

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday December 12, 2023

Meeting held at the Wasatch County Administration Building located at 25 N Main, Heber City.

Those in Attendance:

Steve Farrell

Spencer Parks

Luke Searle- Absent

Erik Rowland

Mark Nelson

Kendall Crittenden

Karl McMillan

Chief Eric Hales

Dustin Grabau

Steve Farrell: Welcome to the Wasatch Fire District Board meeting for December. We have the entire board here other than Councilman Luke Searle. We will start out with the approval of the minutes for November 14, 2023.

The minutes of the November 14th board meeting were presented to the board for their review and approval. **A motion was made by Councilman Nelson to approve the minutes of the November 14th fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden and the motion passed all in favor.**

Steve Ferrell: We have warrants in the amount of \$976,559.90. Chief, you want to tell us anything that stands out.

Chief Eric Hales: The biggest thing that stands out this month is obviously the construction of the building, about 475,000 of that is for Big D and for the construction of that project and we will give you an update on that in a minute. Everything else is unfortunately within normal spending.

A motion was made by Councilman McMillan to approve the warrants as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nelson and the motion passed all in favor.

Chief report

Steve Ferrell: Okay great, let's go to the chief's report.

Chief Eric Hales: The 2023 Chiefs report for November, as you can see our call volume stayed about the same relative to 2022. With that we had two significant incidents, one at the beginning of November we had a large fire at the equestrian center that was near completion that was part of Sky Ridge as well as the MIDA Extell Project and that is still under investigation of the cause but it was a large loss fire and they are basically starting over with that.

Spencer Parks: Anything pointing to arson at this point?

Chief Eric Hales: No, again it's still under investigation one of the biggest issues is that it has had a construction camera on it the entire build, however, the night before the fire that was relocated for some other site project that had to be done right where that was sitting and that was an unfortunate piece of not being able to capture anything during that. So again, we did bring up the state fire marshal's office, the deputy fire marshal as well as our fire marshal Clint Neerings and they have been working though that and they have interviewed the various contractors on that as well. That is still ongoing.

These past couple of months we have gone through the hiring process preparing for 2024. We did offer 6 full-time firefighter EMT jobs to individuals that will start January 1st and we also with the contract with south summit we did hire 6 advanced EMT's for that position as well. They will also begin on January 1st. Along with those some of them were part time staff for us so we did backfill those positions as well. As far as the station goes we have completed 100% of the footings pour and they are currently building the foundation walls, they should begin that first pour on Friday of the foundation, so we are moving ahead as long as the weather kind of holds off a little bit longer so we can get some of that cement work completed. That is moving forward so we are happy with that. With station 56 there are some hiccups with Hideout that I would like to go into closed session with you talking about some property so at the end before we end, I would like to go into closed session to follow up with that.

There is one policy that we want to update, it's one that you approved last year and it's the hours of the work week. In that section of part time fire and part time EMS there was different working one said that they could work a minimum of 48 hours a month and no more than 60 hours in a two-week period and the part time EMT said 48 hours a month but no longer than 30 hours per week. And essentially it ends up the same in a two-week period, 60 instead of 30. What we did, the change we made was actually for the part time EMTS allowing them to work up to 60 hours in 2 weeks' time to match the other part time staff just to keep it consistent and allow flexibility as we do that because there are some that could work 48 hours one week but they can't work any the next week so we are just trying to provide flexibility and consistency with our part time fire and EMS staff so that was an oversight that we just wanted to be consistent in 2024 and moving forward. So that's policy number 410 and it will be up to you whether or not you want to approve those changes.

Steve Farrell: Any discussion on that?

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve policy 410. The motion was seconded by Councilman McMillan. The motion passed all in favor.

Chief Eric Hales: Okay, that's all that I have for the chief's report. We did not hold an Advisory commission this month in light of our Christmas party.

Steve Farrell: Alright, let's skip that then. Anything else?

Councilman Crittenden: Do we need a resolution for the meeting times we did it for parks and rec.

Chief Eric Hales: For some reason that was carried tonight. (To be presented during the public hearing.)

Kristen Richardson: Usually, we do that in the hearing.

A motion was made by Councilman Ferrell for property acquisition. Passed all in favor.

Wasatch County Fire District Public Hearing

Tuesday December 12, 2023

Meeting held at the Wasatch County Administration Building located at 25 N Main, Heber City.

