

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday September 11, 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 excused

Greg McPhie

Kendall Crittenden

Danny Goode

Mark Nelson excused

Chief Ernie Giles

BC Gary Sessions

BC Jason Provost

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings

Fire Warden Troy Morgan

Items of Business to address:

Minutes

The minutes of the August 14th board meeting were presented to the board for their review and approval. **A motion was made by to Councilman Peterson to change the wording on page 3 of the minutes from “a 2 acre fire that will cause” to “a 2 acre fire that will cost” and then approve the minutes of the August 14th fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Mcphie and the motion passed all in favor.**

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$167,029.16. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Councilman Peterson- question about the landscape bond to Oakwood Homes.

Fire Chief Ernie Giles- In the winter the Wildland Inspections that don't have their yard in can post a \$5,000.00 bond. Then when the inspection is done we reimburse the bond. You have seen a few of those over the last few months.

Councilman Goode – is that with Rainy as well?

Chief Ernie Giles- yes

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

Chief report

Chief Ernie Giles- I handed out the ESCI report. ESCI wants to know if the board wants them to present in person or via Skype. They are out of Washington so I thought I would present it to you and see what you want to do. We can get the advisory board together and do it on skype or have them come to the presentation.

Councilman Crittenden- They would just go over the highlights?

Councilman McPhie- What is the cost to have them come? I would prefer them to come in person, I don't like to skype, but I am good with whatever.

Chief Ernie Giles -I would hope it would be included in the \$50 some odd thousand dollars we have paid them.

Councilman Crittenden- I think we need the board there for the presentation.

Councilman Goode- Maybe we should review this over the next week or so, we got it in our email.

Chief Ernie Giles- I was thinking maybe even the next board meeting, invite the advisory council and this board and have them present it at the next fire board meeting. It is big its 109 pages to review. That would give enough time to review and write down any questions if you have them. I would like to get with the advisory board prior to that and have a meeting where we can have some questions put together.

Councilman Goode- I saw that Merry mailed it out. She sent it to the advisory board, so they have seen it.

Councilman Parks- I am ok with skype if it is not included in the price they have already charged us. I think they will charge us extra to come and we have a big screen and microphones we can do skype and save the 3-4 grand.

Chief Ernie Giles- If it is included in the price we will have them come down, if it is not we will use skype.

Councilman Crittenden- We have skype capability right? We would have to get Don involved.

Councilman Parks- You can skype on any computer in about a half hour.

Councilman Goode – Has anyone had an opportunity to review it?

Council a little bit here and there.

Councilman Peterson- It is very well put together.

Councilman Mcphie- There is a ton of information in there that is why I would prefer not to go through it via skype.

Councilman Parks- It will take several hours to go through it on our own.

Councilman Goode - It will be good to have the advisory board look at it before-hand.

Chief Ernie Giles- We are trying to attach the assessment to the taxes. Some of them are low amounts. We have to look up the parcel number and a lot of information to attach them to the taxes. What I would like to do is have the cut off at \$50, we may get it down to \$40, but we want to write the others off. We are about half way through trying to look up these parcel numbers to make sure they match the property owners.

Councilman Mcphie- So if it is under a certain amount you want to write them off?

Chief Ernie Giles- Correct. The total amount I think on all of them is around \$60,000.00.

Kristen Richardson- If we wrote off everything under \$50 we would be writing off around \$5,400.00.

Councilman Mcphie- How much time to go after all of it? It may be that we are throwing good money after bad to spend the time to look at that.

Councilman Goode- That's ok if you want to set that bar at \$50 and then you can come back and adjust it later.

Chief Ernie Giles- We may wind up getting down to \$40 or \$45, they need to be turned in to the County by Friday. We are going to work it down as low as we can I just wanted to make sure the board was aware of it.

Councilman Goode- Does anyone have an issue with that?

Board no

Councilman Goode - Have the MIDA people been in touch with you?

Chief Ernie Giles – No

Councilman Peterson- Can I ask a question on that 1300-foot limit on the cul de sac. Let's say they have 2 roads coming up and if they connect the two, the temporary road works well in the summertime but in the winter it is skied on. Is that an issue with you?

Chief Ernie Giles – Until I see it, I don't know. Back when deer crest was built they had similar issues. They built a road and then used it for a ski run in the winter. I would have to look at it and see how far it is and how many buildings are on it. These in deer crest, there were a few homes on lots it's hard for me to say if I am good with it or not, have we made concessions in the past? Absolutely.

Councilman Mcphie- I know some folks have asked if you have discretion with the international fire code to make some things work temporarily or in the winter and you have said we have worked through

things before. When we met with those guys I repeated that, and I hope they didn't interpret it as "hey we are all good." We know it is on the list of issue's but you have not seen the details correct?

