

Dammeron Valley Fire Special Service District

Meeting minutes from February 16, 2023

Meeting started at 7:00 pm MST

Welcome from Mack Sorensen Chair of the Dammeron Valley Fire Special Service District. Each member was asked to introduce themselves; Larry Carlon, Ryan Andersen, Mack Sorensen, Curt Shelley, Rick Johnson.

Mack asked for a motion to amend the agenda, Curt Shelley made a motion to amend the agenda and Rick Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Curt Shelley made a motion to amend the agenda to include discussion on the monitor that Chief Hennessey would like to order. Curt stated that we needed to discuss the purchase of the monitor out of the capital budget to meet our policies and procedures regarding the purchase. Discussion will be had after the Chief's report.

Mack made a motion to amend the agenda so we could discuss our relationship going forward with CAM. McKenzie Johnson wasn't present at the meeting. Ryan Andersen seconded the motion it passed unanimously. A motion to amend the agenda to include both items was seconded and approved by a unanimous vote of the board.

Mack Sorensen asked for a motion to accept the amended agenda. Ryan Andersen made a motion to accept the amended agenda and Larry Carlon seconded the motion and the board voted unanimously to amend the agenda.

Mack Sorensen asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the meeting on January 19, 2023. Curt Shelley made a motion to accept the past meeting minutes, Rick Johnson seconded the motion it passed unanimously.

Ryan Andersen presented the consent agenda. Curt made a comment that the Dominion Energy bill was for three months and that is why it was so large. It didn't get paid for November and December 2022. Mack commented that the Chief decided that we needed to fix the front end on the brush truck so we can deploy it this year for wild land. We hate to spend the money to fix these old trucks, but it is necessary if we are going to deploy them. Mack also noted that we had to fill the diesel tank this past month. Expenditures for the month were over \$49k. Mack asked for a motion to approve the consent agenda, Larry Carlon made a motion to accept the bills as presented and Rick Johnson made a second. The vote to accept the consent agenda was unanimous. Mack turned the time over to Curt Shelley for the Treasurer's report. As of the end of January Operating account was \$231,515. Reserve account was \$10,043, Assigned Funds (Grant) Account \$12,325. The Capital Projects fund is \$81,177. Operating income is \$184,076. Operating expense is \$19,103. MOU and Grant income was \$1451.00. Chief's Report. Fire operations response time is under 9:00 minutes. Just graduated 18 more wild land firefighters. We have 45 red card fire fighters which is two full squads. The reserve program is doing fine. We have 18 current and after the EMS class we will have around 25 reserves. They are working fine and all the operations are going fine. The Chief met with Gold Cross yesterday to talk about the transport. It was just an initial meeting. Apparatus are at a yellow because of some needed repairs. Brush one drives much better now that the front end has been fixed. There are just a few more cosmetic things to have Brush one ready for deployment. Engine 132 needs an auxiliary fuel pump as it currently isn't running. Part has been ordered. Truck should be back up and running. Rescue 131 brake solenoid has been ordered as well. Chief's vision

is to replace all the old truck eventually. Hasmat training has finished and EMS training started last week. Personnel wise two firefighters have been hired in Kanab. We have had a few firefighters that have gotten jobs elsewhere and have bailed on us. Chief talked about the training center being the gateway for these young firefighters to get jobs in bigger departments. They will provide service here until that happens. Thus the need to continue the training center. The department has about a million dollars in assets currently. Doesn't include real property. Curt Shelley asked if the department is up to date on all the asset tagging. Chief indicated that they are up to date. Chief D'Amborsio indicated that any new equipment that comes in he is tagging before it gets put into service. The one million dollars in assets does include the new engine. Facilities wise they need storage, standby generator, and bay lights need to be replaced. At some point we will need a conex for storage. Hopefully with deployment we can get enough to take care of purchasing a conex box. Need to go from fluorescent to LED lights. They are wants not needs currently. No idea on the cost of doing lights. Chief said that it is something that can wait. LED's are the way to go. As far a budget is concerned it is yellow because of the repairs and the reserve program. We are dependent on the wildfire program. We don't want to depend on the wildfire program but we have to this year. Tim Mayhew just needs a signature to be certified as engine boss. Chief Olsen from Cedar Mountain is a paramedic and will deploy as a medic for us this year as he is no longer with Cedar Mountain. Pete Manson and his wife should be back in the country by April, and has committed to be an engine boss this year. The plan is to have two crews out at the same time. Rick asked about the number of possible people that are certified that could deploy. Chief explained that some would also stay here around the station. There are 12 people that are in the EMS academy that haven't stopped since last September. Chief has gone through the budget to see where he can carve off some of the expense because of the cost we have had so far this year. Mack Sorensen commented about how far the department has come from where it was back in 2013. There are some amazing things going on in our fire station. It is the same as if you were to go to St. George and walk through their fire stations. Chief complimented the fire fighters and gave credit to them for being here. Mack talked about the culture that has been created and how great the young men and women are that are here in our department. Rick Johnson also complimented the Chief for creating the gateway for these firefighters. He commented on the atmosphere that has been created. Chief referred to the pipeline that has been created. Similar to what happens in the military. Chief commented that those who are here have been raised by good parents and give credit to them. Our department is now providing fire fighters for many of the other departments. Mack talked about Ben Stewart and what a difference that department has made in his life. Ben is a full time firefighter now with St. George and it wouldn't have been possible without what the department has done. Chief D'Ambrosio talked about one of the members of the department that is also a full time firefighter and the experience he has gotten has been a benefit for Dammeron Valley. Chief talked about the monitor situation. The monitors that we have are out of service being recalibrated. The rep for the monitors can get rebuilt monitors that come with the pads and multi charger. The cost is just a little over \$20,000. It should last for many years and it will come with a one year warranty. Chief consulted with his protege in Colorado and they told them that it was the best way to go. Curt Shelley mentioned that these monitors will be compatible with those carried by Gold Cross. It will also allow Gold Cross to replace some of the pads and such that are only used one time. Until now that hasn't

