

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday January 15, 2019

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

Those in Attendance:

Spencer Parks

Jeff Wade

Steve Farrell

Danny Goode

Kendall Crittenden

Marilyn Crittenden

Mark Nelson

Chief Ernie Giles

Jason Provost

Gary Sessions

Ben Fitzgerald

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings

Fire Warden Troy Morgan

Items of Business to address:

Minutes

The minutes of the December 11, 2018 board meeting and of the December 11, 2018 Budget Hearing were presented to the board for their review and approval.

A motion was made by Councilman Goode to approve the minutes for the December 11, 2018 budget hearing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Parks and the motion passed all in favor. Councilman Nelson abstained because he was not present at that meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Goode to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2019 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nelson and the motion passed all in favor.

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$225,021.48, this total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Councilman Nelson- There was a warrant made out to Wasatch County Communications for radios, is that part of the county government?

Chief Giles- It is run by the sheriff and they charge us for the radios and pagers monthly. If we break or lose a device, we are charged for that as well.

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

Chief report

Chief Giles- while we are on the subject of warrants, there was \$31,538.50 that is for carpet and work done in the basement for the Highway Patrol. I need a motion to transfer that amount out of capital projects and into our budget for capital facilities.

Motion to transfer \$31,538.50 out of capital projects was made by Councilman Goode. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade. The motion passed all in favor.

Councilman Farrell- Can't we transfer that at the end of the year as well?

Chief Giles- Yes, we could. The checks that had the post it's on them are the ones that are for the carpet and I wanted to make sure I could pull that out because I don't have that in my budget.

Councilman Farrell- At the end of the year we need to make sure we recognize that we have already transferred the money out of capital projects for this.

Chief Giles- Yes, it will show up when we do our 2019 amended budget.

Chief Giles- About 8 months ago we had to close an account at Wells Fargo, it was under "Heber Valley Fire Department". The account was set up in 1959, they wanted a non-profit and I didn't really want to go that route. Heber Valley Bank thought they could get it done "as doing business" under Wasatch County. Long story short it couldn't happen. I have started the process of doing a non-profit that will be called "Friends of Heber Valley Fire Department". This money is generated from various places, for example if we go do something extra for a burn or for a movie set. We put those funds away and use them as a death benefit for retired firefighters that have passed away. The death benefit amount is \$1,500.00 upon a fire fighter's death. In getting ready for our audit it shows up as an account under WCFD. That is why I am creating this fund. You will see all of this on the audit as well. Just so you guys know what is going on when you see that you will know what it is.

Councilman Crittenden- how much in account?

Chief Giles- We have a CD that is close to \$58,000.00 or \$60,000.00 and then there is about another \$5,000.0 in the checking. The total is right around \$65,000.00.

Councilman Farrell – How much is added to that in a year?

Chief Giles – It varies, sometimes if we do 2-3 burns it is more. In 2018 I think we did 3 burns and for all three it generated about \$8,000.00.

Councilman Crittenden - Do you charge an amount? Or do they just donate what they want?

Chief Giles - They donate, and we write them a donation receipt. That is another reason we are setting it up as the Friends of Heber Valley Fire Department. Just to keep you all aware of it.

Councilman Crittenden – We received an email about a fire riser room that was froze shut. I assume that was out by Jordanelle?

Chief Giles- That was at black rock ridge. We had to shovel a door at.

Councilman Crittenden- So it as not at the Fire Station then?

Chief Giles- No, it was in Black Rock Ridge and we got it cleared out.

Councilman Goode- There was a fire in Timberlakes recently correct? Contained to the one structure?

Chief Giles – The structure was damaged severely especially on the inside, it had been burning in there for a while. It was contained to the one structure.

Councilman Farrell- Did the fire hydrants work and was there enough pressure?

Chief Giles- They shoveled them out before we got there which was good. The worst of it was the first responding engine was the ladder. I had already traveled the road and there was no way we were taking the ladder truck up in there. A million dollars was a little more than I wanted to spend up that road. About 4 minutes later the all-wheel drive came with chains on it and it went right up that road.

Councilman Goode- Were they able to respond out of the station up there?

Chief Giles- There was an all-wheel drive that responded out of that station (Timberlakes Station).

Councilman Goode- Is that one of the older vehicles in the fleet?

