

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday November 10, 2020

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

Those in Attendance:

Mark Nelson

Kendall Crittenden

Spencer Park

Steve Farrell

Marilyn Crittenden

Chief Ernie Giles

EMS Battalion Chief Provost

Fire Marshal Neerings

Kierstan Smith

Dustin Grabau

Erik Lappe

Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2020 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Park and the motion passed all in favor.

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$654,015.61. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Chief Giles: A lot of the stuff on there is related to the coronavirus. It been expensive getting some of those things. Part of these warrants we had an opportunity to buy an ambulance in Oregon. A week ago tomorrow I flew up and drove it home. It will help us moving forward. We still have an ambulance coming out of Florida. It is a transport van and supposed to be here around mid-December. The one I picked up in Oregon is a normal boxed ambulance. With the help of all our cities/towns and the county we have been able to purchase those. A lot of this stuff is supplies that go in the ambulances.

Councilman Crittenden: Ernie, is that the 2020 Braun Ambulance that came out of Oregon?

Chief Giles: Yes

Councilman Crittenden: In the amount of \$150,000?

Chief Giles: Yes \$150,000 with some change.

Councilwoman Crittenden: So the CARES funds are covering more than just the ambulances correct?

Chief Giles: They are. All of the supplies in the ambulance according to the state EMS director will qualify for CARES. The towns/cities and the county has been very helpful. Today I got a phone call that the Mayor of Interlaken will be donating all of their money and the same for Charleston. Midway City has been awesome. We have been there a couple of times and they have been very helpful. Same with the County. Dustin and Mike have been awesome to work with. It takes just about as much to equip one as it does to buy one. That is the reason the warrants are up so high. We were fortunate enough we were able to qualify uniforms for 2 sets for each fireman. As they come in from these Covid-19 calls they will now have something to change into and wash the other set. Its been a trying time as Tom Bonner would say. We have had one of our fireman test positive and his whole family. We have been trying to be as safe as we can. Its hard when you are around someone for 48 hours on a shift. I will entertain any questions.

Councilman Crittenden: What is the landscape bond releases? They are all \$5,000.00

Chief Giles: What we done 3-4 years ago was implemented a bond. If a contractor cannot get his landscape done for the wildland urban interface inspection. They can post a \$5,000 bond. Once the landscaping is done Troy goes and inspects and then we can release the money. If you remember last year and the year it was costing us money to run the charges on credit cards. Since then we are now charging that to the contractor. As you will see on our budget that is a net zero this year.

Councilman Crittenden: Thanks

Councilman Farrell: Any other questions?

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

Quarter Financial Review:

Kierstan Smith: In your packet you have the financial statement with some notes. I am not going to go regurgitate what I already tell you in the notes. It just highlights some things. Im going to talk about them and how they are affecting our 2020 budget amendment. A few of those items on the revenue side are affecting our revenue and causing part of our amendment. Our ambulance revenue will be higher than what we originally anticipated. We are already over the \$850,000 as of September. So, we are now projecting we will be around 1.2 million come the end of December. We have increased that in our projected amended budget. Something else that we are projecting that did not happen in our original budget and now shows in our financial statement that we are way over budget on is the grant proceeds. This is the CARES funding that you were just talking about. Another item that is significant that you see in the financial statement is the transfer from the capital projects fund. This is the money from impact fees and from the funds that were already set aside for the land purchase. is operating transfer from other funds is for being used for the land purchase. Those are your big ticket items on the revenue side

that we are budgeting for. There are a few other smaller line items. On the expense side of things. On one of the accounts with a significant change on is the health insurance. Part of that is even though the salary and benefits are coming out close to what we anticipated for our budget, our health insurance is off. When we budget for new employees, we budget that we are going to have family coverage and then depending on what happens with who is hired they may have single or double coverage, which is a significant savings for the district. That has occurred with the new hires that were hired in 2020. It has resulted in some savings for the district. As chief was saying we have a significant increase on ambulance expenses and for ambulance supplies. You all know what's happening with that so we are budgeting for additional costs there. We have reduced costs in other areas which have helped meet that need. These are other big items for 2020. We have additional apparatus funding that we are budgeting for and we have the land purchase and the water shares that came with it that we need to put in the budget. Since the loan was taken there have been payments made on that loan along with interest payments and those also have to be budgeted for. We are budgeting by the end of the year that we will have paid \$600,000.00 on that loan and about \$18,000.00 in interest. Those are your major changes. Lastly is contribution to fund balance, we are hoping with everything we have budgeted for and the cuts that we have made that we will have some funds left over so we can put some in the operating reserve. This will leave funds on hand in case there is an operating issue, for example a tax collection issue. This would leave funds for the district to continue to run until they receive those tax payments. Or in the case of having someone retire and under the policy they get there 50% I think of sick leave payout. This would leave cash on hand to do so. Then on the capital projects fund you see that we have the offset the transfer out of here into the general fund. That is our major change there along with having impact fees. So initially there wasn't impact fee set up so its something new that we will now budget for. If we go back to 2021 and compare what happens, you will see the mill levy revenue increase is what your seeing under the property tax. That is basically what's account for that major change there. We are budgeting less in ambulance revenue. Partly because of how much is coming from Covid, not necessarily making a significant change because who knows what will happen in 2021. But it is better to be conservative. I think it would be great if we never had another covid call but we know that's not going to happen. Some of the other changes that you will see is of course we are not budgeting for more grant proceeds. We are not budgeting for the EMS revenues from the county, that's a done deal. So we have those changes that are dropping down our revenues. Operating transfer from other funds, we are projecting that we will have impact fees come in during the year and we will be able to transfer those over and make more payments towards the debt for the land. So that's another significant change on the revenue side. On the expense side for 2021, we are projecting for 3 new employees and we are also increasing the call base, the call back money that's available to fill shifts. You will see a increase here to cover employees. This effects benefits and all to do with employees so you will see that in this section relating to having new employees. We are dropping down our professional services slightly. We are hoping that we will have a little less cost there. Clothing and uniforms you will see we are dropping down and that is also one of the things chief was just talking about with having the uniforms supplied this year. We are budgeting for new uniforms for the new employees. We have capital outlay for a new truck. The debt service payments for the loan on the land and interest. Again, we are budgeting to have enough left to put some of the money in operating reserves come the end of the year. Are there any questions?

