



CEDAR MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Cedar Mountain Fire Protection District Minutes

Dec 12, 2023 Public Hearing for 2024 Budgets Snow, Fire and Dust.

This meeting was held in person.

Board members present:

Chairperson Suzy Polnisch

Vice Chairman John Burrows

Treasurer Sheryl Snow

District Clerk Zach Hascall

Member and Commissioner Wade Heaton

Chairperson Suzy Polnisch called the Public Hearing for the 2024 Budget into session at 6:07 pm.

Public Comments -

Drake Cherry of Meadow View Heights said that he would save the trouble of the Board going through all of the line items since there were no others from the public there, he said he was just going to ask some questions. He said there were three lines of the budget he was curious about and they were line numbers #12, 193 and 203. He said #12 was the carry over from 2023 and asked if that money was from the loan that was pulled two years ago?

District Clerk Zach Hascall explained that some of the line numbers had been adjusted since the preliminary tentative budget was released. He said that two years ago, it was a loan but this year it is a credit line and will be maxed at the end of the year so the net is negative \$385,000.

Mr. Cherry said he did a lot of searching to try and figure out what is going on so the question was with line 12 (Carry Over Prior Year Fire), that number has changed and asks for a current budget and the Board members said they were printing one for him. He then asked about line 193 (Fund Balance) and said there was a negative number with no description and asked if that was a loss?

Zach Hascall replied to say that is net profit and said that the current budget was negative \$396,000 but that the new budget is also starting \$385,000 short so within \$10,000 it is a balanced budget.

Mr. Cherry said, so line item 12 was a carry over but it is a negative and said he was confused.

Mr. Cherry was handed a newly printed copy of the updated tentative budget by Kristy Brinkerhoff.

Mr. Hascall explained that the remaining \$223,000 funds from the Station 3 CIB loan on line 9 (carry over prior year capital improvements) were actually now at \$135,000 because of a recent \$75,000 project on that station and rather than be in the cash bank account, it was moved to capital improvements.

Mr. Cherry said one of his questions was about seeing a zero amount for capital improvement and then asked where is everyone sleeping right now?

Chief Barnard responded that two people sleep at Station 2 and three people sleep at Station 1.

Wade Heaton said he appreciated the question but it was way outside of the agenda.

Mr. Cherry said he was talking about something that the Board knows is illegal where people are sleeping exposed in the bay and he said he noted in the budget that he reviewed that there were zero dollars for capital improvement.

Chairperson Suzy Polnisch said that the Board has been saying for some time that annual losses were masked because of the way that fees are received at the end of each year and allocated to income at the end of the year and so a loss was being masked. This happened for multiple years and so a loan was taken last year and paid off and this year a line of credit, so they are digging out of a hole.

Mr. Cherry clarified that the loan was paid off and now there is a line of credit. He asked what the credit rating was going to be, and would the District be able to make it this year and how much would fees have to be raised and has the Board discussed raising fees?

Chairperson Polnisch and District Clerk Hascall both commented to explain there had been a discussion about either raising fees or lowering services or expenses and that needs to be addressed by June of 2024 and in the meantime for the 2024 budget, based on money being collected now, there is no money for capital improvements except what is earmarked for Station 3 which was a grant.

Mr. Cherry then asked about budget lines 14, 17 and 30 (Fee Incomes for Fire, Snow and Dust respectively) and stated that they were income amounts and clarified with Clerk Hascall that combined lots had been removed from the income and Mr. Hascall said that about \$30k had been lost in Fire fees as a result of combined lots.

Mr. Cherry then went on to line items 32 and 33 (EMS Transport category and line) and said it was up to about \$350k in transport and asked if that was enough?

Mr. Hascall said that the line was transport income that was expected to be collected and not gross.

Mr. Cherry said a few years ago it was \$150k so you are getting that much back? Mr. Hascall explained all of the different income sources from EMS transportation income. There was a short discussion about making income from EMS and Mr. Cherry said that it was really good that some money was being made and that was the whole plan along with not having people sleeping in the bay.

Mr. Cherry asked why in the three years of the Board there was no Interfacility income and there is now but he said that's good, so he is scratching that off. Mr. Hascall said his goal is to have Interfacility separated from 911 transports and they are still figuring out that process so for now they are all combined under one line item.

