

## **CARBONDALE & RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

### **MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **CARBONDALE FIRE HEADQUARTERS**

**JUNE 14, 2017**

The Board of Directors of the Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District met for their regular meeting on June 14, 2017 at the Carbondale Fire Headquarters/Training Building.

President Gene Schilling called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Directors present were, Louis Eller, Carl Smith and Tom Adgate. Also present were Ron Leach, Jenny Cutright, Rob Goodwin and Frank Nadell. Vice-President Mike Kennedy arrived at 5:43 p.m.

### **CHANGES TO AGENDA**

There were no changes to the agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The items on the consent agenda were:

- Approve the Minutes of May 10, 2017 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 members of the public in attendance.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

Marble Fuel Release Rob Goodwin said the lab reports and consultant report are complete. He said the remediation plan and recommendations have been sent to the Colorado Department of Public Health for approval. He added that he hopes to have state approval by the end of the week.

Rob Goodwin said that the monitoring wells detected no diesel near the water table. He said the only place diesel was detected was below the spigot. He said there was no spread of contamination. Rob Goodwin added the plan is to haul the dirt and dispose of it at the landfill, which has said they would accept the dirt, and replace the fill. He said that they would also like to build a set of stairs to the station so volunteers can safely access the station.

Rob Goodwin said bids have been received for the landscaping work. He said about \$38,000 has been spent to date and he does not expect the entire project to exceed \$80,000.

Rob Goodwin said that the Town of Marble has been updated regularly and they approve of the remediation plan.

Staff Report On Plans For Fire And EMS Operations And For Staffing (Operations and Administrative) During The Grand Avenue Bridge Closure Rob Goodwin said the Grand Avenue Bridge closure starts August 14. He said the existing bridge will be torn down and a replacement bridge installed during the 95-day closure.

Rob Goodwin reviewed the detour plan and concerns for traffic backups on Highway 82. He said that one of the main concerns for the district is transporting patients to Valley View Hospital during times when many vehicles are trying to get in to Glenwood Springs, generally between 3 pm and 7 pm. He said that there is concern that traffic could back up to Carbondale. Rob Goodwin said that the staff is attending numerous meetings about these issues. He said that the district is working with all of the Valley View Hospital, Care Flight, Classic Air, CDOT traffic engineers and other emergency service agencies.

He said that the staff is working on simple protocol on when to consider using alternate transportation or diverting to Aspen Valley Hospital. He said that the district is working with a CDOT traffic engineer to install cameras on Highway 82 so responders can have real time traffic information. Rob Goodwin said that if a call happens during the down valley peak traffic hours, the medics will assess the patient and the battalion officer will access the traffic cameras and make a transport determination based on the patient's condition and current traffic.

Rob Goodwin said that in discussions, the Colorado State Patrol has suggested 'splitting' traffic down the middle if an ambulance needs to get through, especially on Highway 82. He added that once the ambulance gets in to Glenwood Springs, the HOV lane is available beginning somewhere between McDonalds and 27<sup>th</sup> Street. Rob Goodwin said that there will also be some predetermined helicopter landing spots that an ambulance can rendezvous with a flight crew.

Rob Goodwin said that there are two administrative staff that live on the other side of the bridge closure. He said that there are a number of options being discussed for them. He added that 24 hour employees will only need to deal with the traffic an average of 15 times during the bridge closure. He said that the administration and staff are working together to see what works best for the employees and the district.

Rob Goodwin said that the staff has put a lot of effort in dealing with the bridge closure. He said the Number One priority is how to get sick and injured patients to the hospital in a timely manner. He added there will be public outreach about the district's transport planning as it get closer to the date of the closure.

Carl Smith asked if the helicopter usage could be documented in the monthly deputy chief report.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT**

2018 Draft Budget Ron Leach reviewed the first draft of the 2018 budget. He said there are decisions that need to be made over the summer regarding if the Board of Directors wants to asked the voters to extend the mill levy override or for a bond issue.

