

June 16, 2009

Anderson Fire District Board of Directors
1925 Howard Street
Anderson CA, 96007

Dear Chairman Webster:

I am requesting public disclosure on a meeting which was held June 13 at 3:30 pm in the offices of the Anderson Fire Protection District. I have spoken with Shasta County Supervisor Baugh, who has directed me to correspond to you regarding this matter. I am also aware that Supervisor Baugh has spoken to you as well as Mike Fitzpatrick, attorney for the Fire District. I am concerned that this meeting involved conversations that took place in previous closed sessions and disseminated information that should have stayed in closed session. I am concerned that intimidation from a chief officer and a board member was used to coerce some firefighters. I am also very concerned of the offer to inappropriately use campaign monies to attempt to sway the public by the district/volunteers in an ongoing personnel investigation. I would also like to have answered why this meeting was even held and the motives thereof. My understanding is this was a follow-up meeting for those firefighters who could not attend a previous meeting where the same diatribe was communicated.

I am not aware of all the facts; however, but have been made aware that some of the following actions took place.

On June 13 at 3:30 pm, a one-hour secret meeting was held at the offices of the Anderson Fire Protection District. The meeting was held in the dining area/day room of the station. This meeting was called for by Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal Howard Fincher, which included paid staff Captain Jason Bellinger speaking as the Fire District's union representative where he stated, "the Fire Fighter's union would stand behind and protect the volunteers." In short, it was stated by Battalion Chief /Fire Marshal Howard Fincher to the volunteers that "whether everyone agrees or not we are backing the Board." It was further stated that the firefighters "were not to look at the blogs online or to add anything to the blogs." Battalion Chief /Fire Marshal Howard Fincher further stated that "the Board is looking at recommending the removal of the Chief from office without any compensation or buyout."

At the conclusion of the meeting at approximately 4:30 pm, board member Norma Cornick entered the room stating she had dessert (or something to that effect) for everyone. She went on to inform the group that she had \$215 dollars left in her campaign account from running for the city council. She offered to donate the money to the volunteers to pay for an ad if the volunteers wished to place an ad in the newspaper stating their position.

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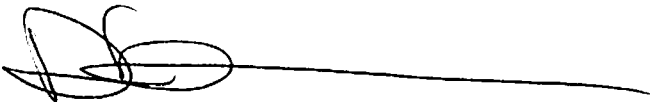
Those in attendance at the meeting were:

Battalion Chief /Fire Marshal Howard Fincher
Captain Jason Bellinger
Captain Darrell Brown
Volunteer Firefighter Chad Grider
Volunteer Firefighter Joel Covert
Volunteer Firefighter Daniel Canavan
Volunteer Firefighter Zalynn Baker
Volunteer Firefighter Cody Cox
Volunteer Firefighter Robert Flaim
Volunteer Firefighter Don Green
Volunteer Firefighter Chris Konicek

In addition, I would also like to know why in the beginning phases of the investigation, Valerie Corbel asked each firefighter, "do you have anything bad about the Fire Chief you would like to say to the investigator", as opposed asking a simple question of would you like to speak to the investigator.

Again, I feel several violations have been committed. Therefore, I am requesting the Fire Board disclose all information concerning this meeting at the next regularly scheduled board meeting in which I will be in attendance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Debe Hopkins", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Debe Hopkins

cc: Mike Fitzpatrick, Esq.
Daniel Thompson, Esq.
George Winship, Editor Anderson Valley Post