

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday May 12, 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

Many advisory board members

Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Wade to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2020 fire board meeting. The motion was made by Councilman Nelson seconded by Councilman Crittenden and the motion passed all in favor.

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$235,111.85 This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Councilman Crittenden: I am looking at this section on ambulance supplies, are you finding during the covid that supplies are more expensive or are they staying the same through your suppliers?

Chief Giles: They are up a little. The hardest thing is getting them. We have been very fortunate working through our health department to get stuff. Originally it was getting a little tough. But it has been getting better. Clair could probably speak better for it than myself. We have a pretty good supply right now.

Councilman Farrell: I have a question on the credit card bill for Wells Fargo. There is an expense in the amount of \$595.00 for Medicare enrollment, what is that?

Chief Giles: That's when we had to change the license over from the county to district. We actually had to send that into our billing company. I think we are getting very close getting things moved over to the district.

BC Provost: Part of that problem to was the fact that we switched billing companies in august. The billing company worked to change our name to Wasatch County and then when we merged to totally had to redo that again under the fire districts name. Dealing with them is huge, as far as getting this accomplished. That how that all came about.

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

Chief report

Chief Giles: Just a couple of things. I don't know if all of you are aware, but we have had 4 starts around Interlaken. We are on one today. It is the largest of the four and has went to a type 3 about 30 minutes ago. Troy is going to be the trainee under the type 3 to finish his task book and Ryan Lafontaine is going to be our area supervisor. I would like to talk more about the investigation in a closed session. As far as the other fires, we were able to jump on them. Today has been pretty tough with the winds. I was on scene 30 minutes before this meeting on the north side where you think would be out of the wind, but the wind blew hard enough it blew my hat off. Its drove it down through that and now it's actually spot firing on the south exposures on the next draw. It's not common this early in the season to have this, but all 4 have been human caused.

Councilman Farrell: Is there any home danger.

Chief Giles: We do have structure protection on the upper ones and tOhey are working on a CAT line. It's a pretty decent line between the fire and the homes. That northeast section was the closest it came to. It looks like the have evacuated 12 homes along with that for safety and we have a lock down on Interlaken road unless there's an emergency for a citizen. We are actually staging a night camp. We have 2 hand crews at the midway elementary. They will not be allowed to use any of the facilities other than the lawn. It's been quiet the fire with that wind and this his early in the season. We are just doing the covid thing. As you know we have had several cases. The crew has been pretty good at keeping safe and clean.

Councilwoman Marilyn: It is climbing the mountain pretty fast right now.

Chief Giles: They said it would hit that south face Marilyn. There is one more ridge before it hits Wilsons Peak. We are hoping night fall it will die down. The problem is no aircraft is available right now.

Councilman Farrell: Is it that dry that its burning that fast.

Chief Giles: It is Steve. What's burning up there is not the sage, it's the old dry oak that's causing these flames. They are anywhere form 25-35 ft flame lengths that I witnessed. Its honestly not a bad thing to clean some of that up.

Councilman Steve: Anything else Chief?

Councilwoman Marilyn: I would like to ask a question for you and Clair to understand what you have seen since covid as far as numbers or differences, could you give us an idea of what you have seen?

Chief Giles: Actually, it's a great question Marilyn. You would think with everyone being home and being around family that the call volume would be up but it's just the opposite. It's not dropped off a lot but I was expecting with this covid a huge increase. Literally it has dropped down. With all the kids at home I thought it would rise but it has not.

Councilwoman Marilyn: Well that's a good thing to hear.

Councilman Farrell: If we have no other questions we will go to the financial update.

Chief Giles: Okay, I am going to have Kierstan Smith, CPA, present this for us.

Kierstan Smith: Can you see the screen Dustin?

