

**ROCKVILLE/SPRINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
P.O. Box 159
Springdale, UT 84767
January 08, 2015
Rockville Community Center**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Acting Chair John Callahan called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. with the following members of the Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District Board present: Louise Excell, Luci Francis, Adrian Player and Chuck Passek. District Clerk Elaine Harris recording.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – After discussion concerning if there was a need for a closed session, Louise Excell moved the agenda be approved as posted with the elimination of Item #3 – Closed Session and Item #4 – Action. Adrian Player seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voting in favor of the motion.
3. **CLOSED MEETING FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING THE CHARACTER, PROFESSIONAL COMPENTENCE, OR PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH OF AN INDIVIDUAL** – Eliminated from the agenda.
4. **ANY ACTION REQUIRED BY THE CLOSED MEETING DISCUSSION** – Eliminated from the agenda.
5. **DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO THE HURRICANE VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT PROPOSAL** – Chair Callahan reported that he and Luci Francis had a meeting earlier in the day with Mr. Bruce Densley at his office in Virgin and the Chair distributed the notes from the meeting for the Board to review.

Louise Excell quoted from the notes: “Densley said that he feels that a unified District would be more efficient.” It was clarified that the term unified meant it would be a merger. Louise stated that Mr. Densley is saying this even though Hurricane has not formally completed that reunification. Louise asked if he gave any information as to what the specific reasons were why a unification would be more efficient. Luci responded it was directly related to the cutting of staff costs. The Chair added it was taking advantage of the ability to be able to spread the costs to so many different areas, thus reducing the cost to the District.

Louise asked if that comment was based on the assumption that the entire \$600,000 budget of our district would go to Hurricane Valley? The response was that that was not discussed. Louise stated that his judgment wasn’t based on any knowledge or understanding of what the Rockville/Springdale Fire District assets are or what its annual budget revenues were. Chair Callahan responded that Mr. Densley was not willing to discuss that, and he and Luci were hesitant to discuss it also. He spent a lot of time praising the Hurricane Valley Fire District and Chief Kuhlman and how good they are, etc.

Mr. Densley didn’t want to go into any of the details because he didn’t have the authority. Luci added that he had stated he didn’t have any knowledge of running a fire department; he defers that kinds of analysis to Chief Kuhlman and that was why he couldn’t really estimate costs until he heard from Kuhlman. Kuhlman would be the person doing the study. Louise questioned, as the chairman of his board, he should be familiar with their budget.

Mr. Densley stated that in talking with Mayor Smith and in other informal discussions, he had heard that we had raised the Standby Fees. Louise commented that would be beneficial to them if they were able to transfer the fees.

Mr. Densley informed Luci that their revenues were all derived from property taxes plus they have an ambulance service that does make money. The Chair added that they also have a delivery that doesn't require the ambulance. They are attempting to acquire a van to provide the service of providing rides, as an example, of a non-ambulatory resident to a doctor's appointment. They would charge for this service.

Mr. Densley had reviewed the history of Hurricane City and their involvement with the Hurricane Valley Fire District.

Louise commented that the Hurricane Valley Fire District's taxpayers will all pay at the same rate. Toquerville may have two ambulance calls a month, but Hurricane may have 80, but they will all pay the same and that is a win-win for Hurricane, but not so good for the Toquerville taxpayers. Luci stated that would be the same for us because we have a smaller call volume.

Mr. Densley stated that Chief Kuhlman was reluctant to give us an apples to apples comparison because that is not what he would do. He wouldn't run it the way we are running it. In his opinion, it is overstaffed and inefficient. If they did staffing based on our current model, it wouldn't save us any money. If they did an apples to apples they wouldn't save us any costs.

Louise felt the people of Springdale need to be given this information, and if the bean counters show up and say "we're fine with that", then maybe that's what we need to do.

Chuck asked if, between now and the 21st, do we think we would get more information from Hurricane that would allow us to make an educated discussion? Luci responded she felt there was more and Mr. Densley agreed. He had called Chief Kuhlman and the Chief was willing to have another informal meeting similar to last January with two board members, the two chiefs and discuss the strategy and the model and Luci asked if we could just have a ballpark estimate.

Louise felt we already have more information. The information from Mr. Densley by way of Chief Kuhlman is an apples to apples, they couldn't do it for less than we are doing it. Their opinion is that we are overstaffed and inefficient. The main point is the staffing.

