \$140: John Slater will reformat Bob Leach’s Excel spreadsheet for presentation to Dowville’s board. John will ask Bob Leach to review it before he sends it to Karen. Karen will forward it to Dowville president, Pam Gardner.

NEW BUSINESS:

Charitable Foundation: Bob Leach suggested the board look into creating a charitable foundation to manage large contributions and the invested funds thereby separating the reporting of foundation funds from the operating funds. The foundation would handle longer term objectives rather than short term needs.

Another suggestion was to use an Endowment Funds vehicle.

A committee was appointed to investigate alternatives. The committee members are Bob Leach, Bob Wilson and Ned Fox.

Exempt Status: The department is a 501(c)(4) organization which in some companies' opinions limits their ability to provide matching funds. Phyllis Thomas will see what she can find out about getting the department changed to a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Financials: There has been no movement since the last meeting. Phyllis and Karen are continuing to work on format.

Fresno County Grant: Brother Chris reported Fresno County gave the department a card worth \$2,250. The plan is to use the funds on the card for additional equipment for the Jaws of Life. HLVFD was one of four departments awarded funds by Fresno County.

Water Tender: Brother Chris located a water tender at Company 63 at the top of the four lanes in Auberry. They want \$5,000. It is a 1975 deuce and a half and has 20,000 miles on it. Buying it would enable the department to increase the ISO rating sooner by using this one and keeping the old one; however, it may not be available. Brother Chris will keep the board informed about this issue.

Karen Bare Kamimoto, recording secretary