Councilman Goode - Do we still provide fire service for the areas of park city that got incorporated?

Chief Ernie Giles – Yes, all of the special service districts stayed. JSSD and Fire stayed.

Councilman Goode- In Park City mine who would be the primary fire? We would be the primary fire right?

Chief Ernie Giles - I would protest on loss of revenue. That would be a huge revenue loss if that was the case.

Council- the flag looks great across main street.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshall Clint Neerings- Nothing to report

Councilman Crittenden – How is the fall fire season? Is it tapering off?

Councilman Goode- By the way when we met with the congressman earlier that was an issue we brought up, on public lands how we have all the dry tinder out there and how that could potentially be a big fire hazard for us. We were trying to brain storm solutions for getting rid of it. We were talking to him about can they loosen regulation to get in there and get the dead timber out? It is starting to get to a point where they can't use it. We want to get it out of there so its not a tinder box. Just to let you guys know we were talking to the congressman about solutions to get that stuff out of there. They are looking for ideas from anywhere. If you guys know something or have heard of other departments handling it let us know so we can pass it along and maybe enact it in the county.

Councilman Spencer Parks- Where we had the big fire this year is about the one place we didn't have a lot of beetle kill. The dollar ridge area doesn't have the beetle kill like Duchesne Ridge. Am I right?

Chief Ernie Giles- There is beetle kill

Fire Warden Report

Fire Warden Troy Morgan- We are picking up a few brush fires here and there. Things have been slowing down. Last week we got a call from the forest service asking if I wanted to come out and do a training on lightning strike fire they had in the Uintas. They had a plan that they were going to take this 10 acre fire and turn it into several hundred. No values were threatened, there was a lot of dead down beetle kill. It was a controlled burn. It was a wildfire that we ended up burning. Like you say some of the timber is starting to rot and they are losing commercial value. If it can be done in a good controlled environment, there are no values at risk and it can be done safely a controlled burn is the best way to get rid of it. One of the biggest reason's firefighters die is because the trees kill them. They take a bad situation and clean up the land and make it safer for firefighters. The firefighters don't have to go in there and cut down dead snags that could potentially kill someone.

Councilman Crittenden – The Yellowstone fires were so healthy for that forest.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan - It is healthy for the forest to have the fires

Councilman Crittenden – Lodgepole pines have two types of cones and on type only pops in the fire

Fire Warden Troy Morgan - Aspen region is good for elk, is good for future fires. With Aspens you are less likely to have a big hot fire like you will get when dealing with pines.

Councilman Goode – for 100 years Yellowstone policy was as soon as they find the fire put it out. They found out that all that did was add a lot of tinder and that was what created that super one.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan – That is our problem now. We do such a good job at stopping these fires and keeping them small that now we are seeing catastrophic fires like dollar ridge.

Councilman Peterson – It is the circle of life with trees.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan – it is not just going in there and throwing down a match. There is a lot of fire science involved. We did 4 days of nothing but prepping the line to make sure the fire would stay under control.

Councilman Goode – I wonder if we could put together a proposal for areas throughout the county that we could do that to? We could do one a month or one every quarter?

Councilman Parks- It is not up to us though right? Environmental controls?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan – The issue we have as a county is that state statute considers wildland fire a nuisance. Any fire on state and private land has to be suppressed where the forest service has leeway. They do have these designated fire areas that they continually work and prep so that when they do find an opportunity and have a good window, they will go up and burn. There is one that they are getting ready to do in upper Provo.

Councilman Peterson – Sometimes these become uncontrolled

Fire Warden Troy Morgan – That is the issue. For every 40 that go great you get one that hits the news and higher up people condemn it. It is a lot of education and they are putting together a lot of research out on these managed fires. They really do benefit the forest.

Councilman Goode – Any proposals you can get together for this would be great. We can get together with all of the entities and sit down and come up with a solution.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan - Our district ranger is very proactive on this.

Councilman Parks – I think any fire that is not imminent he is going to let it burn and try to do what he can once it has already been started by something else.

Councilman Peterson -Rick Coleman retired how many years did he serve? Anyone else coming up soon to retire?

Chief Ernie Giles – He served 22. Roger Ford in January. Kent Hylton in August.

Councilman Peterson - Any parties coming up between now and the end of the year?

Chief Ernie Giles- EMS and Fire have a Christmas party.

Councilman Crittenden- I would like to do a quick closed session for personnel with only Ernie.

A motion was made by Councilman Mcphie to go into closed session for personnel. The motion was seconded by Councilman Peterson and the motion passed all in favor.

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