

**Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday February 12, 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

Marilyn Crittenden

Kendall Crittenden

Danny Goode

Mark Nelson

Chief Ernie Giles

BC Jason Provost

BC Gary Sessions

BC Ben Fitzgerald

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings

Fire Warden Troy Morgan EXCUSED

Items of Business to address:

**Minutes**

The minutes of the January 15, 2019 board meeting were presented to the board for their review and approval. **A motion was made by Councilman Goode to approve the minutes of the January 15, 2019 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade and the motion passed all in favor.** Councilwoman Crittenden abstained.

**Warrants**

The listing of warrants totaled \$150,819.54. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

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

### Chief report

Chief Giles- A few things, under the “other” section, we have a state trust interlocal agreement that we have never signed since we have been a part of it. They sent us this new contract and that is what the resolution that you were given is.

Councilman Goode- What is it for Ernie?

Chief Giles- We have been a part of it for a long time, since 99. They went through their documents and found that we don't have a signed contract in place, so they sent this out to us to get it completed.

Councilman Farrell- is it for insurance?

Chief Giles- Yes, our workers comp. We will have to do it by resolution, and it will be resolution 19-01.

Councilman Farrell- Any questions on this interlocal agreement?

Councilwoman Crittenden- Did everyone receive this before this meeting because I did not get an email?

Councilman Crittenden- it was not sent out via email. They are using our agenda-to-go system and that is where it was sent out.

**A motion was made by Councilman Goode to pass resolution 19-01. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade. The motion passed all in favor.**

Chief Giles- I was at the legislature yesterday, the fire caucus has a luncheon for all of the legislatures, Tim, Ron and MR. Christensen were all there. Fire is pushing bills for the tier 2.

Councilman Goode- Do you know the bill numbers and if they out of the senate or the house?

Clair Provost – I think the tier 2 is senate bill 129

Chief Giles - Instead of paying 12% to the retirement system it will be on the districts to make it 16%. It will change the percentage like tier 1 is. It has been a concern for the fire chiefs because our recruitment has gone way down. Its been a big issue like it is with school teachers. They felt like it would pass. Also, the death benefit – the chief that was killed in SLC, their workers comp went up 70-90k a year due to his death. They are refusing to send anyone outside of their community to help until this legislature passes.

Councilman Crittenden- They assumed CA would cover it?

Chief Giles- It is no different than us going to Duchesne or South Summit. Even if it wasn't CA and it was somewhere in state, we would have to cover it. That is something they are working through so we can help each other. Ultimately, we are here to help our neighbors. Also, last meeting we talked about an administrative control board and I was instructed to talk to Scott Sweat about it. There are several ways to set a board like that up, they can all be appointed similar to the advisory board we have now, they can all be elected officials, or it can be a combination of both. I am not sure what direction you want me to go for that.

Councilman Farrell- It can be a combination?

Councilman Goode- Has the advisory board discussed this?

Councilman Farrell- No they haven't, let's wait until we can get a recommendation from the advisory board.

Chief Giles- That advisory board could even be the ones that are on the control board. From my point of view that board is already working well.

Councilman Farrell- I believe they all have to be county residents.

Chief Giles- Gil would be the only one that isn't a resident. Speaking of Gil, he was the firefighter of the year and was honored at this caucus the other day.

Councilman Goode- What is the goal of this board? Is it to take EMS out of the County and put it into the District or is it to bring fire into the county? We have avoided this discussion for a while. The advisory board and Ernie have been operating like we will put EMS under fire and away from the county.

Chief Giles- Clair and I have been studying those possibilities.

Councilman Farrell- Leave fire district intact and transfer EMS under fire but we haven't gotten to what degree we want to do yet. Do we transfer the license, do we remain in control of the license?

Councilman Goode- When I talked to Mike Davis, he thought that the county cannot hold the license if EMS operates under fire.

Chief Giles- Park City Fire District is a partner on the license (In PC) with Summit County, that is why all the Park City ambulances say Summit County right on the side.

Councilman Farrell- Before we come to a decision on this, I think that the advisory board should make a presentation and look at the pros and cons. We don't want to make a hasty decision.

Councilman Goode- Are we going to change the structure of these meetings and give it to a new board?

Councilman Crittenden- Was the idea to turn our duties over to this new board?

Chief Giles- Yes, but not for everything, the county council will still be in charge of the SSD and approving the budgets, the administrative board would handle the monthly issues.

Councilman Farrell- We would still have 2 council representatives on that board. We ought to have the EMS merger discussion with the advisory board before we have the administrative control board. Is there an advisory board presentation scheduled?

Chief Giles- We will probably do it next month at the council work meeting (Wednesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>). Clair and I have been working at it.

Councilman Parks- We should have the county attorney look at this and get his opinion on what we legally can and cannot do. Can the EMS be apart of the fire etc.. Where would it help budget wise to do one or the other.

Councilwoman Crittenden- SSD's are meant to serve small areas not the whole county, is it even appropriate to have it as an SSD. All of the SSD's need to be looked at.

Councilman Farrell- All the cities pay into it the same, if it was a county department, we would have to contract with each city for the level of service they want.

Councilman Goode- The cities all had to sign on to do the SSD. If we do our own department they would have to resign on?

Councilman Farrell- We would have to enter into a service agreement with each one of them.

