

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday July 10, 2018

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

Those in Attendance:

Spencer Parks

Mike Petersen

Steve Farrell

Greg McPhie

Kendall Crittenden

Danny Goode

Mark Nelson

Chief Ernie Giles- excused

BC Jason Provost

BC Gary Sessions

BC Ben Fitzgerald

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings

Fire Warden Troy Morgan

Ryan Lafontaine

Items of Business to address:

Minutes

The minutes of the June board meeting were presented to the board for their review and approval. **A motion was made by Greg McPhie to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2018 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Danny Goode and the motion passed all in favor.**

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$195,626.70. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

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

Chief report- Battalion Chief Gary Sessions Standing in

BC Sessions- introduced the updated Procedures and stated that the fire department will hold a meeting next week with all of the fire crews to go over the updated procedures and answers any questions or concerns. He asked the council to vote for approval of the updated policy and procedures today.

Kendall Crittenden asked why some sections of the procedures are highlighted yellow.

BC Jason Provost explained that the yellow highlights are an overlay used in the editing process

Steve Farrell asked if the procedures have been reviewed by a lawyer and if the new procedures were compliant with the FLSA.

Gary Sessions responded with yes the fire district attorney has gone over it.

A motion was made by Kendall Crittenden to approve the policies and procedures. The motion was seconded by Mark Nelsen and the motion passed all in favor.

BC Gary Sessions presented the updated organizational chart for Fire District Personnel. He said that the ESCI preliminary report will be back the second or third week in July. He confirmed that we would be able to present those findings to the council in our August fireboard meeting.

Steve Farrell asked if there were any issues over the 4th of July.

BC Gary Sessions reported that there were 2 residential fires that were already put out by homeowners by the time the fire department arrived. He said that it went better than last years.

Steve Farrell asked about the fire in Cascade Springs and have we identified the person who started it.

BC Jason Provost said that the forest service is working on it, Tracy is coordinating with forest service trying to find out who started the fire.

Council member- asked how did the fire department get to the fire so quickly.

BC Jason Provost reported that a biker called it in. Supposedly the forest service has it cleaned up as of today.

Steve Farrell said there has been a person living there for sometime and wondered if it was that person that started the fire.

BC Jason Provost stated that the sheriffs office is researching to see if it is the same person.

Steve Farrell congratulations on getting it out so quickly, if the wind had come up it would have taken the hillside.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings – nothing to report

Steve Farrell asked if the issue on the PLAT had been taken care of.

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings reported that it had.

Fire Warden Report

Steve Farrell how did the Dollar Fire start?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan said that the fire investigator has been there but he has not seen a report yet. The fire started on private property and went all over strawberry river. He stated that it was some of the most extreme fire behavior he had ever seen. They figure kiln dried lumber is at 12% and the forest is at 8-10%. He said that most of the fire north of HWY 40 is contained.

Steve Farrell asked what happens next?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan- Once we get a good containment it will be turned into a type 3 team. Once that team finished up it will be turned back over to local firefighters in Wasatch County and Duchesne County. They are working on structure damage reports. Wasatch county has not been able to get a report due to the location of the damage. Most of the structures for Wasatch County were in Beaver Creek where the fire did quite a bit of damage. County assessor will go out to the site tomorrow and attempt to get reports on properties. Above 40 dam acres and Pine Hollow we were able to do some really good work. There was a wind shift that slowed the progression of the fire down.

Mark Nelson asked is the dam road open yet?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan- no the fire was most intense there on the Wasatch side they are hoping to have good lines within the next couple of days. They are hoping that it might be open in 2 or 3 days and get power back into the subdivisions. Talked to moon lake (substation) and they didn't think it would be a huge concern to get power back on. Power lines will need to be replaced, the power companies will come in and repair those. There was a power surge and the transmission lines were de-energized. The lines were de-energized for firefighter safety. He confirmed that the large steel structures are transmission.

Steve Farrell asked what kind of rehabilitation will Wasatch County have to do?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan- They will bring in bear team. Bear team has rehabilitation standards and before the team leaves, the state of UT will set in place standards (seed mix, what to do with dozer lines, etc..) we will have a lot of rehabilitation. We will need to worry about slides this winter.

Steven Park How will we pay for the rehabilitation? FEMA?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan – The fire was delegated early on and the state will be picking up the cost. The fiscal part was delegated right off the bat when we knew we needed more resources. We did have some FEMA stuff they put together an F mag. Federal Government will pay 75% of the cost of the fire during that period.

Steve Farrell How many primary residences?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan – Only a few residences were affected on the Wasatch County side. Most of the primary residences were on the Duchesne County side. Unfortunately it was catastrophic on the Duchesne side.

Greg Mcphie Asked about the buyer footprint on the Wasatch side vs the Duchesne side.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan – Close to half and half. I would like to introduce FMO Ryan.

Ryan- Reported the total list of structures damaged/lost for both counties as 158 sheds, 81 utility trailers, 130 camper trailers (whether those trailers were residences or not is undetermined), 25 vehicles, 6 homes damaged and 74 homes lost. He said that this number is going to go up.

Steve Farrell asked Troy how does Duchesne fire protection compare to Wasatch?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan – Stated that Wasatch is getting better, unfortunately there is still a lot of work to be done. However if the fire had gotten into the subdivisions it would have been catastrophic. There is only so much we can do the homeowners need to start taking some responsibility. We are getting better with our new construction however there is a lot of old construction. He said that this is nothing compared to what will happen over here if we do have a fire on the west benches or east side, we would be looking at more loss of structures then what Duchesne had.

Steve Farrell this should be a good wake up call for Timberlakes.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan said he hopes this is a good wake up call while it is fresh in everyone's mind. He spoke with some of the homeowners in 40 dam acres that were interested in talking about fire safety in the area.

Ryan said that the state is bringing in a community assessment team, at no cost to the county, they will show us how to engage the public more on fire safety.

Kendall Crittenden said he thought there had been quite a bit of success a few summers ago in the subdivisions above Midway.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan – We have done a ton of work but they are so far behind that it is overwhelming for them to get caught up.

Steve Farrell said you can do a lot on the private end of it but the public land is so overgrown there is no way you can stop it.

Kendall Crittenden said they got an Email from Buff saying they have been contacted by Duchesne County wanting to include us on a flyover of the devastating fire at \$200 per section.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan said that Jeremy was going to take her and one of her personnel in on the ground via side by side tomorrow. He thinks that she would see a lot more from the ground than above.

Kendall Crittenden if Wasatch County only had a handful of properties effected by the fire then maybe Duchesne needs to do a flyover but it may not be necessary for Wasatch County.

Steve Farrell asked why it is coming through her? Is it because of assessing value? Property value is adjusted next year. In Cedar city fire they made courtesy prorated adjustments. However Wasatch does not have a lot of value.

Ryan- the fire is 50/50 Wasatch County and Duchesne (25 thousand acres on each side). Rains will further damage the structures that are partially burned and could cause mudslides.

Danny Goode So the big concern is moving forward in these older subdivisions and getting some education to them.

Steve Farrell asked if there any other questions for Troy? He thanked the firefighters for all that they do.

Kendall Crittenden brought up all of the donations that have come in and the overwhelming support.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan said that it is fantastic to see everyone step up to help. He said he went to the high school and the donations were stacked from floor to the roof. He said the donations have helped immensely and it's a very humbling experience to see how generous people are.

Steve Farrell asked if there is anything else to address.

A motion was made by Greg Mcphie to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Danny Goode and the motion passed all in favor.