

**Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday August 13, 2019**

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

**Those in Attendance:**

Spencer Park

Jeff Wade Excused

Steve Farrell

Marilyn Crittenden

Kendall Crittenden

Danny Goode Excused

Mark Nelson

Chief Ernie Giles Excused

BC Jason Provost

BC Gary Sessions

BC Ben Fitzgerald

Fire Marshal Clint Neerings

Fire Warden Troy Morgan

EMS Director Clair Provost

Merry Duggin

Gary Kilgore

Dennis Goudy

Items of Business to address:

**Minutes**

**A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2019 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nelson and the motion passed all in favor.**

**Warrants**

The listing of warrants totaled \$201,163.98. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

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

**Chief report**

BC Jason Provost - I am standing in for Chief Giles today. Did everyone get a chance to go over the second quarter financials? You should have all received those.

Councilman Farrell- Is there anything out of ordinary on those Jason?

BC Jason Provost – One outstanding item was on the apparatus. That was part of the purchase of the new apparatus that we picked up and stocking that.

Councilman Farrell- That is complete now?

BC Jason Provost- Yes, it is in service.

**A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve the second quarter financials. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nelson and the motion passed all in favor.**

Councilman Nelson- Does Kierstan Smith prepare these?

BC Jason Provost - Yes

BC Jason Provost - We are looking at a truck that Park City is selling, it is a 2005 50-foot Quinn that he is looking at purchasing. At the same time, we are looking at putting 4 of our current vehicles up for auction. The vehicles we would like to put up for auction are: 08 Chevy, 05 Dodge, 81 Mac Platform (that does not have a pump in it) and a 71 Ford.

Councilman Farrell - What is the 71 Ford?

BC Jason Provost – It is a utility truck with no pump or structure equipment, just has hazmat supplies.

Councilman Farrell - How will you put them up for surplus?

BC Jason Provost – Same as last ones, we would advertise them and let everyone look at them.

Councilman Crittenden- Will you do a low bid or sealed bid?

BC Jason Provost - Sealed bid

Councilman Farrell - What is this one you want to buy?

BC Jason Provost – It is a 50-foot ladder truck with a pump on it, it has a lot of foam capabilities on it already. They are asking \$40k for that truck, we have gone over it with a fine-tooth comb and there are some things that need to be replaced. The chief was going to negotiate that price with them.

Councilman Farrell - How does this compare to the ladder truck that we just purchased?

BC Jason Provost -The ladder truck we just purchased was 107-foot and a little over 1 million dollars. If we could get the equipment and get it put on this other ladder truck, we could use it for a period of time until we can get caught up on the fire districts maintenance plan. It would buy us a little bit of time, and when we are able to buy another truck, we can take all the equipment off of the old truck and use it on the new truck.

Councilman Farrell - How many ladder trucks do we have in the fleet right now?

BC Jason Provost -We currently have 2 ladder trucks. The new 107-foot truck and a 75-foot truck that is housed in Heber. We do have a platform truck that is 75-foot, it has no pump and bad hydraulics, it is not something that we feel comfortable putting in service and that is why we are putting it up for auction.

Councilman Crittenden – Is there a reason why is Park City getting rid of the truck?

BC Jason Provost – Park City has the ability in their maintenance plan to rotate trucks more often than we do, so they don't incur the costs of getting deep into the truck's maintenance.

Councilman Farrell -You said it is a 2006?

BC Jason Provost – It is a 2005.

Councilman Farrell- I know they don't measure the fire trucks by mileage, but hours, right?

BC Jason Provost-The truck has a little over 100,000 miles on it, their mechanic has gone through it and done quite a bit. There are some things that still need to be done but that is where we will negotiate with them.

Councilman Parks- That is a lot of miles for something that doesn't leave town, I thought the fire trucks would have around 30,000 miles when they went out.

BC Jason Provost - For every call a truck goes with the ambulance.

Councilman Farrell - Gary do you have a comment?