Dustin Grabau: Yes

Kierstan Smith: I'm sorry you didn't get the highlight session. Going forward I will present you with this information just to make it easier. This first account here that I want to highlight is the reserve account that we established for operating reserve that we adopted the policy for. We funded it initially just with \$1,000.00. The amount that we are going to calculate for December 31, 2019, but I do not do that until I have final numbers from the audit report. I probably won't have those numbers until the end of this week or the first part of next week. It on hold for the moment but we will present those next board meeting. Just understand the account is set up and established and we will move forward with it next board meeting. There's not really significant changes on the balance sheet for the general fund. I am going to talk more about the revenues. With property taxes, of course it looks really bad because we are 25% through the year. But our property tax money that comes in January and February actually gets pulled back into the prior year. The district has received money, but the money is recognized in 2019. So this will look bare until we get close to the end of the year when we receive tax revenue coming in November or December. The penalties and interest look really high and you will notice we are over \$1,475 over budget. This was a check that was received. It came through Wasatch County, but it was actually from the state for assessments from the DMV. So, it was an unexpected fund. The EMS Reimbursements is the money the county was contributing to the district for this year because of the merger. A bunch of it was funded up front. We do have cash in the general fund to operate until the tax revenues come in at the end of the year. On the expense side of things. Our liability insurance is a little bit higher than what we budgeted. We had budgeted for a 17% increase. The increase is closer to 29% so we are slightly over budget on that. We also see we are a little bit higher in the ambulance expense and clothing/uniforms. Clothing/Uniforms you had new crews hired, I think it was 6 new people that needed uniforms. A lot of this is front loading and will even out throughout the year. Same with the ambulance expenses, you have some front loading and it will probably even out throughout the year. We will just keep an eye on it. In our capital projects fund, now I have to apologize, in your packet I noticed last night even though the total is right on your statement the impact fee account does not show on yours. I was able to get into caselle last night and resolve the problem as to why it was not showing this account. So this is the correct statement. This was the new PTF account that was set up for the collection of impact fees. So far, we have transferred in \$72,448. I will show you on the next page that we have received about \$74,000 there are still some that need transferred over. As money comes in Kristen transfer the

money over. Overall, you do have in your capital projects fund as of the end of March, \$1.1 million. Really that is it so far this year. It has been quiet. Our numbers are staying really well in budget for the general fund. So its just whatever questions you guys have.

Councilman Farrell: Any questions for Kierstan? Seeing none I entertain a motion to approve the quarterly report.

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve the quarterly report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade and the motion passed all in favor

Councilman Farrell: Is there anything else we need to discuss tonight?

Chief Giles: We have the discussion to revise the motion to include advisory board members.

Councilman Farrell: Okay, we had the motion to restructuring of the fire district and Spencer, Marylin, and Kendall were on it. We suggested that we had members of the advisory board to that motion. I think we need to have that motion modified to state that members from the advisory board need to be added

Councilman Crittenden: So Steve the idea is to add 2 members of advisory board to the board?

Councilman Farrell: Yes

Councilman Crittenden: I would make that motion.

Councilwoman Crittenden: I would second that

Gary Kilgore: Before you vote on this. This is Gary Kilgore. Do we have the direction to be taken on that board?

Councilwoman Crittenden: What do you mean by that?

Gary Kilgore: What are we supposed to do?

Councilman Farrell: The committee, do you have a plan mapped out?

Councilman Parks: We haven't been able to meet obviously for a month or two. I'm hoping we can in the next week or two if we can get a large room and sit on all corners. I think the direction of that motion was to look at combing the districts, reorganizing it with the governor's office to reflect what its actually going to be in the future and to look at bylaws and staffing.

Gary Kilgore: Correct me if I am wrong spencer, but to looking at options for organizational makeup in the future and going forth.

Spencer: I believe that was the motion, yes.

Gary: Okay, I was just wondering because there are quite a few ideas and numerous different ways and I was wondering if we are entertaining those ideas to look at options.

Spencer: I believe we are, yes.

Gary Kilgore: Can Gil hear us? He was the other one that has been asked to do this.

Dustin Grabau: Gil can hear us, would you like me to unmute him Steve:

Councilman Farrell: Yes

Dustin Grabau: Gil you should be able to unmute yourself now.

Gil Rodriguez: I caught all of that.

Councilman Farrell: So the two we are adding from advisory board are Gil and Gary.

Chief Giles: That's correct.

Councilman Farrell: Okay, we have a motion and a second to go ahead and do this unless there are more comments or questions.

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve adding two advisory board members to the board. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Crittenden and the motion passed all in favor

Councilman Parks: Can we go ahead and get your guys contact information? I will talk to Marilyn and see if there a large room we can meet somewhere and continue this conversation.

Gary Kilgore: We will have Kristen send it to you guys.

Councilman Parks: Perfect, Thanks Kristen.

Councilman Crittenden: Spencer, we probably have enough room to meet in our council chambers at the county building. I think that room would work to discuss.

Councilman Parks: I think that would work and if not we could even try the seniors center.

Councilman Farrell: Ernie, would you like to go into closed session:

Chief Giles: Yes, I would like to talk about the fire and the purchase.

Councilman Farrell: Do we have a motion to go into closed session from the board?

Councilwoman Crittenden: I will make a motion.

Councilman Crittenden: Question on the motion, the land purchase is one of the reasons which is fine. What do we do the fire under?

Chief Giles: Litigation

Councilman Crittenden: Did you get a second Steve?

Councilman Farrell: No not unless that's what your talking about.

Councilman Crittenden: Yes I'll make a second.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Crittenden to move into closed session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden and the motion passed all in favor