

TOWN OF RED RIVER
TOWN COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 17, 2011

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Linda Calhoun called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM

2. ROLL CALL

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| Councilor Jenny Hawkes | Absent |
| Councilor Cori Jenkins | Present |
| Councilor Ben Richey | Present |
| Councilor George Woerndle | Present |
| Mayor Linda Calhoun | Present |

3. FIRE MARSHAL INSPECTION UPDATE

Fire Chief Ron Burnham explained how the situation occurred concerning the inspections by the State Fire Marshal's Office. The State Fire Marshal's Office became involved in Red River due to a public complaint about alleged inadequate fire code at a lodge in town. As a result of this complaint the State Fire Marshal's Office sent several inspectors to Red River to conduct fire inspections. They inspected lodges, restaurants, retail shops and saloons. They will write their reports and send them back to Red River's Fire Department. If there is a critical situation found, the problem must be resolved within ten days. A less critical situation must be dealt with within a month. Chief Burnham said that the Fire Department will work with the business to coordinate a compliance plan. Some of the issues concerned were evacuation plans and sprinkler systems. There were several businesses that voiced great concern over the sprinkler system requirements. Chief Burnham further explained that the Fire Code in Red River was adopted in 2005. The fire department must follow the language in the code. Chief Burnham further explained that the section concerning sprinkler systems does not apply to current structures but will be enforced for new structures. This section of the code will be studied by legal counsel so that it is clear to everyone involved, including the State Marshal's Office.

Some of the comments by the audience were:

Carlos Macias – his concern was that if the business complies with the fire code, can the state come back in a couple of years and change the requirement. Chief Burnham explained that the code is under constant review, and can't say with any certainty that they will not do that.

John Tillery – Deer Lodge – When will these compliance issues take place? Chief Burnham explained that they will certainly take into consideration that the town is moving into the holiday season and will make every attempt to be flexible, unless the situation is life threatening.

Paula Richey – Mountain Treasures – Paula’s main concern was the sprinkler system requirements. She was very concerned with the economic impact on her business if they are required to put in a sprinkler system. Again, Chief Burnham explained that the way Red River’s code reads the sprinkler system requirement is only for new buildings. He reiterated that legal council will be studying that part of Red River’s Fire Code so everyone is clear about what it says.

Clay Robertson – Copper King – Clay’s concern was the same concern that Paula Richey expressed.

Ron Weathers – Ron questioned if everyone will have to follow the same code. Chief Burnham explained that everyone will have to follow the code and that the Red River Fire Department will be conducting inspections as well, to help bring everyone up to code. Ron also expressed that it seemed like the state inspectors were not equal in their treatment of the businesses and again said that everyone should be held up to the same standard.

In conclusion Chief Burnham said the ultimate goal is to have all of the businesses up to code and that the fire departments goal is to work as partners. He also invited anyone to call or come by the fire station if they have any concerns at all.

Mayor Calhoun adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm

Georgiana Rael
Municipal Clerk

Linda Calhoun
Mayor