

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday January 10, 2023

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

Those in Attendance:

Mark Nelson

Eric Rowland

Steve Farrell

Spencer Parks

Kendall Crittenden

Luke Searle

Karl McMillan

Chief Eric Hales

Dustin Grabau

Councilman Farrell: Welcome to the Fire Board of Directors Meeting for February. We would like to welcome everybody here. We need to excuse Councilman Rowland and that's the only one that will be excused. We need to review the minutes for January 10-2023. Did you have a chance to review them yet?

The minutes of the December 13th 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 January 10th fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman McMillan and the motion passed all in favor. Councilman Parks abstained.**

Warrants

Councilman Farrell: Next is to approve the warrants. We had warrants in the amount of \$796,898.34. Eric is there anything on this warrant list that stands out that you think we would go over.

Chief Hales: Well, we just want to highlight a couple of things. Back in December we talked about a couple of Capital Purchases, we had the opportunity to get an ambulance, and that is part of this. About \$223,000, that stands out. Then there is associated with that there is equipment for that including a Stryker cot for \$24,000. So out of the ordinary no, but that's why this is a little higher.

Councilman Crittenden: When was the ambulance budgeted for? This year?

Chief Hales: For this year. We got approval for it, we were going to take it out of that capital. And we did pick that up, that's something that I will highlight.

Councilman Farrell: Any other questions?

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

Councilman Farrell: Okay, the apparatus backing. Is this the policy that we need to review?

Chief Hales: So, basically, we have before you are 6 policies that we have gone through with the advisory commission, and we have had out and these are for approval for you. So, yes its apparatus backing, driver's license requirements, funeral leave, and then three basic ones that talk about the actual policy manual, fire service authority, and the oath of office.

Councilman Farrell: If you can back this up you can back anything up

Chief Hales: We just require someone back there guiding you, so you don't hit the building.

A motion was made by Councilman McMillan to approve Policy 708 Apparatus backing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nelson. It passed all in favor.

Councilman Crittenden: Alright, 702.2 the second line position the vehicle in a manor.

Chief Hales: Great, thank you.

Councilman Farrell: And the next one is driver's license requirement. I think this one speaks for itself.

A motion was made by Councilman McMillan to approve Policy 440 Drivers License requirement. The motion was seconded by Councilman Parks. It passed all in favor.

Councilman Parks: The next one is Funerals policy 437. As it relates to Funerals, I imagine that's leave?

Chief Hales: This is actually how we conduct a funeral. If someone dies in the line of duty, or active duty that dies outside, or up until retirees. It's how we conduct or what we are obligated or what we said we are going to do on behalf of the family. That's what this addresses.

Councilman Farrell: Any questions on that?

A motion was made by Councilman Parks to approve Policy 437 Funerals. The motion was seconded by Councilman McMillan. It passed all in favor.

Councilman Farrell: The next one is the Policy Manual, Policy 102. This is probably general manual covering all policies.

Chief Hales: It basically says how it will be structured, and how we will go about this process.

Councilman Crittenden: All of these will eventually be in it when its finished.

Chief Hales: Yes, this is basically just the title and will give an introduction to what is happening. So all of these will be a part of the Lexipol program and will be available to our staff.

A motion was made by Councilman Farrell to approve Policy 102 Policy Manual. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden. It passed all in favor.

Councilman Farrell: The next one is policy 100 Fire Service Authority.

Chief Hales: So with this one, this one basically dates back to that initial resolution in 1987 that establishes the fire district, so it also discusses definition so the governing board and all of those things.

So all of those components just formalize in that policy.

A motion was made by Councilman Farrell to approve Policy 100 Fire Service Authority. The motion was seconded by Councilman Parks. It passed all in favor.

Councilman Farrell: Okay, the next policy 101 Oath of Office. Now this is for all Fire Fighters?

Chief Hales: All sworn. It's basically what you did for me and what we have done for every other sworn fire fighter. So, this basically formalizes our process and talks about our values.

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve 101 Oath of Office. The motion was seconded by Councilman Parks. It passed all in favor.

Councilman Farrell: The next thing on our schedule is the January update. Chief will you please do that?

