

Mosier Fire District Special Board Meeting  
Mosier Senior Center, 500 E. 2<sup>nd</sup> St., Mosier

DATE: Sept. 25, 2017  
4:00 p.m.

BOARD: Joe Sacamano, Joanne Rubin, Barb Ayers, Phil Evans, Todd Reeves

Absent:                      Excused:

STAFF: Fire Chief Jim Appleton

MOSIER FIRE VOLUNTEERS & ASSOCIATES: None

PUBLIC: None

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting was called to order by Board President Evans at 4:03 p.m.

Evans immediately closed the public meeting and convened an executive session pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(b), to consider the dismissal or disciplining of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual agent who does not request an open hearing - Mosier Fire Chief.

At 5:43, the Chair closed the executive session and reconvened the public meeting. He stated that the Board felt compelled to make a change.

**Board President Phil Evans made a motion to place Fire Chief Jim Appleton on paid administrative leave not to exceed 45 days starting immediately and that the Board delegate any supervisory or oversight duties pertaining to the Chief to Director Evans during this period of time. Motion seconded by Board Member Joanne Rubin. Unanimously approved.**

Chair Evans asked Appleton to turn in his keys and take his personal items and return District owned property. He advised Appleton that while on administrative leave, he should not take any MFD action, and does not represent MFD in any manner. In the future, the Board would get back in touch with Appleton with next steps and a final decision. SDAO (Special Districts of Oregon) would continue to be involved and Appleton could call Evans any time with questions.

Appleton said he "had difficulty with the decision" and asked for more details. Evans said the Board listened to what had said tonight and in the prior executive session regarding performance concerns that resulted in a written reprimand and also felt not enough progress had been made in the last year to ensure a level of safety for the community. The Board appreciated the Chief's service and was looking to chart a new path forward. In the last year, Appleton's communications, relationship-building with partner agencies and volunteers had challenges; concerns had been repeatedly discussed.

As part of the SDAO assessment and Board's department reboot process over the last year, specific progress was needed to ensure reliable service and safety. The reboot goal was to determine how we can continuously improve our department and team. Evans said there was not one specific thing that led to this action. The Chief's at-will contract indicated a 30-day notice could be given to conclude.

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Approved this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board President Philip Evans

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Barb Ayers, interim recorder