

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday April 14, 2020

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

Danny Goode

Mark Nelson

Chief Ernie Giles

EMS Battalion Chief Clair Provost

Items of Business to address:

Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Wade to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2020 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden and the motion passed all in favor.

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$281,433.03 This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Chief Giles: We might have to add another check for the state. I believe it is due May 5th. We need to meet someone to sign the checks. Max with Jordanelle Special Service District said we could use his office to have them signed. Will that work for any of you?

Councilman Nielson: Max did talk to me and that will work. I plan on meeting there at 9:00 am tomorrow and sign.

Councilman Wade: He also talked to me to. I have a few things I need to sign for twin creeks for I will be there to sign those.

Chief Ernie Giles: On the warrant list needs to be signed by 4 people. What will work best to get it signed? Can I have it signed by the people signing the checks and then bring it around to 2 more of you?

Councilman Farrell: That will probably be the best way to do it.

Councilman Crittenden: Rather than you bring just the fire one, we should have all the special service districts papers put together to have them all signed. I can sign them if someone wants to bring them by or I can meet someone somewhere.

Councilman Goode: On some of the stuff I had to sign for the county, like plats and ordinances, I had them put it in my box at the county building.

Chief Giles: This warrant that I need added for the State of Utah totaled \$8,709.19.

The listing of warrants with the addition totaled \$290,142.22 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 Nelson and the motion passed all in favor.

Chief report

Chief Giles: I do not have anything major to report. I am waiting on an appraisal. I do not know if any of you had an opportunity to drive out there and look at the property.

Councilman Crittenden: Hey Ernie, I drove by there and I wondered there's that one, and then there's a big piece of property across the road out from the hospital. Who owns that?

Chief Giles: Developers own that. I cannot remember the name. It's part of a subdivision that own part of that.

Councilman Crittenden: I know intermountain owns a piece out there. I don't know exactly where it is.

Chief Giles: I think it is part of a subdivision.

Councilman Crittenden: I think it's an ideal location. Like you said, it has great access and I think it is a good area.

Chief Giles: I think it is a good spot. Other than that, if you don't have any questions that's all I have.

Councilwoman Crittenden: How are things with your department and with this coronavirus?

Chief Giles: Good. We have had several exposures. We had a crew quarantined just for safety until we had the results back. After that we had 2 others that were tested. Overall, we are pretty lucky for health we have had. We have transferred people who have tested positive. Clair might have something that he would like to add.

BC Clair: It has been a pretty interesting period of time for these guys. If you can imagine every time the pager goes off, you wonder what the calls going to be. I will tell you; I want to say thanks to our dispatchers. The State of Utah has had us encourage people to self-transport if they have Covid symptoms. The Caption of Battalion Chief will call the patient and talk to them about their situation and request if they can, to self-transport or have a family member help. Often that has been the case and has been a huge weight lifted off our shoulders. Every time they go out, they must put on full PPE, no

matter what the call. If in fact it is a covid related call, they then have additional PPE they must put on. Thank the good lord we have not had any who have tested positive that have been in isolation. Two employees came and talked to me this morning and expressed concern not for themselves but for their families. It is a worry for them and for us. We appreciate the support. We appreciate what you have done to help us get the equipment we need to do our job. Our guys understand the risk they have signed up for. We have had several conversations with some physicians and our medical control doctor. The state has changed the way we do CPR. In the past we have had conversations with the care centers in our community, involving the doctors and health department. We were trying to mitigate the number of calls that come out of the centers. Its hard to predict. Saturday these guys worked nonstop. There were 5 covid related out of 13 calls. Yesterday and today have been relatively low. I spoke with Summit County fire district. They have 6 full time stations over there and for the week prior they only had 3 calls a day for all full-time stations. Some people I think are afraid to ride in the ambulance. Chief made a good point; it is a huge process to decontaminate the ambulance. Its wearing on the guys and gals but they have been doing a fantastic job and our hats are off to them. That call comes out and they go, it does not matter what the call is. I do not mean to rattle on, but we had a fire related call. The guys are anticipating a fire alarm. Dispatch reminded them to check their call comments and they did. They were going to place that had been flagged for covid. Jared and Jeremy have been huge in helping us. I do not know if that answered your questions but thank you for your support.

Councilwomen Crittenden: So, with your call volume, do you think it has gone up, stayed the same, or less volume? I know the stress is more I am just trying to get a gauge of what we are seeing.

BC Clair: That is a good question because January, February, and March our call volume was up from last year. It was up considerably; I am going to say about 20%. April, we will not know yet. But fortunately, the last couple of days it has been slow. But yes, the first quarter was up about 20%.

Councilwomen Crittenden: I was just curious if you were seeing something unusual.

BC Clair: It is a mix of things. I will tell you meeting with care facilities and emergency room physicians, what they are suggesting want to have conversation with the facility before the patient is transported. The reason being, if it is a covid related patient that our hospital cannot care for its easier to transport them to UVU. What happens is we transfer them to Heber and then an hour later we receive a call to transfer them to another hospital. This would cause us to use twice the PPE and cleaning the ambulances. We want to make sure we use the best of our resources and time.

Councilwomen Crittenden: Thank you for everything you guys are doing. Please make sure your guys know that.

Councilman Farrell: Does anyone have anything else that needs to be discussed?

A Motion was made by Councilwomen Crittenden to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Councilman Wade. The motion passed all in favor.