We would have to pay for the study, but it would not be the \$40,000 that was indicated in an earlier meeting. It would take three to four months and it would be our cost. Tom Kuhlman would be doing the study, creating the survey questions, doing the survey, and then making his analysis based on that data. The same person that is proposing to acquire our district. Luci finds a conflict of interest. Mr. Densley indicated Chief Kuhlman has a degree in business and is, therefore, qualified to do the study. To do an objective study, we would have to require an outside service and that is why it would cost thousands of dollars.

Chuck felt it was a benefit to let them do it and give us their opinion on how they would run the place and what it would cost, and then we have their numbers and what they think are the efficiencies or non-efficiencies of the District. We can look at that and we may decide then to take that study to our subject matter experts, whomever they may be, and have that evaluated as to whether they are making correct assumptions. We get more information, we answer all the perceptions out there that there should be some kind of study done; what are the hard numbers? It doesn't seem like when we talk to them that we will ever really get a hard number; it seems they will never tell what it would cost to staff the station as we currently staff it. The only way we are going to tell people what it would be is to let them do it. They will most likely say it will be reduced staffing that will be the savings and then it is up to the Board to decide if that is acceptable or not.

Luci confirmed for Louise that her understanding that Mr. Densley essentially said that in an apples to apples comparison, they couldn't compete was correct. Louise stated that if we want to downgrade our services, lose local control, potentially have our equipment redistributed across a large service district, and do with two, cross-trained firefighter/Paramedics 24/7, they could save us money.

Louise asked if they give any indication what that would cost the residents in terms of standby fees or tax assessments? Luci responded they did not.

Chuck also responded that was what he attempted to do with his guesstimate of what it would cost to sort of answer this question so that it does not impact us hiring a chief. It is his opinion that it has impacted it; it is out there and it is a negative for our recruiting someone. Since it is already a negative, just go ahead and do it. It can't be more adversarial than what rumor has already been. Go forward with hiring a chief, however we look at it. If people ask why we are hiring a chief and doing a study at the same time, the answer would be that we can't, and aren't, committing long-term to a chief. We can't give them a contract. When you look at the logistics – three months for the study (maybe four months), then we have to go to the Washington County Commission, then there would be a discussion among the Town of Springdale as to whether they really want it. So, in between, we need someone to run the department. If we don't hire someone full time, they don't take on that risk. If not, we need a plan to find someone to run the department until the process is done. The process may take approximately six months or longer.

Louise stated that even if the decision is to dissolve and become part of the Hurricane Valley District, it is going to take three to four months to get the study, another couple of months to analyze that and make a decision, to approach the County Commission and ask them to dissolve the District and fold it into the Hurricane Valley District. She feels it is possible that the towns of Rockville and Springdale will want to be a party to that discussion. She felt it would be nine months to a year.

Luci stated they would have to annex us into that district, resolve our currently outstanding debt on the ambulance, renegotiate with Springdale for the ambulance agreement, and there is the question of because of what they are proposing is to provide services with coverage less than what we have now, would Washington County even accept any proposal?

Clerk Harris brought up the fact that if their income is from property taxes, Rockville and Springdale taxpayers are going to see a significant increase in their taxes because there will be no avenue by which the tourists are contributing.

Discussion took place relative to the support from Rockville and Springdale. Luci reported that when she first spoke to Rockville Mayor Dutson, he indicated he would take it under advisement and speak to his council about the possibility of writing a letter of support. He later stated he didn't think it would be possible without having some sort of cost analysis done.

Luci was unsure if another informal meeting, sit-down chat, with Mr. Densley, two from our board, two from their board, Chief Kuhlman, Chief Barker, and do what was done last January. We would request they provide something in writing for discussion indicating what they propose for us, without doing a full-blown study. We would request what their initial recommendation would be. They would restate what they did last year – two, cross-trained personnel, etc. and this is how much we think we can save us based on that.

Chair Callahan felt we are just going in circles; we are asking for something they are not going to provide without a study.

Louise proposed that since, at this point, we have failed to hire a full-time chief in part because of the unknowns in the District, we consider getting as much information from Chief Kuhlman as possible from a meeting with our Chair and at least one other Board member to determine what the costs of that information would be for us. We postpone hiring a full-time chief and she would suggest that we approach Ryan Ballard and ask him to serve as an interim, part-time chief (she declared her conflict of interest) until the end of this fiscal year.

