

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday April 9, 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

Kendall Crittenden excused

Danny Goode Excused

Mark Nelson Excused

Chief Ernie Giles

BC Jason Provost

BC Gary Sessions Excused

BC Ben Fitzgerald Excused

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings

Fire Warden Troy Morgan

Items of Business to address:

Minutes

The minutes of the March 12, 2019 board meeting were presented to the board for their review and approval.

A motion was made by Councilman Park to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2019 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade and the motion passed all in favor.

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$130,583.82. 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 Wade and the motion passed all in favor.

Chief report

Chief Giles- The new fire truck is in SLC getting service work done and we should have it in our possession within the week. We will start putting equipment on it.

Councilman Farrell- What type of service work is there needed on a new truck?

Chief Giles- They are putting the draft hose on and a siren came off on the drive home, nothing major. It will probably take us about a month to get it equipped.

Councilman Farrell- That is all covered in the purchase price of the truck.

Councilman Parks- Where do you take it, is there somewhere here?

Chief Giles- Superior Equipment, they are who we purchased it through. We are working on the fire/ems sub committee and working through some of those items.

Fire Marshal Report

Fire Marshal Neerings- We are working with Heber and implementing the wildland code. They adopted the code last July and delayed the onset of implementation until the beginning of this year. We met with Wes and Tony Kohler 2 weeks ago and went over the enforcement of the code. We modeled it after what we did with the county. Wes and the Heber building department will be over the structure as far as construction. Troy is now on the Heber permit site and able to review permits for their defensible space. A big concern area and high dollar value area (lake creek) any fire off of lake creek road could extensive dollar amount of damage. The big concern with implementing it was that a big selling point for their lots are the trees, we explained that it is a lot easier to do mitigation now then to try and recover from a large fire. They will work with the homeowners and potential buyers to educate them.

Councilman Farrell- Is Red Ledges the only subdivision in the city that is in the urban interface area?

Fire Marshal Neerings – Yes. We have potential for more, depending on what they do with the North Village.

Councilman Farrell- Do we have any ongoing authority to enforce the landscaping to make them cut trees back? At one time we were going to make them maintain the defensible space.

Fire Marshal Neerings - From this point forward we are working on agreements with the developments saying that defensible space needs to be maintained. Where it is an adopted code, it does say that it needs to be maintained. We have some footing to stand on, however we don't want to be the ones to go and start cutting down trees. There will be an education and it will be a portion of law that they need to maintain.

Councilman Farrell- It will give them a notice that they are in violation correct?

Fire Marshal Neerings – Correct. It is just like we do with business licenses; we work with them as much as we can. Up to this point we haven't shut anyone down or levied fines, it is a possibility though. It is an option on the table, but it is the very the last option.

Fire Warden Report

Fire Warden Morgan- Last month I reported that we secured the funding for the fire break. The funding got pulled and is no longer available. That is on hold for now and I apologize for the misinformation.

Councilwoman Marilyn- What was it for?

Fire Warden Morgan – It was for a fuel break that would have gone from the state park to Cascade Springs. Next week I will be at the Spring Fire Management meetings in Brigham City, there they will give us reports and predictive services. So next fire board meeting I should have a report on what our three-month outlook is going to be. We will have a fire coordination meeting on May 6th and an open house meeting on May 9th where we will bring in forest service and if you guys would like to come, we would love to have you there. The May 9th meeting will be at the senior citizen center at 6PM. We will be inviting all of the HOA's and hopefully we will get a good turn-out, as we will be talking about defensible space and mitigation work. The academy will bring up their SIM table and run simulations.

Councilman Farrell- Are you meeting with all the HOA's?

Fire Warden Morgan - It is tough because they change so much. Every so often they contact me, but I haven't been able to contact as many as I would like. We are working on making an updated list. I talked to Mr. Davis yesterday and we discussed the possibility where these HOA's registered with the county and kept their information updated so if there was a problem, we could contact them. I have talked with Doug Smith and he has a guy that deals with the HOA's on the building permit side and he will send me a list of all the contacts he has. A lot of the HOA's aren't active. Some of the bigger ones like Timberlakes we meet with.

Councilman Farrell- Some of the ones in Midway are a concern like Oakhaven, etc...

Fire Warden Morgan – Yes and your ingress/egress is a huge issue there as well. K&J is the one going up Snake Creek, they don't have an HOA board anymore but they have a waterboard.

Councilman Farrell- I think it is the same way with Swiss Mountain and Oakhaven.

A motion was made by Councilman Wade to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Crittenden and the motion passed all in favor.