

**Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday March 12, 2019**

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

**Those in Attendance:**

Spencer Park

Jeff Wade

Steve Farrell

Marilyn Crittenden excused

Kendall Crittenden excused

Danny Goode

Mark Nelson

Chief Ernie Giles

BC Jason Provost Excused

BC Gary Sessions

BC Ben Fitzgerald Excused

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings

Fire Warden Troy Morgan

Merry Duggin

Items of Business to address:

**Minutes**

The minutes of the February 12, 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 February 12, 2019 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nelson and the motion passed all in favor.**

**Warrants**

The listing of warrants totaled \$652,294.78. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Councilman Farrell- It looks like the big items are the new trucks, right? One truck is \$380k right?

Chief Giles- Yes and that is the cost unequipped. There is also the yearly insurance premium that is a large one. It is about \$25k per year.

Councilman Nelson- What will the new truck be after it gets equipped?

Chief Giles- \$75k to \$80k

Councilman Goode- What is going on with Ballard Spahr?

Chief Giles – They have had to write closing arguments and do some things to wrap up the case

Councilman Goode- Are we done with all outstanding lawsuits now? And are we up to date or do we owe them still? Do we have a payment plan with them?

Chief Giles- We are up to date and we pay the bills as we get them, no payment plan. You will also see legal from Joe Tesch to set up the “Friends of Heber Valley Fire Department” nonprofit. We are just waiting for a tax statement for the completion of the set-up of that nonprofit. Angie Morris is doing the state work for us.

Councilman Goode- This is a very smart move, everyone is playing checkers and you are playing chess.

Chief Giles- I won't need to answer to the audit every year, it will go in the bank as “doing business as Wasatch County Fire”.

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

#### **Chief report**

Chief Giles- I need an approval or your thoughts on the mission statement. We never made a motion to accept it. I haven't heard that anyone wants to add anything to it. We will get a plaque and get it mounted.

Councilman Farrell- I think it is good very good.

**A motion was made by Councilman Goode to accept Wasatch County Fire Districts Mission statement and core values as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade and the motion passed all in favor.**

Chief Giles- The auditor's letter that was passed out is an informational letter.

Councilman Farrell- When was the last time we put and RFP out for the auditor services?

Chief Giles- 3 years, our contract is for 5 years so we can send out an RFP at the end of it. Another thing is I will be going to pick the new truck next week. The truck is in Florida. I will be out all of next week to get that. That is all I have unless there are questions.

### **Fire Marshal Report**

Fire Marshal Neerings- Just a follow up from last month, over the last month we have been working with Hideout Town and we have received 6 plats to review. A lot of them are quite a way through the process and have been building per their fire officials code. We have been meeting with developers to get a phasing plan with them as well as working on getting a secondary access. We have also been working on building our relationship with Charleston, they have readjusted 300 south by the transfer station and there is about a 60,000 square foot building there. We have been working with Brian Priest, they have some pretty significant water flow issues. The best we can flow is 13,000-16,000 GPM which is right on the edge. We have been working with building code and fire code to install some firewalls so we can keep it to a manageable level. We have also been working with Midway Cities building department and we are going to be reviewing all of their building permits. The forward movement we have made is: working better with Charleston, reviewing all County, Heber City and Midway City permits and also seeing all the incoming plats for Hideout. Other than that, it is business as usual.

Councilman Farrell- Are you going to do the improvements in hideout?

Fire Marshal Neerings- Yes, we are working with them, not every plat that comes through is 100% fire code compliant. In some instances, they are 12 million to 30 million into design and infrastructure and we don't want to bring a grinding halt to their progress. We are doing a balancing act without causing too much of a financial issue. That is why we are working on the phasing and proposing different ways to interconnect the subdivisions to use current secondary access. Trying to do a balancing act without causing too much of a financial issue with what has already been done in Hideout up to this point.