Luci responded that we are still negotiating with one of the candidates. He declined but is willing to come back to the table. Luci had contacted him to discuss informally just what it was that led him to decline. He is aware of the situation and conflict relative to Hurricane Valley. He wasn't concerned about it. He has ideas about how he may make it work.

Chuck reminded the Board that we have passed a budget for 2015 for a full-time chief. Whether we fill it as full-time or part-time is only the amount of time they would be working.

Discussion took place about hiring a full-time or part-time chief under the circumstances. Louise stated there may not be a district after this year because we are pursuing the Hurricane option.

This candidate is willing to take the risk depending on input from his financial advisors, insurance people, and retirement pension consultant.

In looking at the end game, Chuck stated that, hopefully, we know from this candidate that he will take the job quickly (we may know within the next couple of days). After that, we have to step back and reassess and his thought for the interim time was where we decide if we want to possibly do a job-share. We find two people that are willing to share the position, with parameters set by the Board. That way, they would be able to keep their day jobs and it gets the Board through the study. Hopefully, at the end of the study, we know where we are going.

Luci commented that we have an attorney's opinion that says the only way the District can be dissolved, merged, or any sort of services discontinued under State statute is via Washington County. It seems we, as a board, would have to initiate the process. Louise felt if the study came back as advantageous financially to dissolve, can we not proceed as promised?

Luci referenced the meeting of December 30 where she felt the Board had done a close examination of previous minutes to determine just what had been said to the public about what the Board would do. What was said by Michael Plyler was that we would get an apples to apples comparison.

Regarding how the County Commissioners would receive this, Luci's conversation with Dean Cox indicated that, philosophically, the Commissioners don't like to dissolve districts, they don't want to do that. Louise reminded her that they wouldn't be dissolving, they would be combining, so they wouldn't care.

Chair Callahan felt the citizens wouldn't let it happen, but Louise felt it wasn't up to them so they couldn't stop it. Louise felt there were many who felt, if there was a cheaper way to provide the service, that is the most important factor.

If the current candidate were to take the fire chief position, Luci didn't feel he would be any less qualified to create a survey and get an outside opinion to ensure the questions we are asking are objective and make sure the Board doesn't inject our own bias in any survey we would do. Whatever efficiencies that may be gained by a restructuring of the way we manage our department, Luci felt keeping in the control of the local citizens was important. As a person living in this

community, Luci feels a lot better listening to the people who have run this department in this community for the last 30+ years to tell her how it should be run, rather than somebody from another community coming in and just doing this three-month study to try to figure out what is best for us.

Louise stated that we had two members of the Springdale Town Council come to our December 20, 2014 meeting and insisted that this Board has promised a study which they weren't delivering on and, therefore, we were somehow not living up to our obligation. Luci responded by asking why we can't do our own study. We could consult with Chief Kuhlman and indicate that maybe we could do a joint study. Louise stated they want the study that was apparently promised last summer.

Chair Callahan stated it was a play on words. We said that we would do it, it is in the minutes. Luci responded that Michael Plyer stated what we would do was to provide an apples to apples comparison. How much is it going to cost if Hurricane does it and they give us four personnel, a chief, two captains and an EMS captain. We keep hearing they are not going to give us that. So the question for the people is what are the needs of this community? Are we wrong in thinking that we need four people and a full-time chief?

Chair Callahan stated we have discussed how many people we are going to staff at one time, how much we are going to pay them, and we have a budget that has been approved. We are in a position at this time to have to defend ourselves. We need to ask somebody for something so we can defend ourselves.

Luci questioned if it would be beneficial to have a round table discussion with some of these people that have weighed concerns about what it is we are doing; get those people together and ask them what they expect and want. Adrian reported that what he is hearing from people in town is they are wanting to know what is happening. Is the Fire District going to commission a study like was said when they passed the Standby Fee increase? If the Board believes that it was not a promise, and we can convince the people there wasn't a promise, he can tell the people there was no promise. Adrian felt having the study seems to be the way to go. He is unsure about the issue of hiring a chief and that Chuck had a good point.

