

## Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday August 11, 2020

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

### Those in Attendance:

Jeff Wade

Spencer Park

Marilyn Crittenden

Steve Farrell

Kendall Crittenden

Danny Goode

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 July 14, 2020 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade and the motion passed all in favor.**

### Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$266,728.83. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Councilman Farrell: Chief, Is there anything you want to make note of on the warrants?

Chief Giles: I don't think so. One of the things that caught my eye was the credit card. A lot of that was getting the truck bed home.

Councilman Farrell: What are all the landscape bonds for? Is it for the properties in the urban interface?

Chief Giles: Yes, its for people who want their certificate of occupancy but are unable to finish there landscaping rather its due to weather or other reasons. We have them post a \$5,000.00 landscape bond and when they are done, we will then release it. It is a cash bond.

Councilman Farrell: Any other questions on the warrants?

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

### **Review of the 2020 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Finals**

Keirstan Smith: I am just going to highlight revenues and expenses today. If you look on page 4 which is the revenues and page 5 for expenses for the general fund, our revenues are where I expect them to be this time of year. It doesn't look well because we don't receive our tax revenues this early in the year, but we are doing well. On the expense side of things, you will notice on our salary and benefits we are doing well. On our operating budget we are doing well. On some of our line items from one line item to another. For example, we have one line item, supplies account 1-55000, is only at 22% of budget. We would like to shift some of that down to ambulance expenses to cover the extra costs due to the coronavirus. We would also like to shift some down to our capital outlay account to cover the repairs on the ambulance and some other things there. So, we would like to do some line item shifting on our budget and then when we come to the end of the year and looking at our budget for next year and looking at amending the budget. We will need to amend it to include the operating transfer that was approved in the last board meeting for the land purchase. We will have that on the amended budget so just be aware of that as we shift the money from the capital fund to the general fund. If you look at the capital fund on page 7, you'll have your operating revenues and you will see we have received over \$200,000.00 in the impact fees which is great. This has been a great bonus for the District to be able to receive these impact fees. We are already using them, like with the land purchase. We are glad to have those revenues. But same here we will need a budget amendment here to show we are moving some of those revenues out and also some existing cash we have in the PTF account. We are looking really good so far. Do you have any questions about specific accounts or financials that I can address for you?

Councilman Farrell: Any questions for Kierstan?

**A motion was made by Councilman Nelson to approve the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter financial report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Park and the motion passed all in favor.**

### **Chiefs Report**

Chief Giles: Its just been busy. This time of year we get anywhere from 7 to 12 calls a day. We are actually doing a class at the Heber station. It's a big red trailer. We are trying to get everybody through it to hopefully improve their driving. Just a lot of training going on.

Steve Farrell: I seen we divided an engine to the Fruitland fire.

Chief Giles: We did. They called troy and asked for help to assist with that. He has been on the one Murdock basin fire as well. The one in Fruitland they were concerned about structures. Luckily, the wind died down.

Councilman Farrell: I was watching the news and I seen the Wasatch truck go through. It was close to the county line, wasn't it?

Chief Giles: Yes, it was just west of the cemetery there, east of the county line. WE were just worried about the wind blowing ambers. When sparks blow ahead sometimes they start their own.

Councilman Farrell: Are they fighting the Murdock basin fire or just controlling the direction it goes?

Chief Giles: I think they are trying to suppress it. Troy would be able to give some more information.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan: Yes they are full suppression but keeping in mind firefighter safety.

Councilman Farrell: Okay

Chief Giles: We are looking at maybe purchasing a transfer van. We are wearing out these \$300,000-\$400,00 ambulances quick. The transfer vans with equipment are about \$150,000 to \$170,000. For transports to the city this would help us with fuel and tires. We visited with the state ems director. He did say that it would fall under the cares funding. We may wind up having enough in the budget to purchase it. I do not know how many of you know we were in a wreck a few months ago and the ambulance has been out since. It has kind of put us in a shortage. We also sent two battalion chiefs back to Minnesota to do a final inspection on an engine that we have had ordered for close to 2 years. We are hoping we will see it here within the next 30 to 45 days. It's the same as the pierce we got a couple years ago. It's also capable to do wildland as suppression to. I just want to keep you in the loop.