Gary Kilgore- I am a member of the advisory board and I worked at Park City for over 30 years. Wasatch does not have a recovery fund for apparatus, it is not figured into their budget like Park City's is. There are some insurance standards that will set the insurance rates for the county. These standards justify the need for the ladder, length of the ladder, how many pumps and how many gallons per minute you can deliver. This apparatus, in the short term, will help meet some of those standards, as well as some of the NFPA standards. The reason for the miles is, as long as EMS is short staffed a fire engine will need to go to help them and that is where the miles come from (Wasatch Fire is getting into the same boat with this). The reason they take two apparatus is because, if they are already on one call and another call comes out, they can head straight to the second call and don't have to go all the way back to the station to get another apparatus. The purchase of that apparatus from Park City would be a short-term fix, it accomplishes and meets some of the standards that the fire district has to meet. Price wise it is minimal, and it will help Wasatch Fire meet some of the national and federal standards required of them.

Councilman Farrell - What is the typical life for a vehicle like that?

Gary Kilgore- Park City does a 10 year turn over (regardless of mileage). In general, the entire fire service (including ambulance) is leaning towards diesels, which is a longer life span and is better for taxpayers. Park City only had 99 sq miles they take care of where Wasatch has a much larger area (1200 sq miles). Park City is not running as many miles as what Wasatch has to run, miles are important. I would recommend a 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspection, maybe have the county mechanic look it over. I am sure Ernie and the fire district would be more than happy to have that done.

Councilman Nelson - How often does a ladder truck go out on an EMS call?

BC Jason Provost – This is a little different than the typical ladder truck, it is a much shorter ladder truck (50 ft wheelbase) and it can get into tighter places than our current trucks. In this way it fills a niche that we don't currently have filled. A lot of places are being built up to the curbside, this ladders stance is a lot smaller than our other trucks and would be useful in those areas.

Councilwoman Crittenden- How often do ladder trucks go out right now?

BC Jason Provost – on medicals, not a lot. For structure fires they are out almost 100% of the time.

Councilwoman Crittenden - How many structure fires?

BC Jason Provost-I think it was close to 217 fires.

Fire Marshal Neerings- That is probably your total number of fires, actual structure fires are 15-30 per year. For bigger/taller structures ISO requires more ladder trucks, and more reserve engines. The more and more we build, like our last ISO review in 2015, we get ourselves into a deeper and deeper hole to dig out of to get a better ISO rating. It costs to get the apparatus, but it saves a lot of money on insurance, especially for commercial business buildings that are charged at 100% tax rate.

Gary Kilgore- This one has a pump on it, so it is a dual role. For the federal standards, it is not how many calls you run, it is what is built in your area and what you have available to handle those calls. It is not based on the amount of calls; it is based on probability. The ladder definitely helps with life safety as far as being able to rescue people.

Councilman Farrell - What is the projection on how long this vehicle will work for us?

BC Jason Provost -That is the million-dollar question. As far as the time gap, it saves the taxpayers a lot of money vs going to that million-dollar truck until we get things rolling. That 40k is a small bite to chew compared to the big jump in the time gap.

Councilman Parks- What would this truck cost new?

BC Jason Provost - a million (the big one was 1.4)

Councilwoman Crittenden - How many ladders do we have?

BC Jason Provost - 2

BC Ben Fitzgerald- in 2005 this was the biggest single axle ladder truck you could get at the time.

Councilwoman Crittenden - The reason we need this one, when we have two others is?

BC Jason Provost - We don't have a ladder truck at each of the 3 stations. We don't have the manpower to do multiple different things, we don't know if we will be needed on another medical or fire. That allows each station to be available.

Councilman Farrell – So, a vehicle like this would help our ISO rating?

BC Jason Provost- Yes

Councilman Crittenden- I like the idea of having a 3<sup>rd</sup> party look at it.

BC Jason Provost -Definitely. Is that something we can move forward with the councils blessing?

Councilman Farrell - Lets have a motion to authorize the district to get a 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspection on it as well as release the surplus equipment and get it advertised.

**A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to have a 3<sup>rd</sup> party inspection done on the proposed ladder truck for purchase as well as start the process to auction the surplus equipment. The motion was seconded by Councilman Parks and the motion passed all in favor.**

Councilman Crittenden - HLP has surplus equipment right now and they haven't gotten any bites on it

Councilwoman Crittenden – It will help with the ISO, what does that save us?

BC Jason Provost - We are at an ISO rating of 6 and we are trying to get down to a 4.

