

CARBONDALE & RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CARBONDALE FIRE HEADQUARTERS

NOVEMBER 11, 2015

The Board of Directors of the Carbondale & Rural Fire Protection District met for their regular meeting on November 11, 2015 at the Carbondale Fire Headquarters/Training Building.

President Gene Schilling called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Directors present were Mike Kennedy, Bob Emerson and Carl Smith. Also present were Jenny Cutright, Ron Leach, Rob Goodwin, Bill Gavette, Frank Nadell, Eric Gross, Jake Spaulding, Hank van Berlo and Jeff Wadley. Secretary/Treasurer Louis Eller was absent.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

The items on the consent agenda were:

- Approve the Minutes of October 14, 2015 Regular Meeting
- Approve Current Bills and Balances
- Resolution 2015-008, Credit Union of Colorado Annual Credit Card Agreement.

MOTION: made to approve the consent agenda as noted. Jenny Cutright noted that checks that are being approved for payment include the list distributed. She said that these bills were received after the Board packet went out. It carried and passed unanimously.

PERSONS PRESENT NOT ON THE AGENDA

Bob Emerson suggested publically thanking the voters for their approval of the mill levy increase. Discussion followed and the board verbally approved a thank you letter. Gene Schilling noted that he thanked the voters in the articles in the post independent and the sopris sun.

2016 BUDGET

Public Hearing Regarding 2015 Budget

President Gene Schilling called the public hearing to order at 5:34 p.m.

Gene Schilling asked if members of the public had comments to present to the Board of Directors on the proposed 2016 budget. There were no comments from the public.

Ron Leach said the purpose of the public hearing is to input on the proposed budget that was presented to the Board of Directors at the October 14, 2015 regular meeting. He suggested scheduling a work session in November to discuss the input received during this public hearing. General discussion regarding the budget and adoption time table followed.

Carl Smith said that there were objectives set in the in 2015 budget and said he feels it is appropriate to review the objectives and determine if they were accomplished or not, and if they should be included in the 2016 budget. He added that the board should have objectives for the 2016 budget.

Bob Emerson said he reviewed the 2015 budget objectives, he noted they said if they were funded or not. He suggested reviewing the 2015 objectives at the work session. Discussion regarding objectives based budgeting versus zero based budgeting followed. Bob Emerson said that the board discussed the zero based budget idea and decided against it. Discussion followed. Bob Emerson suggested discussing if the board wants objectives in the 2016 budget at the work session.

Gene Schilling said that he would like to produce a budget without spending reserves, but he fears it may be necessary. He said that safety equipment, such as bunker gear, is a high priority. Bob Emerson agreed and suggested budgeting \$30,000 for bunker gear, then appropriating additional funds annually. Discussion regarding funding safety equipment and grants followed. Gene Schilling said that the board also needs to give staff their budget priorities. He said one of his main priorities is the IA team. Additional priorities noted by Gene Schilling are safety equipment and a raise for the current staff. Carl Smith said he agrees with Gene Schilling and questioned if the wildland personal protective equipment is compliant and if every firefighter needs new gear, considering not all firefighters make structural entries. Further discussion regarding bunker gear followed. Mike Kennedy said that purchasing gear for members that don't respond is not a good expense of funds. Carl Smith agreed. Bob Emerson said that Rob Goodwin has reviewed the bunker gear and should give recommendations. He said that it should be worked on over the winter.

Gene Schilling asked if bunker gear was an item that was purchased annually. Ron Leach said it was, but like fire hose, it was not purchased for a number of years due to the budget situation. Ron Leach said that the District needs to get back on a schedule to replace bunker gear and hose. Gene Schilling asked if SCBA bottles were all compliant. Rob Goodwin said they are, but in a few years, additional bottles will need to be replaced. Gene Schilling said that he would like to purchase spare bottles periodically so a large number does not need to be purchased at once again.

Bob Emerson said the training budget has been significantly reduced and he would like to see funding reinstated in the training budget. Mike Kennedy noted that inactive volunteers cost the district money. He added that he recognizes that their lives may change and they may be unable to volunteer, but inactive members need to be discussion. Carl Smith added there is a pension component to the inactive members as well.

48/96 Pay Proposal Ron Leach said after reviewing the proposal, it was decided to stay with the current method of paying the 48/96 employees. Ron Leach said that there is not a good reason make the change. He added that the staff spent a lot of time on this and did due diligence on the request. He said that 48/96 employees are fine with the current method of pay.

Marble Quarry Ron Leach said the discussion is technically an open issue, but practically it is not, He said that he spoke with the quarry manager few months ago and the talks were not successful. He added there is new management there now who have not addressed the issue at all.

KDNK Election Forum Carl Smith there was a misunderstanding on the KDNK election forum. He said he didn't make it clear that he planned to attend, though his intent was to listen to the presentation only. He said he did not realize that that would be inappropriate. He added that he said he would not fight against the mill levy increase proposal and he didn't. Bob Emerson said that the emails sent were clear that he and Louis Eller planned to attend the forum and that if more than two board members attended it would need to be noticed as a meeting.

MOTION: made to continue the public hearing regarding the 2016 budget until Monday, November 30, 2015 at 5:30 pm for a special meeting. It carried and passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Audit Engagement Letter Jenny Cutright said that the bylaws state the permanent Audit Committee is responsible for the appointment of the auditor. She said the auditor has sent an audit engagement and census data letters and requested approval of both.

MOTION: made to approve the audit and census data letters with McMahan & Associates. Carl Smith asked if the auditor could present the budget via telephone once complete. It carried and passed unanimously.

Ambulance Write Offs Carl Smith said there are \$11,000 in write offs listed on the financial report. Discussion followed and it was noted a large amount of those are Medicaid write-offs. Carl Smith requested to have Medicaid Write-Offs listed separately on the financial report.

NEW BUSINESS

Western Slope Health Care Group Updated IGA Jenny Cutright said the Western Slope Health Care Group updated the IGA and requested the Board of Directors to approve and sign it. She said there were no changes of substance. She added that Eric Gross has reviewed the IGA and has no concerns.

MOTION: made to approve the Western Slope Health Care Group Intergovernmental Agreement. Carl Smith asked if staff looked at other health insurance plans before renewal. Gene Schilling noted that on average, this plan cost has increased less annually than the other government insurance plan. Jenny Cutright noted that the other plan's rates increase about the same amount as the Western Slope Health Care Group. She added that the increase was only 5%. It carried and passed unanimously.

Discussion Regarding Planning Meeting Schedule Ron Leach said the staff has decided to use the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6 pm for planning meetings using the master plan

document. He said the meetings will be open to the public. He said the staff is committed to this during 2016.

Training Ron Leach said that there is a volunteer that would like to attend CMC paramedic school in 2016. He said he would like to financially support this request. He said the staff applied for a 50% matching grant from CREATE for tuition and books. He added that the grant doesn't cover costs such as mileage or uniforms.

Gene Schilling said the district needs to look at areas where funds can be leveraged to purchase more with grants. He discussed the Garfield County Federal Mineral Lease District grants. Further discussion regarding Safer and DOLA and other grants followed.

MOTION: made to adjourn the Board of Directors meeting at 6:30 p.m. It carried and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenny Cutright, Recording Secretary

Gene Schilling, President