When Chuck reads the minutes, the perception he receives is the agreement to do this was between Michael and John; it wasn't addressed to someone in the audience or addressed as the result of a question or concern from a member of the public. It was an internal board thing. That said, the perception is that the Board agreed to do this and the public is taking that and it has morphed into that was a commitment from the Board (a promise) to the towns to do it. Chuck was hesitant to go forth in the beginning because he thought it would taint the hiring process, but even without it, it is tainted. Lacking that, he sees no reason why not to do it. They are going to come back that it is always going to be there if we don't do it. Even if we do the round table suggestion, it is always going to come up that we don't know what Hurricane is going to offer, and until we have that offer, we are never going to be able to rebut it. When they give us something, now we can rebut it on the merits.

If we decide to do the survey with them, we should sit down and we need to look at what the questions are going to be to the citizens. One of the questions should be the issue of local control. It shouldn't just be based on what they think of this or that when they really don't know how many firefighters they should have. We should insist on a section asking if they understand where this would go. Do they realize the membership on the board will be reduced, there will not be any real control over the taxes, there will be property taxes, etc. We should have answers from Springdale relative to the TRT taxes.

Adrian commented that if our citizens heard that the Standby Fees were going to disappear but their property taxes were going to escalate, he felt they may have a different thought of the process. Chuck responded that it is all about the money; we haven't heard anyone wants to merge because they feel they will get better service because they are unhappy with what they are getting now. The whole thing is getting it cheaper.

If the TRT went away, that lowers the income budget to \$500,000/yr. Even with just two people up here, it would cost them more money. In order to get more income, they would have to raise the property tax rate. Chuck felt when we have their proposal we can look at these things. We can take a couple of months or more and have an informed discussion, which is impossible at this point. If we do the study, we go over the needs assessment and we make an estimate of what we think they should staff.

Come January 21, 2015 Louise is going to make a motion that we ask Chief Kuhlman and the Hurricane Valley Fire Protection District, to give us that 90-120 day study and bill us for the cost and get it to us as soon as they possibly can because that is the only thing the people in our district are going to settle for, and the only way we are going to continue to have support from the two communities we serve is if they know that they are getting the best deal for their money.

Adrian asked if the prior Chairman had the full Board vote when he sent the letter to Mr. Densley asking for a study. Doesn't the Chairman have the authority to just go ahead and say to Mr. Densley to do the study? Luci responded that the letter was contradictory. Luci read from the minutes of August 20, 2014 as to what Plyler said. He indicated clearly that we wouldn't take action to dissolve our own board and the public has the right to dissolve the Board; they can do that, but we aren't going to. He would be happy to schedule discussions with concerns of motel owners, etc. and receive some apples to apples comparisons and see where we are. In Mr. Plyler's letter, the first paragraph asks for a formal proposal. To Hurricane, that meant a three-month study. Later in the letter, Mr. Plyler detailed out in the letter actually what he wanted was an apples to apples comparison and asked for it as soon as possible. That is what he told the public he would do. Luci felt Mr. Plyler was asking for the comparison as soon as possible, not the formal proposal. He wanted that information so it could be given to the public. The question now is: What do we want to do?

Louise stated that at the December 20, 2014 meeting, 33 1/3% of the people who spoke said service was not an issue, cost was an issue. Luci stated she has not heard anyone complain about the services provided. Louise stated that of the people who bothered to come out to the meeting and speak, there was 100% of those people who spoke that wanted this study and 1/3 of them said that it was more about money than it was about service.

Chair Callahan felt that no matter what Hurricane comes back with, we are in a position to defend ourselves and stay where we are. By the time we get all the tax questions answered and that kind of thing, we know that we can influence the survey by asking them to ask the survey questions. Luci responded that we don't want to be accused of that. That is why if we do the survey, we also owe it to people to be objective and we may need someone from the outside to look at that; we can't be biased in the questions. That is what concerns her about having Hurricane – the guy who is going to take over – do the survey and do the analysis as well. Otherwise, we get an outside service to do it and it becomes cost-prohibitive. Chuck questioned if we get an outside service, will Hurricane Valley accept it.

Louise questioned if maybe we need to ask Hurricane Valley to tell us what it is going to cost our citizens for their service as part of the District in taxes. If that, indeed, is how our citizens will pay.

We know that the Standby Fees will go away, the TRT could conceivably go away. That is what people want to know. Can Hurricane Valley serve us for less than Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District, and if they can, that is what they want to do. Lucy responded that may be what the citizens want to do, but, as a board, we would consider what we are doing here; we are looking at public safety, coverage and service, risk factors. It is not just about costs.

