

Moore Breaking Newz's post



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WEST END FIRE DEPARTMENT AND THE VILLAGE OF FOXFIRE IN CONTRACT DISPUTE

The West End Fire Department and Foxfire Village are in a Contract Dispute that has had a dramatic turn of events this week with paid staffing temporarily suspended at the Fire Department Sub-Station until contract negotiations are completed.

What this means is there is no paid staffing at the Foxfire Fire Department Sub-Station. Instead responders from the Main Station in West End will respond to calls along with volunteers if they are available from the Foxfire Sub-Station.

To fully understand this story one must walk back in time. The West End Fire Department was established in 1956 and until the not so distant past covered West End and Foxfire from the West End Station.

Approximately 20 years ago the Village approached the fire department about the construction of a Sub-Station in Foxfire.

Ultimately it was agreed that Foxfire would pay for 50% of the construction cost with the remaining 50% paid by the fire department. The Foxfire Village would retain ownership of the building. The fire department was given a 30 year lease on the building with approximately 6 years left on the lease.

In Municipal budgets the physical year ends on June 30th with the new budget beginning on July 1st.

The Fire Department requested a budget for 5 years at \$295,000 a year with a 3% increase each year. This would prevent these long drawn out discussions every year, and allow for better planning for the fire department.

Last year the town did not approve a budget for the fire department until late fall. This year when September arrived and no agreement had been made the Board of Directors for West End Fire & Rescue voted to discontinue the paid staffing until such time as a contract is reached.

So far the Village has made no payments towards the 25/26 budget year that started July 1st.

At the meeting tonight for some reason the board seemed to focus on the percentage of the fire departments funding for each station without ever discussing what it actually cost to run a Fire Department Sub-Station. Not one question.

The board wants 24 hour coverage, however there are only 3 full-time firefighters stationed in Foxfire. With NO part-time funding available for designated part-time staff to backfill as needed. Numerous fire departments here in Moore County use part-time staff to help with situations just like this.

As far as equipping this Sub-Station, every firefighter must be equipped with very expensive gear. This



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