

From: Jack and Pat Sliemers

Sent: Wednesday, September 02, 2009 3:52 PM

Subject: Re: Structure committee recommendations solicitation from community

To Anyone Interested,

It seems to me that it is too difficult for a regular community member, not someone from the fire department, to have an educated opinion on this issue regarding a paid chief. I would like to request the department put out a "Pros and Cons" article in the Firefly so THEN community members might be able to form a worthy opinion. To be a chief as a volunteer seems like it's asking too much of an individual. However, if you are going to pay a chief, it needs to be competitive with other departments, needs to include benefits, and the search for the chief should be well advertised and hired with support from the firefighters. In other words, it would seem very important to have all the firefighters on the same page as the board.

We have lived in this area for close to 40 years and have always been pleased with the fire department and especially pleased with the dedication of board members, and, even more so with the firefighters. When talking to firefighters they seem very reluctant to discuss the problems within the department. Therefore, it's almost impossible to know how to support either position. I do not want to or need to know all the intricacies of the department. As a "regular community member" I just need to know how to support the firefighters first and foremost. They are the ones who respond to calls, they are the critical element in the whole operation and need to be involved in the decisions and need to be listened to the most. For what this is worth, it comes sincerely and in appreciation of our fire department, Pat Sliemers, Moss Rock Road resident.