been possible so we have absorbed the costs. Rick Johnson asked about Gold Cross working out of the station and if that would help with those costs. Chief D'Amborsio indicated that it would help. Chief said we need to move forward on it. Curt Shelley indicated that about a year and a half ago the current monitors were donated by other departments. Chief Barnes was able to procure them. Ryan Andersen asked if anybody had approached the county to help cover the costs of the monitors. It was indicated that we couldn't expect any help from the county. Mack asked for a motion to approve the purchase of the monitor. Rick Johnson made a motion to purchase the monitor and Larry Carlon seconded the motion. The motion passed. Mack asked for the local safety and firefighter surviving spouse fund to be discussed. Curt Shelley led the discussion. The Utah public safety department works with URS to provide a trust fund so any emergency responder killed in the line of duty, the cost of health insurance for surviving dependents would be covered. The cost would be for each employee we have hired. Currently it would only be for 4 employees. The cost is \$100 per year for each person covered. We submit an update once a year. This helps cover the law required by the state of Utah to cover surviving dependents of a first responder killed in the line of duty. Mack asked for a motion to approve the \$400 fee for the local trust fund. Rick Johnson made a motion to provide the \$400.00 to the trust fund, Ryan Andersen seconded the motion, the board approved it unanimously. Mack asked if we had a maintenance update. Curt Shelley presented a modification that was presented last month. He went over what was talked about last month and what additions would be made to the old community center. The addition of a shower and a couple of bedrooms. Conversation was had about the AA group that uses the community center and their continued use for their meetings. Concern over adequate space. Alan Burns talked about the concerns about the time they have to meet to accommodate the fire department. The AA group would like something more accommodating for them. Mack indicated that we would get the materials and start the renovations. Curt Shelley wanted to remind everyone of the budget. Further discussion about what to do first was discussed. Rick talked about a heat pump he had just purchased and will check into it for the remodel. Mack said that it was time to get rid of CAM. Curt has had to do too much of the heavy lifting that should have been done by CAM. Mack indicated that the rest of the board will step up and start doing the things that CAM has been doing. Many of the things CAM use to do has been hired out to Hinton Burdick. CAM has just been really hard to work with and we need to do something different. This will bring back more control to the board. Curt had a discussion with the county a year ago about providing resources to help the new board after consolidation and they said they wouldn't provide that any resources to the new district. Mack indicated that he will start having invoices sent here to the department. We will have to contact all the vendors to make sure the invoices are sent to us directly. McKenzie will be leaving CAM on March 31st and so we have to make the changes.

Park Report: we need to get chips in the playground. Mack pushed the chips with a tractor and they expanded. He will rototill the chips so we can get by for another year without having to spend it on chips. Open house April 22 at the firehouse for the community. The open house will start at 10:00 am. DNR will be here to talk about fuel mitigations in the community. Conversation was had about what will go on at the open house. Rick asked if there would be any demonstrations at the open house. Chief said that they would have a couple of demonstrations at the open house.

Ryan Andersen indicated that there were a couple of service opportunities this past month and that we need to have more service opportunities. He thanked those who had come out and served. We will also need some help with some of the renovations around the fire station. Mack talked about one of the service opportunities at Carol Craigs this past month. Public comment: Alan Burns wanted to know about a start date for the remodel of the community center. Mack indicated that the remodel would have to be done by the end of March. Chief mentioned that they submitted a \$250,000 grant to FEMA. He thanked Robin Fulford for her help with the grant. He indicated that we should have some turnouts coming in the next month or so. The grant would allow us to purchase more turnouts down the road. Robin spent a lot of time working on the grant. Mack made a motion to close the meeting. Ryan Andersen made a motion to adjourn, Curt seconded that motion. The meeting was adjourned.