

CARBONDALE & RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CARBONDALE FIRE HEADQUARTERS

AUGUST 9, 2017

The Board of Directors of the Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District met for their regular meeting on August 9, 2017 at the Carbondale Fire Headquarters/Training Building.

President Gene Schilling called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m. Directors present were Mike Kennedy, Louis Eller and Carl Smith. Also present were Ron Leach, Jenny Cutright, Rob Goodwin, Bill Gavette, Frank Nadell and Eric Gross. Director Tom Adgate arrived at 5:39 p.m.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Carl Smith requested to add the following topics to the agenda:

- Marble update
- Update on bridge
- Residency Requirements for Board members
- Engine Assignment

CONSENT AGENDA

The items on the consent agenda were:

- Approve the Minutes of July 12, 2017 Regular Meeting
- Approve Current Bills and Balances

MOTION: made to approve the consent agenda as noted. It carried and passed 4-0.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

There were no members of the public present.

2018 BUDGET

Appoint Budget Officer

MOTION: made to appoint Ron Leach as the budget officer. It carried and passed 4-0.

Presentation of Proposed 2018 Budget Ron Leach noted that there were two budgets in the board packet. He said that one assumes there is no mill levy override extension. He said the second budget assumes a continuation of the 1.75 mill levy override that was approved by the voters in 2015. Ron Leach said that the general fund expenditures are the same in both budgets, and the only difference is if the 1.75 mill levy override is continued, there will be capital spending.

Ron Leach said that the proposed capital budget includes \$350,000 for a new ambulance and a new brush truck. Ron Leach said that these expenditures have been deferred for over five years and are needed.

Ron Leach said that the ambulance's need to start being replaced. He said the district has 4 ambulances, a 2001, 2005, 2006 and 2009. He added the 2009 ambulance was towed to the repair shop and has internal valve problems. Ron Leach noted that he expects this to be a very expensive repair. General discussion regarding different types of chassis for ambulances and possible grants followed. Ron Leach said that the district intends to apply for a grant for the ambulance, but as it can't be assured, the entire cost of an ambulance is included in the budget.

Ron Leach said that there is a brush truck budgeted in 2018. He said that wildfire is the biggest risk in the district. He said the brush trucks need to be replaced and are needed to protect the community from wildfires.

Ron Leach said the communications equipment is for 800 mhz radios. He said Pitkin County is now on 800 mhz so new radios are needed in the south end of the district to be able to communicate. He said the Carbondale radios also need to be upgraded with newer technology.

General discussion followed. Carl Smith said that the Redstone Castle is open for business and the town is changing. He noted that the Redstone fire engine is the oldest piece of equipment in the district.

Ron Leach said that the staff recommends to put a question on the ballot to continue the mill levy override. He said that the staff is suggesting to maintain the mill levy. He said that the district has to be funded.

Ron Leach said that the property tax amounts are close but until the valuations are received, the exact amounts won't be known. He noted that the budget is open for discussion until it is adopted.

NOVEMBER 2017 ELECTION

Discussion Regarding 2017 Ballot Initiative

Ron Leach said that Eric Gross drafted a draft resolution regarding a ballot question. He said the amount and term are blank so they can be discussed. Each board member verbally agreed that a mill levy override extension is needed to fund the district and that they support putting a question on the ballot. Further discussion regarding the term and amount of the mill levy override followed.

MOTION: made to approve Resolution 2017-005, A Resolution of the Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District to Place a Mill Levy Override Question on the November 7, 2017 Election Ballot, with 1.75 mills and a three-year term. It carried and passed unanimously.

Discussion regarding sharing informing the public on the district's many successes, including a lower ISO rating, the Master Plan work, the bond refinancing savings, followed. Further discussion regarding what staff can do with regard to election information followed. Eric Gross said that once a resolution has been adopted, the District can't be for or against questions. He said that the District can provide education and information about the ballot question. Eric Gross said that in personal capacity, someone can be for or against a ballot question. He added that the Board can pass a resolution in favor of the ballot question.

Designated Election Official Ron Leach said that this election is coordinated by the County Clerks. He said that the district needs to appoint a Designated Election Official to work with the counties. Discussion followed.

MOTION: made to appoint Jenny Cutright as the Designated Election Official for the November 2017 election. It carried and passed unanimously.

Intergovernmental Agreements

MOTION: made to allow the President of the Board of Directors to sign the Intergovernmental Agreements with each county once they have been vetted by Eric Gross. It carried and passed unanimously.