Those in Attendance:

Steve Farrell

Spencer Parks

Luke Searle

Erik Rowland

Mark Nelson

Kendall Crittenden

Karl McMillan

Chief Eric Hales

Dustin Grabau

Steve Farrell: We are reconvening the Wasatch Fire meeting to go over the proposed budget for the upcoming year. Chief, or Kierstan whoever is going to do that.

Kierstan Smith: So, to begin with, we are going to propose an amendment to the 2023 budget. I'm just going to highlight some of the big changes from our original 2023 budget. We are expecting slightly higher property tax revenue than we had anticipated when we budgeted 2023. We are expecting slightly higher ambulance revenue also than what we had budgeted for. Those are our two biggest revenue

sources, and we also removed the proceeds from debt from the general fund and recorded it in the capital projects fund so when we look at that budget, we will see the change there. So those are the major changes. There are some light changes in some other line items but nothing significant. On the expense side we have slightly higher salaries and wages and then there are related benefits for employees and that's to do with the additional staff that have been hired throughout the year, the part time EMTs that were hired and etcetera. So, we have slightly higher costs there, we have slightly less capital outlay and that has to do with the timing of when construction was able to begin on the new station so we are not expecting as much spend down as we initially thought they would be. And also you will see a couple of line items that have to do with ambulance that are now blank the reason being is because we converted to a department based chart of accounts for the district which now allows us to have in EMS a range of accounts so they are now spread out whether it be supplies, services, etcetera instead of just on two line items. So that is the change for them. I'm going to switch this over to the capital projects for 2023. You will see that we do have the 15 million dollar proceeds from debt and it is slightly higher than our initial anticipation, we were able to go back and get that additional money. And then we have just slightly higher interest rate with the addtional debt they allowed us to have that money on hand and with PTF interest rates as high as they have been then year, we have been able to accumulate a lot more interest which is a benefit especially with construction. Those are our big changes for 2023 and the amended budget. Do you want to do that one first?

Steve Farrell: Yes, do you have a resolution number on that? 23-05? Any questions on resolution 23-05 amending the 2023 budget? If not, we entertain a motion to approve.

A motion was made by Councilman McMillan to approve Resolution 23-05 Amending 2023 Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden. The motion passed all in favor.

Kierstan Smith: Okay, so for our 2024 budget we are budgeting for slightly higher property tax revenue and we have also added in the sales and uses taxes that we will be collecting for a portion of the year we will be able to collect those so you will see this as a line item that was not on the initial budget that we presented last month. The other significant change that you will see on the revenue side, it's hard to see on here but we had the contribution from other local governments the 600,000 that was coming from TRT, we aren't budgeting for that but we are budgeting for services to south summit so that's now the \$750,000 you are seeing here. So, those are really the changes that you are seeing other than the transfers from the capital projects fund and the general fund for the construction and that's that 9.5 million construction for the Hebe city Satiation. On the expense side we are of course expecting additional staff and with the addition of the full-time station that we are planning to do services in hideout with south summit there is additional staff that will be required, so we have those costs plus the additional benefits. The other significant change on the expense side of things from year to year you'll see is to do with capital outlay and most of that of that 10 million is the Heber station. That is the 9.5 up above that we are transferring in.

Councilman Crittenden: Kierstan while you are there, is the increase in staff for the south summit agreement they are paying for those employees with that agreement?

Kierstan Smith: They better be. Yes, that's the plan. You will also see under other operating transfers we have money going back out to the capital projects fund and it's about 3.6 million. So we have this 4.5 coming in from sales and use that right now we are going to be able to transfer it over to capital projects we are thinking at the end of the year to be able to have it on hand to start the design of the next

building we need then we will have the funds to start the construction on the next building we need. So that is going to be a benefit. Then on the capital projects side of things we are budget about the same with impact fees of what we have done this year of course we won't have any proceeds from debt as we aren't planning anything right now and other than that things are pretty consistent with the prior year. Just the transfers in and out are different between the two funds. Any questions?

Steve Farrell: any questions on the 2024 budget as presented? We will now open this up to hearing from the public. Is there anyone from the public that would like to make a comment on the 2024 budget? Seeing none and hearing none we will close the public hearing to come back to the council for approval and I think this should be resolution 23-06.

A motion was made by Councilman Parks to approve Resolution 23-06 2024 Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Searle. The motion passed all in favor.

Chief Hales: We just have one more resolution to set the meeting date and times for the 2024 year.

A motion was made by Councilman Nelson to approve Resolution 23-07 2024 Fireboard Meeting Schedule. The motion was seconded by Councilman McMillian. The motion passed all in favor.

Steve Farrell: Now we entertain a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Parks. The motion passed all in favor.