Wasatch County Fire District

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday February 10, 2015

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

**Those in Attendance:**

Greg McPhie

Steve Farrell

Kendall Crittenden

Mike Kohler

Kipp Bangerter

Danny Goode

Mike Peterson

**Items of Business to Address**

**Minutes**

The minutes of the November 12, 2014 and January 14, 2015 board meetings were presented to the board for their approval. The November meeting minutes have been held over to allow for a vote by those who had been in attendance. **A motion was made by Mike Kohler to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Kipp Bangerter and the motion passed all in favor.**

**Warrants**

The listing of warrants was presented to the board for their review and approval. Chief Giles stated that the warrant listing included in the board packet has had a few additions. Chief Giles noted to the board members the additional warrants with the amount of each.

Chief Giles stated that the payment to the Info System is for the District’s portion of Spillman. He stated that currently the District has their own computer replacement program and do not participate with the county. **A motion was made by Mike Kohler to approve the warrants with the additions as presented. The motion was seconded by Kendall Crittenden and the motion passed all in favor.**

**Steve Rutter and Mike Erickson**

Steve Rutter stated that the have already had some fires in the area and it is hard to say what the future of this season will be. He informed the board that they have some good trained fire fighters and they are preparing for the worst. Steve Rutter informed the board that he is the NE Fire Management officer and the Area Manager is Mike Erickson. He works very closely with the District.

Greg McPhie informed the board that Mr. Rutter has helped with the wildland certification of the public works employees whose offices are out in the commercial building on South Highway 40.

Mike Erickson addressed the board with items from the legislature, UAC and League of Cities and Towns. They have a couple of working groups. He stated that several entities are now in the 50/50 fund and are having to foot 50% of the bill for fires and this is very expensive. He stated that Hideout is in the Insurance Fund. He stated that there is a new proposal that is based on the risk assessment. They took three counties and addressed the possibility of charging six cents per acre. All the counties would go into this. A county like Wasatch would pay this amount up front instead of the 50/50. Wasatch County would be saving money based on past history. This is still in the works. Instead of being based on property value it would be based on the risk value. He stated that fire training and code enforcement would be required. UAC has a sub committee that is working on it and they are looking toward 2016.

Mr. Erickson stated that there are other bills also being addressed. There is a bill that would give a tax credit for home owners that live in an urban interface area. They would receive a tax credit for preventative measures and they would need to have a community plan for wildland fire also.

They are looking at County regulations for fireworks to allow more flexibility to allow communities to have stricter regulation.

Mike Peterson stated that the biggest risk is manmade not nature.

Steve Rutter stated that most have been human start. He stated that non thinking residents that do something to cause fires such as vehicles dragging a chain, the train, etc.

**Fire Chief Report**

Chief Giles stated that they have advertised for four full time positions. They will be using the same hiring board that they used several weeks ago for the last hire of volunteers. He stated that Robert Morris is not available and asked if the chair or vice chair would like to attend. Steve Farrell and Greg McPhie will attend the tentatively scheduled meeting on Feb. 19th.

Mike Peterson asked about the process they followed.

Chief Giles stated that they followed the District policy and procedure manual. They hire in house first, as per the policy. They had 18 to 20 applicants for the full time position. 6 to 8 of these applicants were not affiliated with fire or EMS. The applicants are required to be current on all Fire and EMS certifications. The board will interview the applicants. Each member of the board will ask a question and then they will rank the applicants and come up with recommendations. He stated that this will be a tough decision.

Greg McPhie stated that the new hires will be full time and the volunteers hired will be unpaid during their probation period.

Chief Giles stated that he will bring the names back to the board in the March meeting for review.

Chief Giles stated he met with the comptroller to address the capacity he will serve with the Fire District and stated that he appreciates him being on board.

Steve Farrell stated that he will help standardize accounting and work like an internal auditor.

Mike Peterson stated that he enjoyed the party and asked what the biggest need is for the department.

Chief Giles stated that with the help of the tax increase they can start with the prep work for a new platform truck. This is a process that takes time and it would be 2016 before they could get it.

Danny Goode asked about a retirement schedule for equipment.

Chief stated that the average age of the equipment is 1992. They work to keep everything up to date and well maintained. They have discussed retiring or moving some equipment to other stations. He stated that they did retire two pieces of equipment and sold them as surplus.

Chief Giles stated that the ISO had been here and they should be hearing from them by the end of the week regarding the review.

Clint stated that the ISO has remained very strict with the five mile limit to a fire station requirement.

Greg McPhie stated that they could work on a replacement schedule for the District vehicles.

**Amend Resolution 14-05 Changing the Dates and Time for he 2015 Meetings**

Chief Giles stated that they would need to amend this resolution to reflect the change in the dates for the 2015 meetings. **A motion was made by Steve Farrell to amend Resolution 14-05 setting the date and times for the 2015 year meetings. The motion was seconded by Mike Peterson and the motion passed all in favor.**

**Fire Marshal Report**

Greg McPhie asked if the District would benefit by having an agreement with someone for an ARFF truck for these tanker fires.

Clint Neerings stated that it was the best situation to let it burn off and use a defensive mode. This is what they have done on both cases. This has happened several times in the area in the past.

**With no other business to address a motion was made by Kendall Crittenden to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Danny Goode and the motion passed all in favor.**