Councilman Farrell- We could set an awful precedent there by allowing them to do things that aren't allowed in the rest of the County.

Fire Marshal Neerings - Agreed. The Chief and I meet regularly about what we are allowing. Where we are right now with the significant investment that has already been made and not being caught up front anything from here forward that goes through will comply to what is required throughout the rest of the county. The only other option would be to shut down anything that has been approved. Some of them have letters from the previous designated fire code official.

Councilman Farrell- Make sure those letters are documented.

Fire Marshal Neerings – Absolutely. Anything we send goes to their attorney, administrator, mayor, legal and their developers. The parameters are set forth very clearly that they are being granted 31-a little over 40 single family units on a single access. It is well specified that it is because we are coming in in the middle of the process and anything from here out will need to be to fire code.

### **Fire Warden Report**

Fire Warden Morgan- Ernie wanted me to come up. I spoke about the possible funding for the fuel break in Midway. The funding has been secured, I don't know a lot of detail on it yet and I haven't seen the total dollar figures. The plan is to go from the visitor center to cascade springs rd with a shaded fuel break that would incorporate some sort of bike trail through the state parks and the state parks would maintain it. As soon as I get all of the details, I will report on that further.

Councilman Nelson- What year?

Fire Warden Morgan – Typically the grants give 5-7 years to get the project done. We will probably get started this summer once the funding has been secured.

Councilman Farrell- Do you have a route yet?

Fire Warden Morgan – No, one of the first things we would need to do is get a survey out there. We did it all in the state park so we didn't have to go to every individual landowner and get their permission, and if we do it with the state parks and a bike trail, that will be a way to keep it maintained.

Councilman Nelson- What does a fuel break look like? How wide?

Fire Warden Morgan -We will do a shaded fuel break, so we don't have to cut the mountain and have a nasty scar. Depending on vegetation and topography, it can range from 20 feet wide to 40 feet wide in some areas. We would clear out portions. It will basically be to slow the progression of the fire and give the firemen a good area to engage the fire. It won't necessarily stop a fire, but it will give us a good area to engage and fight the fire.

Councilman Nelson – In Lime Canyon and up above Alpenhauf where all the cabins are will it be specifically engineered to save those?

Fire Warden Morgan - That is the hope. We have also talked about putting gates in at every one of those communities, so we have access. These were the plans that were put into the grant. We have applied for this grant for 3 years now. This survey will tell us a lot once we get boots on the ground and start working on the details.

Councilman Farrell- How big is the grant?

Fire Warden Morgan – I don't know I am still waiting to hear the dollar figures. I will report more once we get details.

Councilman Farrell- Is the State Park involved with the grant?

Fire Warden Morgan – She was going to put in two years ago to do the survey and she said she never got it done. We were going to pull away from it because she wasn't pursuing it. Then we found out that the funding had become available and decided that it was not a project we wanted to walk away from.

Councilman Parks- So the bike trail would be wide enough that you could drive on it.

Fire Warden Morgan - That's the plan. To be able to at least put a side by side or a type 6 engine (the fast attack trucks the size of a pickup)

Councilman Nelson- Is the existing Deer Creek trail one that you can drive on?

Fire Warden Morgan – Yes, we can drive on the one that goes around the lake. We have our spring fire management meeting in April, and we will have our weather and fire outlooks for the upcoming season. In the May fireboard meeting I should be able to report on what we can expect for the summer.

Councilman Parks- Do you know how bad it flooded out in Strawberry River area yet?

Fire Warden Morgan - Not sure but there is a lot of snow. I can't imagine being able to get in there. In that burn scar area it will be a mess.

Councilman Farrell- Merry do you have anything from the advisory board?

Merry Duggin- I stepped down as chair and will now be serving as the vice chair. Dennis Goudy will be the new chair for the next year. Tomorrow we will have the EMS/ Fire presentation.

Councilman Farrell- We appreciate what you do. Clair do you have anything from ems?

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