Louise didn't feel that is what we are up against. We are up against a bunch of people who don't want to pay their Standby Fee increases and they want us to get them lower costs. Luci felt we could do that on our own.

Chair Callahan asked if we want to take the time to sit down with Mr. Kuhlman and go through the exercise we ran through today. Would that help us in our question of whether we want to start this now or do we want to start it later.

As a board, Luci felt we needed to decide how this study would take place, who is going to be writing the survey questions, can we add comments, a few of our own questions, can we write an introduction to this survey, how much can we be part of this. If we both do it, it isn't a conflict of interest. How are they going to finance it? We already know their revenues come from property tax and the ambulance service. How might a potential merger affect the cost to our citizens; is there any guarantee that their standby fees via property taxes, or whatever, will actually decrease through these economies of scale which they are telling us they will be able to achieve. Is the survey going to be door-to-door? Luci would like to better understand the logistics of how this survey would be played out and try to get a better handle as well on the cost.

Louise asked where, in all of this, did Luci understand that part of their study would include a survey of the residents. Luci responded their letter states: "The first phase of the evaluation will begin with a public safety expectations survey focusing on the five key customers of the district." The second phase of the evaluation involves a group composed of experts from finance, fire service, EMS, government revenue and budgeting, counsel experienced in district law, etc. This would all be done by Chief Kuhlman, so does he bring in these people? He chooses these people.

Chuck felt this is additional information we could get before the 21st. So, on the 21st we come back and say through the two people on the committee to deal with them and they answer some of those things. They may respond that they don't know right now when the study is going to happen and no, they won't let us add any questions to the survey. An informed decision could be made as to exactly what the study will comprise of and is there a section in it that defines issues.

Luci asked Chuck if he felt we do that, that somehow we are going to be able to convince all these citizens who are so concerned about this that they have been coming to these meetings and listening to these discussions that we really don't need to go forward with the Hurricane study. If Adrian is correct, they're going to settle for nothing less and they are here in droves today to say that. (There was no public present.) Chuck responded he didn't know if we would have a number that we can sort of defend against then. The rough figures he presented came out to 15 cents/day for a person in this area that owns a 2,000 sq. ft. house. The question around the information he gave was that he made those numbers up. He couldn't say that what he presented is actually what Hurricane would do; they could possibly cut the wages of their staff 50% to come here and work in Springdale. If they did, there's a lot more money there. If we had that proposal from Hurricane that has a dollar from Hurricane, then he can say Hurricane's proposal comes back and says they can do it for this type of staffing, for this much money, etc. Then it can be stated whether the extra money that you may have to pay as a resident of Springdale has these benefits.

Louise apologized. She misunderstood and thought the proposal was that we should do a whole bunch of work in advance of the 21st to try and talk people out of the study. She felt obtaining more information wouldn't make a difference because we would still have to do the study. Chuck responded that it may.

Luci stated she may be opposed to doing the study if it is all going to be Chief Kuhlman and his expertise.

Louise stated the Standby Fees are going to vanish, the property taxes we are now collecting are going to vanish; what is going to replace that?. That is what she hopes people want to know. What is the amount on each property owner's bill that will replace that income? Luci asked if we can get that information without their study.

Discussion took place concerning the need for a meeting to make a formal decision to proceed with the study. Chuck felt that may be the correct way, but the board at that time didn't have that explicit vote to send Mr. Plyler's letter the first time that initiated this whole thing. If that was the wrong procedural thing for him to do, then, yes, we need to have another board meeting. Hurricane responded to our letter; we are responding to his. We are just fine-tuning the process that was started by Mr. Plyler last year.

Chair Callahan asked Mr. Densley this morning what he needed from us to get started on this, and his reply was to get a hold of Chief Kuhlman.

As a board, Luci felt we need to be involved in what it is we want to provide to the public as far as the level of coverage and the service. She doesn't want to be pushed by a few people of the public that don't understand fire safety or public safety except that they are maybe going to save 15 cents a day.