Chief Hales: Yeah, let us discuss that. Basically as you can see we've been trying to provide you in your packet just to kind of a snapshot of what we've been doing each month and we have also started from 2022 to 2023 comparing months and the calls that were going on. Everything is essentially the same however, I will say in January with all the weather events we had in the beginning I think January 1st we had 20-30 calls on Monday? Anyway in one day with all the weather related events, down power lines and all the issues we had it was significantly busy on the fire response side of things. Along with that well we wanted to we actually had LPC today in Heber City and we wanted to thank them and we want to thank our public works as well for their efforts of maintaining the roads as well as the fire hydrants. We tried to let the public know that to kind of adopt that fire hydrant front of their and what was interesting is we did a little public safety announcements on Facebook that showed that it took two firefighters if we were to come up to a fire hydrant and we need to take that to suppress fire it took 5 minutes for two firefighters to dig out the hydrant and connect. It takes one firefighter a minute and a half or less to connect to that fire hydrant that's not covered by snow so it's significantly manpower intensive and it takes quite a bit of time and we know with the products of combustion now that are in homes all the plastics and everything fire doubles in 3 minutes time you know every three minutes a fire doubles.

Councilman Farrell: I think your people have done a good job in this valley. The county does a good job as well.

Chief Hales: Yea, so we appreciate everyone's efforts on that. We did some of our, sense January is typically a little bit slower month than others, we did some of our annual trainings like advanced cardiac life support which is a 2 year certification that we have to do. January UFRA Utah Fire Rescue had hosted the winter fire school, and we were able to send 8 of our firefighters down to that, to attend that and get some valuable training. From officer training to some hands on extrication training, that was very beneficial. Also, we took the opportunity in January to have our crews put together crew led training, and this month we focused on Line of duty deaths. NIOSH is an agency that looks into the causes of

death and what we do is try to learn from those who have fallen and learn from any issues or mistakes that they may have had when they were trying to suppress that fire. So, we do our best to try and learn from them. We've also been working on some capital projects obviously saw the check for the ambulance. We did pick that up, that is in process of being outfitted and striped and having the radios and equipment put on. But we also, one of the projects that we have been working on is adding a fifth bedroom to midway station. Theres a little snapshot of the added window and we have been working through the building process on that. These are a little dated, I think we have the carpet in and we are about ready to put the beds and so forth in there. So, the next thing we will be doing, is we will do a firefighter hire. We will probably do that sometime in April, when the fire academy completes their recruit academy. Other than responding on numerous weather-related incidences at the beginning of the year, that's it. Do you have any questions for us?

Councilman Farrell: Yes Eric, I don't know where it's going, but we were looking at doing the emergency preparedness, is the fire district involved in that?

Chief Hales: Yes

Councilman Crittenden: It's scheduled for the 25th of march.

Councilman Farrell: I think it might snow that day.

Councilman Crittenden: It might.

Chief Hales: Chief Provost is on that board and well aware on that and we will have, not only a booth there, but Chief Morgan will be working on a Wildland Urban Interface class. We are partnering with the hospital on first aid and CPR to make sure that will be taken care of. So, yeah, we will have our presence there and we are happy to support that.

Councilman Crittenden: Do you guys do first aid classes for people or groups?

Chief Hales: It's something we have started this year. Once a month, sense we don't have a place right now, we are going to hold a CPR class the second Tuesday of the month at the public safety building of the Heber City Police Department. That's where they can get certified for CPR.

Councilman Crittenden: Somebody posted on Facebook this past week that they needed a CPR class for their 10 employees.

Chief Hales: Yeah, we get those requests.

Councilman Crittenden: Someone commented and said to ask the fire department.

Chief Hales: Yeah, and that's something that we do have our EMS staff that helps with those community classes. That's something we are going to be ramping up more and more. As soon as we get our building that's what that public space is going to be used for.

Councilman Farrell: Okay, thanks. Let's go to

Councilman Nelson: I have, I'm sorry can I ask a question? Any update or news on the train cars?

Chief Jason Provost: There isn't any clearing in the next week and a half as of right now. So that's why we want to get those parking areas cleared out, so we can be ready when that does come.

Councilman Nelson: The other question that I wanted to ask was I know that Midway city has had a couple of meetings where they want to talk about wildland fire preparation around Midway. I just wanted to make sure, I mean the first meeting I went to, and I said, where is the fire district and why aren't they here? Are we in touch with them?