Mr. Cherry went on to budget line 54 PR expenses and asked why it went up and questioned the difference between the PR expenses and the Lookout Magazine expenses which were separated in the budget and Mr. Hascall explained them.

Mr. Cherry then said that the Pancake Breakfast was always a big thing and always made \$15k per year. He then went to line 61 (Station 3 maintenance) and said the amount was the same as last year and asked why?

Mr. Hascall said they were trying to complete projects for two years and over the last few months the first was completed. Regarding the delay of Capital Improvements at Station 2, Mr. Cherry said something had gone haywire.

Mr. Cherry questioned the Station 3 debt service amount and Mr. Hascall explained it was the same as last year.

Mr. Cherry said there needs to be capital improvements for Station 2 and it needs to be made legal for people to live in and this was an issue that he has brought to the Board and been ignored for three years and that was not acceptable.

Mr. Cherry went to line 82 (EMS Licensing Fees) and asked how much they were?

Mr. Hascall explained that the fees were to maintain licensure with the state and they were fixed as well as based on call volume.

Mr. Cherry asked about line 83 (EMS Billing Fees) and asked why someone was being paid to bill for EMS and asked why the District Manager was not taking that over because it was listed in the job description that was posted.

Board Members responded to say that the District Manager oversees the billing and said medical billing is an intricate process.

Member Heaton said that the conversation was getting into operations.

Mr. Cherry said that the manager's salary had been increased but they were still paying billing fees.

Vice Chairman Burrows said that they were talking about operations and said to keep the conversation to budget items and told Mr. Cherry that he was not going to be there to tell everyone how to run operations and if he had specific questions on the budget to please do so.

Mr. Cherry asked about line 86 Ambulance Debt Service and asked why it had increased and asked how many years were on the loans? Mr. Hascall explained that there were two new ambulances and said he believed there was approximately one to two years left but wasn't positive without pulling the contracts.

Mr. Cherry asked about a line number that had been deleted and Mr. Hascall said that it had been removed because the Zoll monitors that were purchased had been paid off.

Mr. Cherry asked about line 94 Fire Operations category and said he remembered when there was not enough PPE for the crew and not enough money to spend on it. So he asked if that was going to be an ongoing expense. Mr. Hascall said he didn't think so because new equipment was being purchased to get up to date with Operations and once things get caught up it should be lower but a timeline was not definite.

Mr. Cherry asked about the budget Insurance line items and asked if there was no liability insurance? Mr. Hascall said they do have it and it was combined with all insurance through the Utah Counties Indemnity Pool and all needs are covered.

Mr. Cherry asked about line 131 Payroll and asked specifics about each payroll line and how many were employed for each line and asked if all salaries were the same as last year? Mr. Hascall said that the budget last year was more than the actual, so Mr. Cherry said he was looking at what the changes would be. The two had an exchange about actual versus budgeted payroll expenses.

Mr. Cherry referenced line 203 (Fund Balance Summaries) and asked what the \$396,865 in Fire summary was? Mr. Hascall explained that it was net profit/loss. And Mr. Cherry said so that is what we have to make up?

Mr. Burrows said that the year started with a negative \$385,000 carry over so effectively only \$10k was added to it.

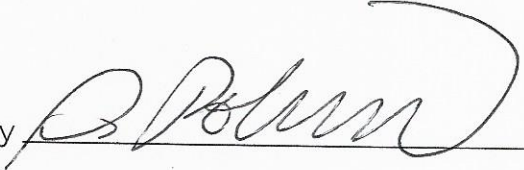
Mr. Cherry said that two years ago at a Public Hearing, they raised fees so why weren't they raised this past summer if we are in arrears?

Mr. Burrows said they are going to focus on budget and cost cutting through the year and Mr. Hascall said that variable income sources are also going up and with all other variables the conversation of changing fees will be coming.

There was a discussion about Snow Fees and changes from 2023 to 2024.

Mr. Cherry then said that the budget is required by the "Little Book" to be posted on the website if one exists.

Chairperson Suzy Polnisch called the session out of Public Hearing and into the Open Meeting Session at 6:40 pm.

Public Hearing Minutes approved by  Jan 9, 2024

Name SUZY POLNISCH, CHAIR

Signed copy on file at 3620 N Mammoth Creek Road, Duck Creek Village, UT 84762