Ron Leach said that property tax revenues are projected to decrease roughly 20%, or \$500,000 in 2018. Ron Leach said there are three factors causing the revenue change:

- Assessed Valuation Increase – Ron Leach said the 2018 assessed valuations are projected to increase 12%
- Gallagher Amendment – Ron Leach said that the effect of the Gallagher Amendment is a 6% decrease in property taxes
- Expiration of the mill levy override – Ron Leach said the mill levy override equaled approximately \$600,000 when it was approved in 2015.

Ron Leach said the net effect of the Gallagher Amendment and the increased assessed valuations is a 6% increase in property values. He added that the draft budget does not include an extension of the mill levy override. He noted that the reserve balances are down \$700,000 and the draft budget does not include any capital spending.

Ron Leach said that the board needs to discuss if they would want to ask the voters for an extension of the mill levy override. Louis Eller said the board made a decision to ask the voters for a mill levy override every two years until the revenues have rebounded to precession levels. He said that he is in favor of a ballot issue. Mike Kennedy said that he thought the mill levies would be looked at as needed. Gene Schilling said that he has heard comments from the public saying they would like an election every two years and others saying it is too often. Tom Adgate said that a mill levy needs to be in place for four years, so long-term planning can occur. Mike Kennedy agreed it is hard to do any planning with a two-year mill levy override. Mike Kennedy and Gene Schilling both stated there should be a sunset on a mill levy override question.

Ron Leach said that the most conservative approach is requesting a two-year mill levy override, but he added that it is difficult to plan for the future and expensive to have an election every two years. He said the consequences would be dire if a mill levy override extension does not pass.

Ron Leach added that \$80,000 is the estimate for the full release expense. Carl Smith asked if other budget line items were being cut to cover this expense. Gene Schilling said it should come out of the TABOR emergency reserves. Ron Leach said that the staff has anticipated the unforeseen expenditure and is making some budget cuts including no outside training for the rest of the year and only hiring three seasonal staff, instead of four. He noted that the majority of the budget is staff and items such as repair equipment and utility bills that can't be cut. Discussion regarding cutting the training budget followed. Ron Leach noted that he is open to any suggestions to prevent cutting the training budget.

2016 Audit Ron Leach said he wanted to point out the auditor said they “encountered no difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit”. He said this is a clean audit. He said this is a tribute to Jenny Cutright's bookkeeping and financial management.

Mike Kennedy said there has been a lot of good happening in the district, including the audit, ISO rating decrease and bond savings when talking to the public. He added that any question presented about a bond issue may decrease the chances of a mill levy override passing. He said that the Board of Directors agrees that asking for a mill levy override extension is critical.

Ron Leach reviewed the idea of a bond that was presented in March. He noted that the bonds that were refinanced will be paid off in 2023 and save our taxpayers money. He said if a new bond was approved, the payments would stay pretty level, but it would extend the life of the bond for an additional 12 more years. Ron Leach said he would like to talk more about this at the July meeting and make a decision if the board wants to move forward with a bond issue or not. Discussion followed. No action was taken.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

Continued Discussion of an Additional Strategic Plan Ron Leach said that in the board packet is the strategic plan section of the master plan. He said that he compared the current strategic plan to the one Carl Smith distributed and found they were in a different form, but had the same components. He added when the district sought bids for the master plan, it was identified that a strategic plan would be incorporated in the master plan.

Ron Leach said that the staff has been working on the strategic plan for the past 18 months and have completed a number of objectives, including prioritizing the capital project needs, reducing the ISO rating, creating a Standard of Cover, increased public outreach and increased fire prevention activities.

Carl Smith said that he would like a list of specific objectives that will be done if a mill levy override extension is passed, similar to what was done at the previous election. Ron Leach noted that the Standard of Cover that Rob Goodwin has worked very hard to produce has these objectives and was developed due to the strategic plan.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Drones Louis Eller said that drones are being used to deliver AEDs to patients in locations responders can't quickly access.

**MOTION:** made to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 7:06 p.m. It carried and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

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Jenny Cutright, Recording Secretary

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Gene Schilling, President