Councilman Goode- Municipal service fees would also come into play.

Councilman Crittenden- only if we went to 3<sup>rd</sup> class

Councilman Goode- If fire is a department the municipal fees would come before, but as a district we don't have to worry about it.

Councilman Crittenden- If it as a department within the county. The only one Mike was worried about was animal control services.

Councilman Goode- The cities would be without fire services unless they created their own department.

Councilman Farrell- This is a cleaner way to do it, we make it independent and it is based on tax rate and everybody pays it.

Chief Giles- Most service districts bill by service, this is done by tax rate.

Councilman Goode- We will have the advisory board look at it.

Councilman Parks- There is not an advisory board meeting set up that I know of.

Chief Giles- The presentation will be during the council work meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> and it will be on the fire/ems merger. In the mean time would you like me to get with Scott on the legalities of this thing?

Councilman Parks- I will get with Scott and he will be at the work meeting during the presentation as well.

Councilman Farrell- We need to have Mike Davis involved

Councilman Goode- Can we do this during a council meeting? My experience is that we have these subcommittee meetings and people walk out and nothing gets resolved, I want this to happen at a work meeting.

Councilman Farrell- Lets take the NCI report as our basis.

Chief Giles- That was what the advisory board recommended as well. We will be ready on 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **Fire Marshal Report**

Fire Marshal Neerings- Business as usual unless there any questions. Lots of plans coming down the pipeline, and developments throughout Midway and Daniels. Probably for the last 8-12 months we have been working with hideout to review their plats. We have had some issues and concerns with their secondary access. Four of their 700 lot subdivisions with a single point of access. They adopted an ordinance that places us on their DRC committee to have us review their plats. Anything that is existing

and hasn't been finalized and anything that will come through in the future gets sent to fire district for review and comment. That is a big step forward, we have had a lot of issues with soaring hawk, which is a 40-50 lot subdivision that only has one way in and one way out, which is a huge concern. They have had some others that have been proposed and we worked with them to resolve the issues. This is one of the big things that we have accomplished in the last year or so, working with their city attorney, council and mayor to have a say in emergency response. Not only does it affect fire response, it also affects EMS and law enforcement, being able to get people in and out of there and evacuated in an orderly and safe manner.

Councilman Farrell-If you had not been able to work it out what would we have done?

Chief Giles- We drafted letters to soaring hawk with our complaints. The developer of soaring hawk was also the mayor.

Fire Marshal Neerings- We sent letters of concern to the council and their contracted code official and we were told we are not an authority and that our concerns were a non-issue.

Councilman Crittenden- They are a part of the county and they are subject to our regulations.

Chief Giles- When the new mayor was elected. Our first meeting was standing room only and they were all in support of fire.

Fire Marshal Neerings- We have had overwhelming support from the community in hideout now.

Chief Giles- I protested the annexation, that is what brought this to a head.

Councilman Farrell- Are they still moving forward with the annexation?

Chief Giles- Part of their development is in the sphere of influence. They must own some on the east side of 40.

Councilman Wade- The map they gave me included everything from the dam to Quinns Junction. They have no tax base and they are in a bad way because they can't provide services. They have a police car but no police officer. They are in a bad spot because of the developer so they are trying to annex in.

Chief Giles- They are required to provide the services.

Councilman Crittenden- How much do they think that just by putting it in the boundary means that they are in

Councilman Wade- They had talked to a few property owners that said they might be interested. The day I was there was after a big storm and getting a fire truck in out of there would have been a disaster. I don't know what you can do to force your hand there, but they have to be under your jurisdiction right? They have to comply with the newer regulations.

Fire Marshal Neerings- They have been very supportive, we have received very little push back. There has been a lot of support for the issues we have raised including adopting Wildland Urban Interface code. Since Troy is not here, I want to add that we work with Heber City and they have adopted the wildland urban interface code, as of January they will be enforcing it. They were hoping to have an additional inspector hired on for that. We will meet with Wes Greenhall (head building official) and

Tony Kohler (Planning Commission) to implement it. Our big area of concern is valuation for structures and looking at vegetation.

Councilman Farrell- That would include Red Ledges?

Fire Marshal Neerings – Yes. Basically, with what Heber City is now, Red ledges is their Urban Interface zone.

Chief Giles- I would like to excuse Troy, he is at training right now.

Councilman Goode- How did DRC (MIDA) today go from the fire chief's perspective?

Chief Giles- We are making progress. I think they are aware of the needs and what they are proposing and what they are going to bring to us. They have been really supportive.

Councilman Goode- Did you have a chance to meet with Mike or Berry to discuss they state auditors' report?

Chief Giles- I don't know what that is about

Barry Hallows- No real connection with fire, it's a non-issue for fire. The way the utility bill was set up they needed the county's exemption on the gas bill. The gas bill is set up as one big account, Jordanelle is the only one the county doesn't own.

Councilman Goode- Can you coordinate with dominion and get off the county gas bill?

Councilman Nelson- Are we providing any ambulance service for the biathlon?

Clair Provost – Yes, the 14<sup>th</sup> through the 17<sup>th</sup>, there will be Drs and nurses and we will be on site in case of a transport.

Councilman Farrell- Will they have a facility/trailer there?

Clair Provost- They will be using the basement/lower room of soldier hollow.

**A motion was made by Councilman Goode to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nelson and the motion passed all in favor.**