Chief Giles- It is. We had to have a machinist work on it. We won't be using it at a high rate of speed in Timberlakes and it is an all-wheel drive, which is good in that area. Until we get some new ones coming in we have to use it. The new ones we ordered are all-wheel drive as well. The ladder was too risky to take up Blue Spruce because it was all snow packed.

Councilman Farrell- How far up was the fire?

Chief Giles- It was Greenbriar, so it was about 2/3 of the way up.

Councilman Crittenden- I heard that there were heating devices left in the house?

Chief Giles- The cause is undetermined. The owner did say that he had left some electric heaters going and hadn't been there since before Christmas.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Neerings- nothing to report.

Fire Warden Report

Fire Warden Morgan- I have our year-end report that I want to hand out. This shows our burn acreage in 2018. In County, which is private land, 16,726.91 acres that burned. State acres within County boundaries was 10,461.91, US Forest Service within our County was 27,131.81 for total of 54,320.63 acres burned in Wasatch county. 52,620.00 of those acres are from the Dollar Ridge Fire alone, so it was a very big chunk of our fire season this year.

Councilman Parks- Is this your biggest year ever?

Fire Warden Morgan – Yes. 2012 was a big year but I don't think we topped 54,000 acres.

Councilman Farrell – Will we be reimbursed for the State land and the US Forest Service?

Fire Warden Morgan – Not necessarily. The majority of the 10,000 acres were the Deer Creek fire (100 some odd acres) but most of it was from the Dollar Ridge fire in the Wild Cat area/DWR Land. I don't believe we will get reimbursed for any of that. We didn't have any of our resources out there once the type one team came out.

Councilman Crittenden- So we are reporting the acres, but we didn't have a lot of the expense to fight it.

Fire Warden Morgan - This will all go towards our yearly mitigation match now. This one will be our high year and it will get tossed out. It is going to bring in the Whiskey Fire from 2012 as our top fire now. Our yearly participation match, which was \$58,000.00 this year, will go up for next year. This year bumped out our last highest year and It brought the 2012 high into our ten-year average. Hopefully I will have some new numbers by spring for what our new participation numbers will be.

Mark Nelson – Over the last 5 years, what is the average acres burned per season?

Fire Warden Morgan – Including Forest Service land we are probably around 2-3 thousand acres per season. Our biggest fire was probably 300 some acres (this is not including the Dollar Ridge Fire). It was a pretty good fire season, we had some good catches and some good stops. Obviously, the Dollar Ridge Fire blew up on us.

Councilman Goode - Are you coordinating with the people working on temporary roads to get the beetle kill out?

Councilman Parks - Troy and I will be meeting with them next week.

Councilman Goode- Is the federal shutdown impacting any of that planning and coordinating?

Fire Warden Morgan -Probably. In our public lands meeting, Dan with the forest service, has some good ideas on how to mitigate some of the problems on Forest Service land. We will see what we can do as a county, so he can take his ideas and what is important to the county to his superiors and hopefully get it

passed through so we can start doing some mitigation work and some controlled burns, so we don't have these huge catastrophic fires. We can start chipping away at this dead timber.

Councilman Goode – So we are planning for it in the winter months and that way we can get right in there in the spring and get to work.

Councilman Parks – Our meeting will be here Thursday at ten if anyone is interested.

Mark Nelson- I just subtract the Dollar Ridge fire acreage from the total acreage burned and got about 1,700 acres. So about how many different fires is that?

Councilman Goode- How much of that was the train?

Fire Warden Morgan- A lot of the acreage was the Willow Fire, about 1400 acres< that the Forest Service had at the first of June. The Deer Creek fire was 381 acres and the rest of the fires were an acre here a few there.

Other

Councilman Goode made a motion to appoint Steve Farrell as the Fire Board of Directors chair and Spencer Parks as the vice chair. Councilman Crittenden seconded the motion. The motion passed all in favor.

Councilman Farrell – Do we have a reason to go into closed session? No. Anything else Chief?

Chief Giles- We just want to welcome Jeff here and Mrs. Crittenden who isn't here at this time. We are glad to have you on board.

Councilman Farrell - We will have a presentation tomorrow by the advisory board. It is item 2 on the agenda.

Councilman Goode - What is the topic of the presentation tomorrow?

Chief Giles - Dennis is going to put on a presentation of the ESCI breakdown and have the council choose what items they want to tackle first. We want to hear from the council and discuss which items you want to tackle first.

A motion was made by Councilman Goode to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden. The motion passed all in favor.