

Spirit Lake Fire Commissioner Meeting Minutes	06/30/2021
	6 PM
	SLFPD Station 1 Training Room

Meeting called by	Commissioner Michael Sexsmith
Type of meeting	Emergency Meeting
Facilitator	Commissioner Michael Sexsmith
Note taker	District Secretary Tammy May
Attendees	Commissioners: Dave Esterly and Mike Sexsmith. Fire Chief John DeBernardi. District Secretary/Treasurer Tammy May
Public comments:	There were no members of public in attendance.
Agenda change:	None.

Agenda Topic:	Consideration of the attached Fireworks Prohibition Ordinance
Presenter:	Fire Chief John DeBernardi
<p>FIRE CHIEF DEBERNARDI informed the Board that Bonner County Sheriff Daryl Wheeler had called him regarding banning fireworks in Bonner County. He was requesting that all fire districts in the county adopt the resolution to ban fireworks within their respective districts. He provided a resolution template that the Board reviewed.</p> <p>Public safety is the highest concern of the Spirit Lake Fire Protection District. Spirit Lake Fire has always supported the state statute for fireworks which states that aerial fireworks are illegal. Safe and sane fireworks are legal and should be used with common sense.</p> <p>The proposed resolution by the sheriff was received 3 days before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July was to ban ALL fireworks, including Safe and Sane, in perpetuity, but it was only conceived at the last minute. This seems reactive, rather than proactive and something that should be considered through a measured approach statewide.</p> <p>Our District covers two counties (Bonner &amp; Kootenai) and it is difficult to manage/integrate such extreme differences between adjacent counties (such as one county banning all fireworks and the other allowing continuation of legal Safe &amp; Sane fireworks). We believe this is something that should be coordinated across the state and enacted through legislation, not county by county, or in only "half" of our district.</p> <p>A 3-day notice to enact something with long term consequences seems extreme, and not well thought out. The general intent is good, but this does not appear to be the right path.</p> <p>If this discussion would have happened 5 to 6 months earlier, things might have been different. The District supports working together with Bonner and Kootenai Counties, and the state, to start developing something that can be implemented in the future that will work for the betterment of all tax constituents in all counties. Having the counties in unison, with statewide enforcement, would send a powerful message.</p> <p>We are currently in "Very High" fire danger, not in "Extreme", with no Stage 1 or Stage 2 restrictions.</p> <p>The Board also discussed with the Fire Chief that in the past 5 years, no fires started by fireworks have caused significant property or structure damage, in our District. The Blanchard fire last year was wind-</p>	

driven and was not caused by fireworks.

COMMISSIONER SEXSMITH made a motion not to adopt the fireworks ban resolution. COMMISSIONER ESTERLY seconded. COMMISSIONER SEXSMITH called for a roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Esterly – Yes

Commissioner Sexsmith – Yes

Motion carried.

**Conclusion:**

*The Spirit Lake Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners voted not to adopt the fireworks ban resolution requested by Bonner County Sheriff Daryl Wheeler.*

**Adjournment**

The Meeting was adjourned upon the motion of COMMISSIONER ESTERLY and as seconded by COMMISSIONER SEXSMITH at 6:20 PM. COMMISSIONER SEXSMITH called for a roll call vote:

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Commissioner Esterly – Yes

Commissioner Sexsmith – Yes

Motion carried.

Spirit Lake Fire Protection District, Fire Commissioners

Attest: Tammy May, District Secretary

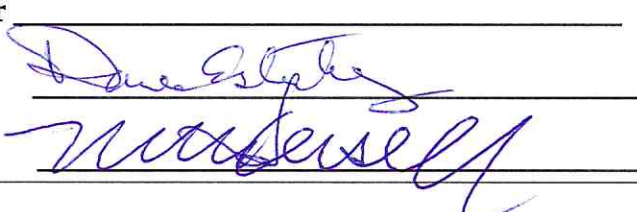


Approved:

Chairman, Commissioner District #2 Mark Miller

Commissioner District #1 Dave Esterly

Commissioner District #3 Mike Sexsmith



**BOARD ACTION:**

- *The Spirit Lake Fire Protection District Board of Commissioners voted not to adopt the fireworks ban resolution requested by Bonner County Sheriff Daryl Wheeler.*