

## Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday July 14, 2020

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

### Those in Attendance:

Jeff Wade

Marilyn Crittenden

Steve Farrell

Kendall Crittenden

Mark Nelson

Chief Ernie Giles

EMS Battalion Chief Clair Provost

Dustin Grabau

### Minutes

**A motion was made by Councilman Nelson to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2020 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden and the motion passed all in favor.**

### Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$1,260,157.28. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Councilman Farrell: Is there any questions on the warrants? Chief, is there anything we need to pay attention to that is unusual?

Chief Giles: There was a couple of things that were big. We did get the property tired up and the money transferred. It was for a total of \$900,000.00 that came out of our capital facilities, our impact fees and our PPIF check account. The truck bed was on there. It was around \$17,000.00.

Councilman Farrell: Any questions on the warrants?

Dustin Grabau: I think we just lost connection with Ernie and Clair, but they are rejoining.

**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**

## Chiefs Report

Resolution 20-03 Tier II

Councilman Farrell: We pass a resolution once a year to do this, is that correct Ernie?

Chief Giles: Yes, that is correct. This is a different one. Some of you may have been around but they split the retirement systems up so there is a Tier I and a Tier II. The legislative changed Tier II bringing Tier II closer to what Tier I is. If you remember back 5-6 years ago, they extended firefighters years from 20 to 25 years and the non-contributory people to 35. At that time Tier I was 50% of what you would retire at. Tier II they dropped it down to I think 37%. So, what happened is nobody could get firefighters or school teachers or anybody to work. I don't want to take too much time on it but that is kind of what it is in a nutshell. A year ago they changed it. They are trying to get this back closer to the 50%. That is what this 2.27 resolution is to deal with. I will answer any questions if I can.

Councilman Farrell: This ordinance/resolution is from the state retirement system. Every fire district and law enforcement in the state is doing the same thing.

Chief Giles: Yes, so this is for the Tier II program. We couldn't get anyone hired and it was tough. This is bringing it back closer to Tier I.

Councilwoman Crittenden: Clarification, am I to understand this is Statewide?

Chief Giles: Yes, it is.

Councilwoman Crittenden: So this ordinance is being passed in all counties?

Chief Giles: Yes, the ones that approve it. You do have the right to turn it down. I would encourage that you don't. If you look at what these firefighters start at, I mean roughly \$14.50 an hour. Hourly wise they are not paid high. I would encourage every fire district, school districts, anybody to approve it.

Councilman Crittenden: Is there an age they must retire at or is it how many years of service?

Chief Giles: Just years of service. So if you are in Tier I it's a 20 year. I mean you could work 30 if you would like. With Tier II it's 25 years or age 65. At 65 I think you can pull in at any time. At least I think that is the numbers, do not quote me.

Councilman Farrell: I think that's right.

Councilman Crittenden: Do you have to retire at the age of 65?

Chief Giles: I didn't hear that Marilyn, what was the question?

Councilman Crittenden: Do you have to retire at the age of 65?

Chief Giles: No. Back in the day when it was in volunteer sector under suppression it was more of a gentleman's agreement. That's why I think it is very important to get an assistant in here or something for somebody to fill these shoes. It's like I have told you before, my days are getting numbered. I'm down to months.

Councilman Crittenden: We are working on that Ernie.

Chief Giles: Are there any updates on that?

Councilman Crittenden: We have met but we don't have any updates. We have met with the group from the advisory board. We understand we need to get something to move forward once you reach that magic age.

Councilwomen Crittenden: What is that magic age?

Chief Giles: Good question. I'm thinking right now 10 to 12 months. With this corona going on I don't know where we will be. So if there is no more questions, I would highly recommend we get this back to them. I believe there is 15 guys we hired in the last 7 years that falls under this.

Councilman Crittenden: Ernie is this resolution in our packet is a little confusing to me. It says Wasatch County Fire District Resolution 20-03. But the bottom line says by the board of county commissioners.

Chief Giles: The county council is the ones that will probably have to sign it.

Councilman Crittenden: Well its got the Board Chairman of the fire district which would be Steve and the clerk. It says Board of County Commissioners, but it should say County Council. Do we need to do this in County Council meeting or Fire Board meeting? Do you see what I'm saying?

Chief Giles: I think if the fire board approves it, then we will have to take it to County Council and have them approve it.

**A Motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve resolution 20-03 to pass it onto the County Council for their approval. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nelson and the motion passed all in favor.**

Chief Giles: Question, does Jared have this on the agenda for county council?

Dustin Grabau: I am unsure

Chief Giles: If he has to have it done it would be easier to do them at the same time. Steve, could you get this on the agenda?

Councilman Farrell: Lets plan on meeting for August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Chief Giles: I might be tied up but there is plenty of people that can help me.

Councilman Farrell: Anything else on the Chief's Report? Chief could you update us on the property?

Chief Giles: Its been quiet an ordeal. Especially e-signing. Going down the road in the future this is the best location. We just wired the money yesterday. I have had to have Steve come in twice to wire it since I am not on it. Hopefully, all of you have had a chance to look at it. If there was a way possible what I would really like to do if it fits into the criteria with the CARES money is to put utilities and build this building for immunization on this site. If we can do that, I don't need it all, but if we could see if we could get some of this money for an immunization site. I'm sure Dustin could chime in on this.

Councilman Crittenden: You were trying to get that site cleared off so we can see it better.

Chief Giles: Hopefully we can find out a little more. I know we reached out towards the end of last week. Public works has been awesome to work with. We appreciate them helping out.

BC Clair Provost: Actually, what that would do for us is it would provide a place for the county to do a mass immunization. It would allow for a place to store PPE. It would also allow us in the off season to use it as a storage place. It would help improve that site. It would be a perfect site for a mass immunization which we talked about with the health department. Like the Chief said, Dustin you would probably know more about it. We talked a little more this morning but It would sure be a good fit.

Dustin Grabau: Jeremy submitted a question to the governor's office to see if they would be willing to weigh in on our ability to use care funds for this purpose. One concern I have would be the cares money was only approved for things in this calendar year. I think it falls in a potential gray area.

Chief Giles: Thanks Dustin. I'm like Clair I think it would be a great location. I was under the impression that it has to be for covid. Who knows how long this covid thing will last. We may have this thing several years to come. A mass immunization place would be awesome. Just as you go through that try to keep us in mind. Does anyone have any further questions?

Councilman Farrell: Anything from the advisory board for us?

Chief Giles: They would like to know what's going on and how to help you. They are here and willing to help do what you want them to do. I have several with me today. If you want to reach out and have them bring ideas or need help with a job description, whatever they can do to help.

Councilman Farrell: Any other issues we need to talk about today?

**A motion was made by Councilman Nelson to adjourn, the motion was seconded by Councilman Wade the motion passed all in favor.**