

CARBONDALE & RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CARBONDALE FIRE HEADQUARTERS

JUNE 13, 2018

The Board of Directors of the Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District met for their regular meeting on June 13, 2018 at the Carbondale Fire Headquarters/Training Building.

President Gene Schilling called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Directors present were Mike Kennedy, Michael Hassig and Tom Adgate. Also present were Rob Goodwin, Jenny Cutright, Bill Gavette, Frank Nadell, Eric Gross and Allan Ingram. Director Gretchen Stock Bell was absent.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items on the consent agenda were:

- Approve the Minutes of May 9, 2018 Regular Meeting
- Approve Current Bills and Balances

MOTION: made to approve the consent agenda as noted. It carried and passed unanimously.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no comments from the public.

STAFF REPORTS

Chief's Report Rob Goodwin discussed a number of topics.

- Ambulance Purchase - Rob Goodwin said the ambulance committee purchase has been evaluating ambulances. He said that the committee's recommendation is a Braun NW ambulance on a Ford F450 chassis. Rob Goodwin said the total cost, including the power cot and load system, is \$238,287. General discussion regarding the chassis, ambulance use and safety features followed.

Rob Goodwin requested approval to order the ambulance.

MOTION: made to approve the purchase of a Braun NW ambulance for \$238,287. It carried and passed unanimously. Rob Goodwin said he and Jenny Cutright will work with Alpine Bank on the lease purchase funding.

MOTION: made to allow Gene Schilling to sign the necessary paperwork for the ambulance purchase as necessary. It carried and passed unanimously.

- Verizon Wireless - Rob Goodwin said he is working with Verizon. They are working with Garfield County on zoning and their architects are working on drawings. He added they would like to do a site visit on July 11.

- Summer Staffing Program - Rob Goodwin said the summer staffing program is on. There are wildfire patrols happening with an IA Team. He said that he is going to a wildfire community meeting in Marble on Saturday. He noted there have been many requests for mitigation consultations this season that Bill Gavette and Paul Herr are taking care of. He said that people are paying attention to the fire conditions.

Rob Goodwin said there was a rescue at Lead King Basin earlier today. He said call volume is increasing rapidly. General discussion regarding wildfire assignments followed. Rob Goodwin added that Jake Spaulding went out on a fire assignment with a Basalt Fire brush truck.

Rob Goodwin said that the conditions are getting to the point where he would like to consider having two brush trucks patrol the district daily. He thinks this will happen in a few weeks.

- Recruitment – Rob Goodwin said that the recruitment posters are done. He said that they will be distributed and the informational meeting will be in late June. He said that he would like to have the new recruits start in July.

Attorney's Report Eric Gross said he made the changes the Board of Directors request to the license agreement with Aspen Glen. He said that Aspen Glen is deciding if they want to continue using the property or move their supplies. He said he expects to have their response by the next Board meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORT

2017 Audit There were no questions from the Board of Directors on the 2017 audit.

Pension Actuarial Study Rob Goodwin said the actuarial data was submitted and expects to have results in six weeks. He said the membership list was pared down to be accurate. He added that letters were sent to all members who were removed from the membership list. He said a few people have contacted him to inquire how to become an active member again.

NEW BUSINESS

Gallagher Amendment Discussion Rob Goodwin said he has been talking with the fire chiefs in the Roaring Fork Valley and Garfield County. He said all districts, except one, are discussing with their Board of Directors a “de-Gallagherization” question for the November ballot. He said the idea is that that any agency that is moving forward with a question will work together and present a united front, using similar ballot language and emphasizing that the loss of revenue will hurt emergency services. Gene Schilling noted that the school districts statewide are working on something similar.

The Board of Directors agreed they are considering a ballot question regarding the Gallagher Amendment and directed Jenny Cutright to advise the county clerks. Rob Goodwin added that he

and Jenny Cutright are attending a conference next week about this topic. General discussion regarding talking points and resources for fire departments followed. No action was taken.

Ambulance Third Party Billing Company Rob Goodwin said that moving to an ambulance billing company ties in with the volunteer recruitment plan. He said that the volunteers need someone to be their main point of contact, especially new recruits. He said that one person needs to coordinate what they need and make sure their tasks are complete.

Rob Goodwin said he would like to move Kat Bernat to the position of volunteer coordinator. He said that she already does a lot of these duties, in addition to being the in-house ambulance biller. He said that over the past five years, the ambulance billing has become more complicated and the rules more stringent. He noted that Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District is the only local agency that still does their own ambulance billing. He added that an ambulance billing company will take on the liability of billing, audits and staying up to date with regulations. He said that the company he is considering would charge 7.75% of the revenues collected for their service. He noted that ambulance billing companies generally collect a higher rate of return than we do.

Discussion followed. Rob Goodwin noted that the District will still have the right to write-off bills based on a financial hardship policy and that no one will go to collections without our approval. Eric Gross said that the way ambulance bills are written off is a very serious issue. Further discussion on financial hardships, write offs and billing followed. Eric Gross said that the District also offers reductions and payment plans. He said that a policy needs to be written and applied consistently.

MOTION: made to move forward with transition to an ambulance billing company, allow Rob Goodwin, Gene Schilling and Eric Gross to review the contract and approve Gene Schilling to sign the agreement once approved. It carried and passed 3-1.

MOTION: made to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 6:11 p.m. It carried and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Cutright, Recording Secretary

Gene Schilling, President