Councilman Farrell: How many transfers do you have a day?

Chief Giles: It varies. Sometimes we have 3 at once. On an average its about 3 a day.

Councilman Farrell: That going to Utah Valley or Salt Lake city?

Chief Giles: Yes, I think it would help us cost wise. Obviously we cannot send a trauma patient in the van. But for some of these other calls we could send a two-man crew in the van. We are just trying to save some money. Any other questions for me?

Councilman Crittenden: Ernie, did we have any involvement with the parleys fire?

Chief Giles; No, we helped with Saratoga springs but not parleys. If you actually watch the news it was not near as big as originally thought. Last I heard it was around 80 acres.

Councilman Farrell: Yes I think that's what it was.

Councilman Crittenden: Yes, I went and passed it the other day and they were fortunate to keep it down.

Councilman Farrell: Did you notice where it started, off the highway and just a narrow path to the ridge.

Councilman Crittenden: Yes, they said they were looking for a truck that was dragging chains.

Councilman Goode: I had a text message from mayor potter earlier today. I talked to Ernie about it but I will just read the text message. "Is it true that the county isn't giving any cares money to the fire district for PPE?" I talked to Mike Davis and he said they are paying for all of the PPE for the fire district. I called the mayor to talk about it. I guess it was a miscommunication with someone who talked to Ernie. I think Ernie is going to visit with the other cities and ask for some additional funding. Ernie who is paying for your PPE?

Chief Giles: The county is. I think Dustin and Mike have been taking care of it. Probably where this came from, we have reached out to several of these mayors and towns. I heard through the grape vine that they had no use for the cares money so we have a meeting with the city manager Thursday. I think the city chief, Chief Booth, will be there. Mayor Johnston here in midway, we have reached out to her. I think she has reached out to Dustin to try and get some of these funds rather than them be lost. I understand there is a fence line that we need to stay in and things need to be related to Covid, but there are some of those things that the fire district can use. So far right now, we have been serviced great with the stuff we have. The storage is placed down at public works that Brandon has set aside. Dustin and Mike have been good. I am not sure where that came from. Hopefully its just a clarification. I guess Dustin you have been paying for it, correct?

Dustin Grabau: Yes we are using cares funds.

Councilwoman Crittenden: I have a question for you Ernie. I was just reading on KSL that DNR has prohibited target shooting. One of those areas is in the Wallsburg WMA that's here in Wasatch County. Does that cover the area were that fire started on the south side of heber?

Chief Giles: Yes, we actually are probably going into full fire restrictions. We have kind of held off on it because it can confuse the citizens. State forestry and us usually will have fire bands. The forest is talking about going into fire restrictions. On that note, I am trying to work with the fish and game to put a sign there that wont allow target shooting but will allow hunting. I don't want to shut down hunting. But I would like to have a permanent sign there.

Councilwoman Crittenden: I would like from Troy, is the forest going to put some limitations on the fire and put fire restrictions in place?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan: Last I heard, there was a meeting today to discuss fire restriction on the forest. If they approve that, the plan is to go in place Friday night at midnight. With Wasatch & Summit counties being the last counties that are not in fire restrictions, we would probably go in at that exact same time.

Councilwoman Crittenden: So how do they let the public know this?

Fire Warden Troy Morgan: They would hang a bunch of signs on their kiosk. There would be a big social media blitz and they would get it out to the news agencies. That's why it would be Friday. If it is approved today than they would have a few days to get the information out to the public.

Councilwoman Crittenden: We have just had so many so many fires. At some point you have to put those restrictions on.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan: Just the amount of abandon campfires that we are responding to, I feel they need to do something as well.

Councilwoman Crittenden: I think the best place that could take place is we need to start educating the public. There are so many out using public lands that have not typically been using public lands. They probably don't know the proper procedures. It's not that people want to be bad they just don't know how to be good. Some kind of education would be such a positive thing.

Fire Warden Troy Morgan: We try to put things out social media wise. I know the state does a lot of that as well. We try to educate the public as much as we can. Your correct most of the time its education.

Councilwoman Crittenden: I appreciate the times you take to try and educate. I know you do not have enough staff to educate them individually.

Councilman Farrell: Any other questions?

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