A motion was made by Councilman Parks to approve the 3rd quarter financial report. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden. The motion passed all in favor.

A motion was made by Councilman Nelson to approve the preliminary budget, amend the 2020 budget, and set the public hearing for December 8th at 6:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden. The motion passed all in favor.

Councilman Farrell: Lets go back to the Chiefs Report.

Chiefs Report

Chief Giles: I don't have a lot to report. As they stated earlier the moral of the department is scary. We are in scary times. We pick up positive covid patients daily it seems like now and sometimes more than 1 daily. The guys PPE up. We do have some tests from the health department, and I appreciate Randall and all of the help he has given us to get through this. We have some tests that we can give the firefighters and get the results back within 5 minutes. It has been very helpful as some of them have been exposed. Its been good to keep a clean slate. I know last month we talked about firefighters just getting back from California and everything went well there. We have pulled off the fire restrictions as of Monday after we received this good storm and moisture. Other than that I don't have anything unless there is questions I can entertain.

Councilman Crittenden: I guess we go from wildland fires to chimney fires.

Chief Giles: Right, I did forget to mention the State of Utah (we will get this out to you) but we was nominated the fire department of the year through the state. I am going to have Murl tell you a little more about it. It was a big deal. We had to do it by zoom. I'm going to turn it over to Murl.

Murl Rawlins: Well I wasn't planning on this but every year the Division of Forestry Fire and State Lands, we have a warden of the year which encompasses all of the fire wardens throughout the state of Utah. We also have an award called the corporator of the year award. Those nominations come from fire wardens, area managers, and so on and so forth. This year Wasatch County among others was nominated and Wasatch County was selected as the winner. It includes the Sheriffs Department, Public Works, the Fire District, and the Health Department. We would just like to express our appreciation to Wasatch County for the way you have stepped up to assist us during these real uncertain times. We have been very successful this year through the efforts of the health department and the other departments involved. We have managed to really keep a lid on covid infections among our firefighters and that's very much appreciated. I would just like to thank Wasatch County for the efforts you put forth on behalf of the State Division of Forestry and the citizens of the State of Utah.

Councilman Farrell: Thank you Murl.

Councilman Crittenden: Is there a press release to put in the wave and social media so these guys can get the recognition they deserve on that?

Chief Giles: Yeah, we are going to get it on our web and get the word out there. We owe a big thanks Murl, Troy Morgan, our crews. We have been sending our crews to Fruitland and Utah counties a couple of times and California. We are trying to do our best to help our neighbors. That is really what the fire service is about. I do not think we deserve this award, but I do know that Troy and the guys work hard to do it. It is a pleasure and honor to get it.

Councilman Farrell: Thank you Ernie and Murl for that and for the effort you put into this. Anything else we need to discuss tonight?

Dennis Goudy: Thank you all for allowing me to speak for just a few minutes. One of the things I am working on as the advisory chair is to go back through the master plan and through the strategic plan to kind of audit to see what our progress report is. In the strategic plan we have an area where we can put the updates and accomplishments. What I wanted to point out is in the strategic goal number 8. It was to increase full time staffing in Heber and Jordanelle stations. Then net result was new full-time staff that really enhances the entire district in multiple ways. I wanted to point out very quickly our timeline started back in April of 2019. We had an 18-month timeline to complete that task. I am just pleased to report that right now we have 11 current firefighters. We will meet that significant goal/objective within 18 months to hire those full time personal to increase service and reduce response time throughout the entire district. From the advisory board outside looking in we are very excited about that and just wanted to pass that on. It gives 24/7 objectives completed by April of 2021. I just wanted to report that to you. We have that detailed report in better words the objectives completed that we would like to present by April 2021 to show where we are at and where we are going. I just wanted to report that to you and commend the chief and the council. It does not happen without you guys working with the fire district and helping with the funding to keep this service going up. It is a very big accomplishment to see these things happen. Unless there are any questions that is it.

Councilman Farrell: Any questions for Dennis? Thank you, Dennis, we appreciate your effort and work towards the fire district. Chief anything else?

Chief Giles: I do not have anything else. Other than echoing Dennis that we appreciate the fire board and all the support making everything successful.

Councilman Farrell: Okay, our next meeting will be held December 8th.

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