

Hoodland board approves 'volunteer' policy

by MICHAEL P. JONES
Post Correspondent

A policy was passed at the October meeting of the Hoodland Rural Fire Protection District that prohibits persons from serving as both board members and as volunteer firefighters.

Prior to the final vote, a discussion of the policy fueled angry comments from an audience comprised largely of firefighters who opposed the move.

The discussions centered primarily around David Olson, a fire board member and volunteer firefighter with the department. He acknowledged he has had problems with the other members of the board, as well as the fire chief. He, as well as many others opposing the policy, said it was written specifically to get him off the board or out of the department.

"I think this policy was written because of a disagreement I had with other board members," said Olson.

Another board member, Luther Ray Miller, a volunteer who serves the department as a fire investigator, was a supporter of the policy.

Gary Cleland, former Brightwood, a former board member who served 10 years with the district, "strongly" objected to the policy.

By having a volunteer on

the board, said Cleland, it "added insight into decision-making." He said eliminating two members by approving the policy would set "a precedent of losing vital manpower."

"If (Ballot) Measure 3 comes through, you're going to need all the firefighters you can get," said Cleland.

Olson told his fellow board members that he had conducted some legal research into the wording of the policy and has some serious concerns as to its legality. One of the concerns is calling volunteers "part-time employees."

"I cannot see how we, as a board, can adopt this policy," said Olson. "Volunteers are volunteers. If you adopt this policy you are going to change the complexion of this district by making volunteers part-time employees."

Olson said the current

budget for volunteers is \$14,000. This money is paid to them for reimbursement for such things as gas and wear and tear on motor vehicles. If the volunteers become part-time employees this figure reportedly will go up considerably.

"We (the fire board) paid Mr. (Lowell) Njust \$239 to write this policy and I am afraid it won't fly," said Olson. "You may adopt the policy, but I won't get off the board."

"What is your objective in doing this," Cleland asked. "It seems like to me the objective of this policy is to get rid of Dave (Olson)."

Cleland said the policy makes him "feel uneasy," and he called it "a real railroad job."

Verla Rogers, a Brightwood resident who was just recently appointed fill a position on the board, defended the policy. She said it was "actually not

directed toward any present board member." She insisted the policy was written to avoid a potential conflict of interest, where a volunteer would be playing a role of employee and employer.

"Just because something has been wrong for a 100 years doesn't mean we can't correct it," said Rogers.

Lane Wintermute, assistant fire chief, said Olson was elected by the voters to the board because he was a volunteer.

"This policy, it seems to me, goes against the desires of the voters," said Wintermute.

He was supported by another volunteer, Larry Elliott, who said it is an asset to have a volunteer on the board because they understand the problems and needs of the district. Elliott said this is better than having "people who don't know what end of the

hose you point toward a fire."

Dave Schulman, a volunteer, asked the board to list the conflicts of interest Olson has.

"I haven't heard anyone say anything specific except metaphorical language and picking things out of the air," said Schulman. "There have been no specifics."

Gail Wintermute repeated Schulman's question and wanted to know how the policy originated. She said if it is because of a problem concerning Olson, the public should know about it.

Wintermute asked, "Did someone wake up one morning and say, 'Hey, this sounds like a good idea?'"

Peggy Hergert, board chairperson, said the policy originated over many months. She said she could not go into specifics.

"This is not public laundry, this is a public

agency," said Gail Wintermute. "If there is a problem, the public needs to know about it."

Fire Chief Don Armin-

trout requested that the board postpone taking a vote on the policy until a later date, so the legalities and potential impact could be researched further.

The board denied his request and voted, four to one, to implement the new policy immediately. Olson cast the only dissenting vote.

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Christmas Craft Fair set Nov. 6

Orient School will present its third annual "Holly Holiday" Christmas Craft Fair on Nov. 6.

Fifty local artists will be displaying and selling hand crafts between 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. that day.

Concessions will be available all day, including chili, hot dogs, snacks and beverages. There will also be a bake sale.

A special Community Scout room will offer face painting, lollipops, and leather and wood crafts. Santa will be there all day to greet the children.

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF CLACKAMAS

ESTATE OF

ROBERT BYRON EDMONDS

NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

No. P 82-8-44

NOTICE: The Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for the County of Clackamas, has appointed Joyce F. Edmonds and Bryan C. Edmonds as personal representatives of the Estate of Robert Byron Edmonds, deceased. All persons having claims against that estate are required to present the claim, with proper vouchers, to the personal representative c/o Judy Grant, Attorney for the Personal Representative at P.O. Box 432, 17460 Shelley Avenue, Sandy, Oregon 97055 within four months from the date of the first publication of this notice as stated below, or they may be barred. All persons whose rights may be affected by this proceeding may obtain additional information from the records of the court, the personal representative, or the attorney for the personal representative.

Dated and first published

October 21, 1982

Joyce F. Edmonds and

Byron C. Edmonds,

Personal Representative

Judy Grant, Attorney for

the Personal Representative

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10-21, 10-28, 11-4

INVITATION TO BID

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the Board of Directors of

Clackamas County School

District No. 13 will receive

sealed bids until the hour of

7:30 P.M. on Thursday,

November 11 for one (1) new

or used 65 passenger conven-

tional school bus.

Proposals shall be sealed

and mailed in a delivered

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"School Bus Bid" and bearing

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Bids will be publicly opened

at 8:00 P.M. on Thursday,

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tions may be obtained at

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Welches, Oregon 97067.

622-3165.

Kenneth C. Blackburn

Superintendent-Clerk

Welches Elementary School

Welches, Oregon 97067

622-3165

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