STAFF REPORTS

IA Crews Mike Kennedy asked the status of the IA program. Rob Goodwin said the program ended August first due to the budget and hours that volunteers could work. Mike Kennedy requested that the board be notified when a program like this ends before expected. Discussion regarding FLSA and the 20% volunteer rule followed. Ron Leach added that the weather has changed and the monsoons have arrived. Further discussion regarding how long to run the program in 2018. Rob Goodwin said that he hopes to have a larger pool of applicants in 2018 so the program can last longer. Mike Kennedy said the IA crews are needed, especially since there are many calls where no or very few volunteers respond. He added that this is a real issue.

Ron Leach said there is a lot of pressure on the staff to cover polo games, rodeos, tours, bike and foot races, etc. Mike Kennedy noted that the demands will continue increasing. Ron Leach said that the volunteers are not available to work part time for the fire department. He said there were four people who were able and qualified to work for the summer program.

OLD BUSINESS

Marble Fuel Release Rob Goodwin said that the plan was approved by the state. He said he is working with the consultant to put the plan in place. Rob Goodwin said that he expects the work will be done over two days in September. He added there will be a few monitoring tests needed throughout 2017.

Grand Avenue Bridge Rob Goodwin said the bridge closure starts Monday. He said we have been working on mutual aid and communications plans. He said that Garfield Dispatch has hired

a position to solely monitor the Grand Avenue Bridge traffic and work with emergency responders. He said there are cameras set up from I-70 to Carbondale to allow first responders to see real-time traffic conditions and make transport decisions. He added the dedicated dispatcher will also monitor traffic and report to the crew as needed. Rob Goodwin said that one person per shift has toured Aspen Valley Hospital in case the crew determines transport there is needed. He said that we are also working with the local helicopters. Rob Goodwin said he expects the worst traffic to be in the afternoon and early evening, but that may not be the only time there is traffic. General discussion regarding the bridge closure followed.

Ron Leach said that the staff has done a great job finding different ways to transport patients and identifying potential problems. He said that patients will get to the hospital.

Ron Leach said that there is also concern about five employees who live on the other side of the bridge. He said current estimates are 90 minutes to travel through Glenwood Springs. Ron Leach said that he is concerned about the staff and has been talking to those employees. He said after seeing how the first week or two goes, he is open to changing work hours, working at home if available, etc. He said that the bridge closure will cost every emergency services agency some funding. He said that the district will do everything it can to accommodate the employees impacted.

Gene Schilling reviewed some of the changes the town of Carbondale is making to help their employees who live on the other side of the GAB.

Gene Schilling noted that he would like to have the Marble Fuel Release and Grand Avenue Bridge Update on the agenda under old business until resolved.

NEW BUSINESS

Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District

MOTION: made to approve Resolution 2017-004, A Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District Supporting the Grant Application for a Grant from the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District for the Purchase of Communications Equipment. It carried and passed unanimously.

Residency Requirements for Board Members – Carl Smith asked for clarification on the residency requirements. He said he and his wife sold their house and are in the process of waiting for it to close. Eric Gross said to serve on the Board, someone must be an eligible elector. He added that an eligible elector is a person who is registered to vote and is either a resident of the special district or someone who or whose spouse owns taxable real property in the special district. To be a resident, it has to be the place where you live. General discussion regarding residency followed.

Ron Leach asked Carl Smith for his plan for residency. Carl Smith said that they have not decided where they will go, but he will most likely resign from the Board. He said he will let the Board know either way if his house closes before he leaves for vacation on August 17.

OLD BUSINESS

ISO Rating Louis Eller asked when the ISO 3 rating was official. Ron Leach said it took effect August 1.

Engine Assignments Carl Smith said that NFPA standards requires two engines and a ladder truck respond on all structural fires. Ron Leach said that there is appropriate coverage at each station. Carl Smith said there is more development near Station 4 and coverage is reduced there since an engine is out on a wildfire assignment. Rob Goodwin noted that there are rarely enough people to cover both apparatus. He said the response is about time. He said a first due engine needs to be on scene within five minutes and a ladder company within nine minutes, with a total of 14 personnel. Rob Goodwin said the district does not meet that standard. He added that this is the response for a single-story structure fire with no additional exposures.

Ron Leach said that the district has sent engines out on assignments for many years, He said if the Board of Directors would like to make a policy change, it can be discussed. Carl Smith said he is concerned about sending out engines. Ron Leach asked if engines should go out on a case by case basis, since all of the board members were supportive of sending an engine to the Breckenridge fire. Ron Leach said the board needs to have a discussion and develop a policy. He said he would like direction.

MOTION: made to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 6:58 p.m. It carried and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Cutright, Recording Secretary

Gene Schilling, President