

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday December 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

Greg McPhie

Kendall Crittenden excused

Danny Goode

Mark Nelson

Chief Ernie Giles

BC Jason Provost

BC Gary Sessions

BC Ben Fitzgerald

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings

Fire Warden Troy Morgan

Items of Business to address:

Minutes

The minutes of the November 13th, 2018 board meeting were presented to the board for their review and approval.

A motion was made by Councilman Peterson to approve the minutes of the November 13th fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman McPhie and the motion passed all in favor. Mark Nelson abstained.

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$145,627.27. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Councilman Goode- Asked about the wristbands for kids

Chief Ernie Giles- Explained that they are little wristbands that we hand out to the kids that come and tour the station. He explained that the kids come to the station and we also go to the schools to do presentations.

Councilman Goode- Asked about the Acronis computer backup and if it goes to an offsite account.

Chief Giles- Explained that at the moment we run our backups to an external hard drive using Acronis software that is on our computer, the charge for Acronis that Councilman Goode is asking about is to update that software to the 2019 version. He also mentioned that we are in the process of getting a server and will be backing up to the cloud.

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

Chief report

Chief Giles – nothing to report unless there is a question.

Councilman Goode- On the Buhl barn fire it was 36 hours and 12 firefighters is that correct?

Councilman Farrell- I know it was a lot of time spreading the hay and getting it all put out.

Councilman Goode- I am not questioning the need for it I am just wondering why does it take that many men that long? We as a council want to be educated more on how the fires are dealt with and the process.

Chief Giles- We have to spread the hay out and sometimes we have to just let it burn (firefighters have to stay on scene when we do this to watch it), sometimes we put sprinklers on it, it depends on the fire. The barn fire in Charleston burned for weeks with all that hay.

Councilman Goode- Maybe we can ask the advisory board about this, after the fire is there some type of report you do? A report that shows how many men, how many hours and the total cost

Councilman Mcphie- It would certainly open our eyes, so we don't just think you roll in, put the fire out, and leave an hour later.

Councilman Farrell- Do you report all of that on wildland fires? Maybe we could see that.

Chief Giles- The report that we do have generally shows the trucks and total cost. That is a good idea and I will have to get something put together.

Councilman Goode – That would go a long way for us to understand just how overwhelming a fire is.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshall Neerings – Nothing new to report unless there are questions.

Councilman Farrell- I was at the hospital and witnessed the Fire Marshall in action with the new contractors, it was good to see him in action, he definitely had their attention.

Fire warden

Fire Warden Morgan- Nothing to report unless there are questions, all the fires are out.

Councilman Farrell- Can you update us in the California trip?

Troy- It went great, we took 4 county employees, 4 district employees plus me. We were able to put together a Wasatch back task force which was pretty neat. We had an engine from Park City and one from North Summit, the Wasatch County engines and some DNR trucks. When we got out there the fire had done pretty much what it was going to do and had burned to the ocean. The first few days they had us in staging, during that time we did a lot of training within our task force. Once they got us out, we were able to go and work on hot spot areas, areas that were a big concern for rekindling. Our next assignment was up where the big mansions were- we were tasked to go through the homes and make sure that everything was ok and there were no animals still running around. While we were doing that, we picked up any hotspots that were left and dealt with them

Councilman Farrell- What can we learn from California fires?

Fire Warden Morgan - Defensible space. Defensible space is THEY KEY. Defensible space is the area around the house that has vegetation. You could tell the difference with the houses that had it. WCFD requires anywhere from 30-100 feet of defensible space. It is an area where the department can safely go in and defend the structure.

Councilman Goode- These houses in the city and right up next to the house there are bushes and trees within 5-10 feet, at that point are you pretty much trying to save the neighbor's house?

Fire Warden Morgan - We are trying to protect the other homes. A few years ago, on the Canyon Meadows house fire, it was fully involved. The brush up against the house was on fire and it extended to the house next door, our primary objective was to keep the second house cooled. The one in Northern California was moving a football field a second. The issue with them was there was one way in and one way out. The more that we can work with the homeowner's associations, subdivision and contractors to make sure there is secondary egress and safe exit routes the better. When the emergency happens people just panic, there were so many crashed cars in California, it was very chaotic. The more we can work with subdivision's on maintaining and fixing roads, egress and defensible space the better.

Councilman Peterson- This is your second trip -how long did it take to get reimbursed on the first trip?

Chief Giles- 6 months

Fire Warden Morgan - EMAC goes through the state, CA requests help from the state of UT and then it goes through FEMA. If we were to go on a federal fire the payments come quicker.

Councilman Goode- Troy do you have a part in creating the maps on forest to get the dead timber out? Does anyone in the Fire Department?

Councilman Mcphie- It is mostly on federal land, right?

Councilman Nelson- First doesn't the state have to convince the feds to modify?

Councilman Farrell the letter we sent last week did that.

Fire Warden Morgan - I was able to get my taskforce task book signed off in California so now I am an engine boss type 4 IC engine taskforce leader.

Merry Duggin- Advisory board update- we are working on an educational series for the council, especially the new members coming on, so if you have any specific areas that you have questions about please jot them down and let us know so we can address them. The presentations my board is coming up with can be used to educate the public as well. We will be reviewing the presentation that Dennis Goudy is putting together at the next advisory board meeting on the 18th.

Motion to continue until 6:00Pm for the public hearing by Councilman Mcphie. The motion was seconded by Councilman Goode, the motion passed all in favor.