Chief Morgan: So, the state manager, he reached out to me but that's as far as I have been involved.

Councilman Goode: So, Cortland Nelson do you guys know who that is? He lives in Midway and he was a former Utah state head of Parks and Recreation, he lives in Midway and he's kind of the one spearheading this effort with Midway to try and generate a lot of attention to try and clear brush and talk about defensible space and all that stuff.

Councilman Crittenden: You guys in the past, and it's probably ongoing have worked really hard with our mountain communities to clear space and all of that, haven't you?

Councilman Morgan: Yeah, we try to meet with them once a year.

Chief Hales: Yeah, and we are still waiting on a grant. Chief Provost and Chief Morgan actually put together a wildlife defense grant of a little over \$300,000 to help us purchase a chipper as well as staff a seasonal employee for a couple of years to help with that fuel mitigation. So that is something we are trying to ramp up, and we aware that we need to work a little closer with Midway city on coordinating those efforts.

Councilman Farrell: Is there legislation going through right now that will make money for wild land fire mitigation?

Chief Hales: Yes, I believe that one of the house bills is talking about that in particular.

Chief Hales: They would have to clean it. One notable thing is that on last Tuesday I met with the Heber city council, and we talked about the Heber city property. It's not on their master plans, but they had asked that they want to put a road in on the west side of our property. It basically would become 140 E. It would be on the west side of our property and kind of go through the school property as well. Kind of where there is the project The View On Main, it would tie into that. What the discussion with them was, that they want to designate the easement for that road on our property and we would basically donate that piece to them. However, initially their staff wanted us to build the road, we are not in the road building business. We are in the emergency response business.

Councilman Farrell: Do you have any concern with that as it relates to traffic and ingress and egress in and out of the station as you respond to an emergency?

Chief Hales: To get that road it would actually help with traffic, and it would give us another option so we didn't have to go all the way down to Main Street, we could get north a little easier.

Councilman Crittenden: Well the view is the hotel that's just west of the school district and it would just go through then out?

Chief Hales: Ultimately, it would go from 1200 S, and I think that right now it stops at 750 is that where Ace is? But eventually, I think they would try to get it through to 6th. So, that would help us, but the cost we did not want to have that cost. Heber city agreed that if we donate that easement of 60 ft they will

Councilman Farrell: Did they ask that we donate the entire easement on that half?

Chief Hales: The entire

Councilman Farrell: What about the adjacent properties on the west side?

Councilman Parks: Its already developed, you can see right there.

Chief Hales: So basically what they have agreed to is that they would pay for the entire road through our property, and we wouldn't have to accrue it. Initially the staff was wanting us to pay for it but that just wasn't in the cards. Because we did adjust our station over.

Councilman Parks: (Could not hear what was being said.)

Councilman Farrell: At 60 ft that's what? $\frac{3}{4}$ of an acre?

Chief Hales: Yes

Councilman Farrell: That would cost us close to \$400,000.

Chief Hales: Of the original? Yeah, so. They are working up the agreements, obviously we will bring those agreements to you.

Councilman Crittenden: (Again, could not hear what was being said)

Councilman Farrell: This would be a good time to negotiate some impact fees.

Councilman Crittenden: Yeah, the 60 ft is that going to leave us enough space to do what we need?

Chief Hales: Yes, we have enough.

Councilman Crittenden: Even with future plans? Training buildings?

Chief Hales: Yes, and that would be in the back. This is unaffected by this. This talk had already happened with Earnie, and they had shifted their station over to accommodate something like this, but when they started proposing that we were going to pay for the road, that just wasn't going to happen.

Councilman Crittenden: I like your idea of an impact fee.

Councilman Farrell: We will want them to pay for a full impact.

Chief Hales: So, that's all I have.

Councilman Farrell: Lets go to Dustin.

County Manager Dustin Grabau: So, our last meeting we held 2 weeks ago now, I think. We talked about several things that we have already talked about, but one of the things that we wanted to walk about is I think when the board was originally created the advisory commission we had talked about the possibility of staggering our seats, but have not actually ever done that. Now it's been a year and a half.