Louise stated that if Chief Kuhlman oversees the study, maybe we need to go back to the November 12 letter that Mr. Plyler sent and ask if there is anything else besides what he asks for, because according to your notes from this morning's meeting, Mr. Densley did say that if Chief Kuhlman oversees the study, the associated costs would not amount to much unless the study required outside consultations not outlined in the letter. Let's look at Mr. Plyler's letter of November 12 again and see if that, in fact, says what we want. Do we want to know where the costs would be assessed? Ask if it would, in fact, be property taxes like it is in Hurricane and other places. Or, would it be in assessment or standby fees.

The letter of September 3, 2014 from Chairman Michael Plyler to Bruce Densley stated: "Some months ago you met with then Board Chairman Bob Orton, then Fire Chief Joe Barker, and Clerk Elaine Harris regarding a tentative discussion about emergency services for the Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District. Mr. Orton subsequently resigned due to health reasons and I assumed the role of Chairman. At this time, I would like to make a request to have a formal proposal put together by Tom Kuhlman with regards to providing fire/EMS services for Rockville and Springdale by the Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District. My understanding from a conversation with Mr. Kuhlman is that this proposal can take up to three months to compile. We would like the proposal to include two, different staffing proposals – two cross-trained EMS/fire and two EMS and two fire personnel on a 24/hr. basis. We would also like the proposal to indicate from where, and by what means the revenue to support this staffing will originate. Standby Fees, taxes, etc.? Also, consideration as to the transition of assets from the Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District. Of course, there are a myriad of things to be considered but we would very much like to begin this process."

Louise commented that three months later we get a letter that apologizes for the delay. Luci added what they want to do is a 360⁰ evaluation of the Fire District without pre-meditated results or guarantee of Hurricane Valley offering to provide services. The first phase involves evaluation, including the survey. The second phase involves a group composed of experts from the fields. The third phase consists of business modeling based on the derived information from the previous two phases. Chuck responded this just needs to happen. He felt the only thing we really need to keep in touch in is in the wording of any survey that goes out, because depending on how you phrase the question can give different results.

The letter closes with: "Please contact me as soon as possible if you wish us to proceed. Our first step would be to meet with key individuals of the District and the political subdivisions it serves to discuss the process and the expected outcomes."

Chair Callahan felt we need to get started; he doesn't see any other way and Louise concurred. We can't defend ourselves or satisfy the people we are serving without doing this. Luci reported that Rockville's Mayor has indicated he would not have an agenda item for a letter of support without the results of the study. Adrian felt he could request an agenda item for Springdale, but if was going to make that request, he would have to have some argument for why we are not going to do the study. Luci will be meeting with Mayor Dutson the following week and will explain to him the sequence of events and discussions and help him understand where we are presently.

Chair Callahan asked if we are able to take action tonight. Chuck responded by stating the question is actually, do we need to vote? If you want to, carry forth on the conversation that was initiated by the prior chairman to go forward. The Chair asked what if the Chair takes the position of him writing a letter and saying we want to proceed with this based on the request from previous chairmans. Would the Board support that? Louise stated she would, but she will not support the hiring of a full-time chief until this is resolved. Luci responded reluctantly yes. Chuck and Adrian responded yes.

Chair Callahan stated that so we can have some movement so we can defend ourselves he is going to write a letter to Mr. Densley. He will try to get it done by the next day and get a draft to the rest of the Board.

In a conversation Luci had today with the candidate for fire chief, he indicated he is very close to accepting our offer of employment, and he asked to meet with us as a board so that he could give us what advice he has received from his financial advisor as far as what it would take to compensate him for any loss of Utah Retirement System monies; where he would need to be in respect to a salary. He would like to speak to the Board about that, bring that information, have an opportunity to ask us more questions and allow us an opportunity to ask him more questions. He indicated he could meet with the Board as early as Sunday.

Discussion took place concerning just what the meeting was to entail and whether or not it qualified for a closed session. No one objected to the Chair and Luci meeting with this individual to see what he has to say excepting Louise because she has already stated she will not act on hiring a chief until the Hurricane Valley issue is resolved. If the Board had already narrowed their choices down to making an offer to one candidate in a closed session, it didn't seem to be necessary to take a vote in an open meeting to hire that individual if he accepts the offer.

If that is the case, the Chair and Luci would be able to hire this individual and the question was asked if there would be any objections to that. No one objected except Louise who restated her reasons.

6. **ADJOURN** – Louise Excell moved the meeting be adjourned. Luci Francis seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

Minutes typed by:

Elaine M. Harris
District Clerk

APPROVED:

Luci Francis