Councilwoman Crittenden - What does that save the county dollar wise?

BC Jason Provost - It saves money for the individuals and businesses of Wasatch County, as a whole, this doesn't save the fire district money at all.

Councilman Crittenden- The insurance companies look at the County ISO rating and base their numbers off of it.

Fire Marshal Neerings- Be careful to say it will save everyone in the County, because it varies with different insurance companies.

Councilman Farrell – I know someone in Timberlakes and when we built the station up there, the ISO rating changed, and it saved them \$2,000.00 a year in insurance fees.

BC Jason Provost - We hope you can all attend the sprinkler demonstration that we are putting on today. The advisory board has worked very hard to put this on for you. You all received the information via email.

Councilman Crittenden – It depends on how long the JSSD meeting goes.

BC Jason Provost - There has been some discussion amongst the homeowner's associations and we hope to have quit a few people.

Councilman Farrell- How long do you think it will go? Maybe until 7:30?

Councilman Crittenden - Are you burning right at 630?

Dennis Goudy- There will be a short presentation beforehand by the fire marshal from Draper City, the first burn should be just before 7. We are really putting this on for you guys, the council. I have been in the fire business for over 40 years now and I just barely realized that this trailer was available, it is a great resource.

Councilman Crittenden – I hope we get done in time. Where at the event center will it be?

BC Jason Provost -It is just right there in front by the grandstand/ticket booth. We are having a retirement party for Kent Hylton and Roger Ford and for their service. It will be at the midway station on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. We hope you can all attend.

### **Fire Marshal Report**

Fire Marshal Neerings- Business as usual, I will keep it short so you guys can get through all of your SSD meetings and make it to the Sprinkler Demonstration, things are progressing good and I have no real issues to bring up.

Councilman Crittenden- We have had a lucky season so far. The rain has helped.

Fire Marshal Neerings- Yes, we are halfway through it.

Councilman Parks- The rain we got a week or so ago probably really helped change the trajectory of the fire season didn't it?

Fire Marshal Neerings- It increases the growth; the rain is good but the lightning that comes with it is bad.

### **Fire Warden Report**

Fire Warden Morgan- Slow as far as wildfires, we did have a few last week. Yesterday we had 1/10 of an acre off of Southfield Rd and 1/10 of an acre lightning strike fire on Strawberry Knoll on the Duchesne border. Our friends in Fruitland were kind enough to go up on that one and help us out.

Councilman Farrell - Did you go on the tour of the dollar ridge fire last week?

Fire Warden Morgan - I did not, I found out about it and already had other obligations.

Councilwoman Crittenden - I did go, we couldn't make it up as far as we wanted to because of the mud flows.

Councilman Farrell – Could you get to Timber Canyon?

Councilwoman Crittenden – We just barely passed that.

Councilman Parks- They said the reseeding did quite a bit.

Councilwoman Crittenden- The seeding didn't stop the mud flows; they still have muddy water. They have mud flows 15 ft deep and the river has no certain path right now.

Councilman Parks- The brush probably needs to take off as well as the grass before things get better.

Gary Kilgore- I have seen where MIDA is proclaiming that they are going to add to the tax base.

Councilman Farrell -They will in 50 years after the tax incentive is over.

Gary Kilgore- The positive publicity that MIDA is getting out of that is harming Wasatch County, the funding is a concern with everything that needs to happen in the next 5-10 years. Word is getting out that they are helping with the tax base in the County.

Councilman Farrell - We can charge for municipal services and the fire district can charge a fee based on what it costs to protect that. Even though we don't collect taxes for MIDA, they still have to pay a fee.

Gary Kilgore- I just want to see that the public services in general, not just fire but sheriff etc.. get taken care of.

Merry Duggin- The municipal tax will pay for services. How about schools?

Councilman Farrell - Right now we will collect taxes on the property as it is. We will still collect property tax based on the current value. It won't increase. We collect the base taxes on it now. Anything that is there now, we will collect on, but as the value increases, they will collect that and keep it within MIDA.

Merry Duggin- Will they be paying permitting and impact fees?

Councilman Crittenden - We have been working on this for 10 years or more.

Councilman Farrell - It is a concern. The fire district does have a contract with MIDA to provide service and it is a paid for service.

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