So it was contemplated that we would stagger the seats, but we never identified who was on which cycle. We kind of wanted to approach you about that and then also kind of solicit your input on what you would like the advisory commission to do. I think when we originally created it you gave us a list of tasks and responsibilities and I think many of those things have been addressed sense that time. So,

what role do you see us playing on an ongoing basis and how do you want to figure out which one of us wants to stay and which one has to move on?

Councilman Farrell: Do you see a value to continuing?

County Manager Dustin Grabau: I think that's probably a good question for Chief, and I think for yourselves. I think originally as it was contemplated we were to be another set of eyes on a number of policy areas, I think where those policies have been addressed I think the question needs to be asked of what you want us to do.

Councilman Farrell: I think I view this board as public relations, and public input and getting more people involved in the operation of the industry and getting more of the information out to the general public.

County Manager Dustin Grabau: I could see it filling a role more similar to the parks and recreation advisory board where we meet on an as needed basis and put input on specific projects at Tom's request, largely. Like if we are looking at archery, like indoor archery or something like that then Tom brings those things up. I could see it filling that type of roll if there are specific issues that Chief Hales wants and extra set of input on from the public. I think also advisory commission is also an opportunity to bring inputs from other jurisdictions. You could put the possibility of bringing in representatives from Heber and Midway and other incorporated entities to sit on this advisory board, so they have more buy in on things the fire commission is doing as well, so that's a possibility at this point.

Councilman Farrell: It's good to have the representatives on the board as we get involved in the MIDA project in the areas we've never been involved in before.

Councilman Parks: So if you didn't meet monthly, I think you would at least want to meet quarterly and as needed on issues and possibly more often than every quarter

County Manager Dustin Grabau: Yeah, and I think that if you are comfortable with that. Are you, so when we created the Tax Advisory board we included the ordinance when we created that we would draw lots to determine who had which seat. And that's generally our practice, we didn't explicitly say that for the advisory commission, but if you are comfortable, we could do that.

Councilman Farrell: I seem to remember talking about this with the advisory board.

County Manager Dustin Grabau: Yeah, we talked about adopting bylaws to that, but I don't know if we ever asked the question?

Councilman Crittenden: We did that with the senior advisory board our first meeting.

County Manager Dustin Grabau: Yeah, so if you are comfortable with that, we will put that on our next agenda to determine that. The only question that we would have for you is that there are a few seats that were specifically identified by the county council, mine being one and Kiersten as another do you want those to be subject to those rotating?

Councilman Nelson: No.

County Manager Dustin Grabau: Okay, I just wanted to clarify that.

Councilman Crittenden: I think our manager will always stay in, and our financial guide will as well.

Councilman Nelson: We don't want them to rotate off.

Councilman Farrell: No, we want them to stay

County Manager Dustin Grabau: Okay, if you are comfortable with that, we will take care of that at our next advisory board meeting.

Councilman Farrell: So would this just start from right now?

County Manager Dustin Grabau: Go from now, yeah.

Councilman Parks: Maybe at the next advisory board meeting have them decide the way they want it set up.

Councilman Crittenden: Is this 4 year?

County Manager Dustin Grabau: I don't know.

Dennis Goudy: We had it originally for 3 years. Mary, Dave and I. all of us extended a couple of times.

Dave Kennamer: I thought that we had several that were 3 years and a couple of them that were 4 years? Because I remember saying that I should be 2 years because I'm so old.

County Manager Dustin Grabau: Yeah, but trying and stagger them so everyone's not on the same cycle? I think that's a discussion that we can have.

Councilman Crittenden: Is there a bylaw that says 3 or 4?

County Manager Dustin Grabau: Yes, I do think that there is a bylaw.

Dave Kennamer: I think it says 2-4.

Councilman Crittenden: (could not understand what was said)

County Manager Dustin Grabau: Yes, I think that's kind of what we talked about we are coming up on 2 years of the creation of the advisory commission sometime this year we will get to that point so we will identify who is in what group then go from there. So unless you have question for us, or specific assignments you would like us to worry about? Otherwise we will work with Chief Hales on when we will meet and what our schedule will be.

Councilman Farrell: Chief, will you take a minute and update us on what we are doing with the building authority am I on the wrong page?

Chief Hales: I think you are on the wrong page. Want to do it again?

Councilman Farrell: My mistake

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