

# **Dammeron Valley Fire SSD**

## **Approved Minutes of Public Meeting Held March 4, 2014**

Meeting Place: Dammeron Valley Fire Station - Training Room  
1261 N Dammeron Valley Drive East, Dammeron Valley, UT 84783

ACB Members Present: Chairman Mack Sorensen  
Clerk William King  
Member at Large Gary Jensen  
Member at Large Mac Thomson

ACB Members Absent: Treasurer Craig Meyocks

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mack Sorensen at approximately 7:00PM.

### **1. Acceptance of Agenda**

Bill King made a motion "we accept the Agenda as written", Gary Jensen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **2. Old Business**

#### **A. DVFSSD Monthly Bills**

Utah Communications Network \$139.56, Uniform Center \$669.89, LN Curtis \$460.00, Life Assist \$1453.98, Attorney \$615.00, St George Ford \$1323.59, Washington County Fire Control \$80.00, Don Wallace tuition reimbursement \$2048.00, total bills are \$4891.82. Bank balance is at the end of February \$50,635.88, we've collected about half of the fees and have the remainder of March to collect the balance before penalties and interest are assessed. A question was asked if the 2015 fees would be on the tax bill and they will not, they will be billed just like the current 2014 fee. All fees uncollected by August 1 will be turned over to the Washington County Treasurer and the fee along with penalties and interest will be added to the tax bill and collected by Washington County. Gary Jensen made a motion "that we accept the bills as read to us", motion was seconded by Mac Thomson, motion passed unanimously.

#### **B. Bank Balance**

Bill King advised at the end of February the bank accounts were balanced and there was a balance of \$50,635.88 after the account was reconciled.

#### **C. Water Committee Report**

Since Craig Meyocks is not present there was no Water Committee Report.

### **4. New Business**

#### **A. Five Year Plan Development**

The SSD Board made a commitment to develop a five year plan to get out ahead of expenses and keep residents aware of changes in the community's needs and how the SSD is fulfilling the needs of the community. The goal of the five year plan is to allow

the residents to give input as to what services they want and those they may feel they can do without. The information will be used to keep the services at an optimum and minimize costs as much as possible.

There was a discussion of future possibilities of the Fire and Emergency Services, as the area gets larger and more people move in the departments will naturally have increases in expenses and growth. So the five year plan will help us stay ahead of the curve and keep us from experiencing the extreme cost we faced when the SSD was formed and the problems with the equipment was discovered. The SSD also insulates us from liability as our volunteers fulfill their responsibilities where before as a private institution the membership was directly liable for any loss above the \$2M limit of the liability insurance that was in place.

There may be a time when there will be paid positions, which would increase expenses, that may be a necessary decision when area growth gets to a certain point. The volunteers now do get paid in certain circumstances like when we assist another agency and they reimburse us for expenses and manpower per our agreements with them. People have to realize what great service we get here, our volunteers are committed to fulfilling their responsibilities and do so with the highest possible proficiency and training. Those who have received services from our volunteers are very thankful for their dedication and service.

#### **5. Dammeron Valley Fire Department Report, Chief Majeic Szczerbiak**

Chief Szczerbiak was not present due to a previous commitment.

#### **6. Approval of Minutes**

##### **A. February 4, 2014**

Mac Thomson made a motion to "approve these minutes if we take a look at the slight changes I propose", three of the four changes were accepted and Gary Jensen seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.

#### **7. Request for Closed Session**

None requested.

#### **8. Chair Opens Discussion for Public Comments**

There was a question about the fee being paid on the tax bill instead of the SSD invoicing residents directly. Chairman Sorensen advised to have the fee put on the tax bill the fee would have to be a mill levy based on property valuation. This has to be imposed by the residents through an election, the Board cannot implement a mill levy without the residents voting for it. The flat fee, where everyone pays the same fee, was instituted by the Board as the Board determined this would give everyone a break on their fee and everyone would have equal access to services. This would remove the possibility of those who would pay an enormous fee feeling they deserve faster service or service before those who are paying less. The only people who could vote on this would be the residents who live in DV and are registered to vote in Washington County. So the Board felt it would be a needless expense to have an election and have the choice to be to triple or quadruple fees and we would end up with a flat fee anyway. So the Board came to the

logical conclusion through resident input and common sense and instituted the fee that made the most sense.

None of these decisions were made without a lot of discussion encompassing several meetings and Public Hearings. The Board hopes many more residents will take an interest in serving on the Board, the position does require a lot of time and energy, and the decision to run for the Board should be made with this in mind. There will be an election in 2015 to fill two expiring positions, Mac Thomson and Bill King's terms will expire then and an election will be held to fill those positions. Residents who are registered to vote in Washington County can participate in this election, a list of qualified voters will be provided by Washington County. The openings will be announced in February, 2015, and the election info will be published shortly thereafter.

**9. Adjourn**

Bill King made a motion "we adjourn", Mac Thomson seconded the motion, the motion passed unanimously.