

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday February 9, 2021

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

Those in Attendance:

Steve Farrell

Kendall Crittenden

Mark Nelson

Marilyn Crittenden

Spencer Park

Danny Goode

Jeff Wade

Chief Giles

EMS BC Clair Provost

Kierstan Smith

Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve the minutes of January 12, 2021 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade and the motion passed all in favor. Councilman Goode abstained.

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$1,205,307.62. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

Councilman Farrell: Is there anything in the warrants that you need to bring to our attention, Ernie?

Chief Giles: A couple of things all of you know we bought the property out on 12th south. If you actually look at the warrants, I think \$913,650 to pay that off. If you read the documents from when we done this, there was a \$200,000 donation. This was donated back to the district from the persons that owned it not the company. To do that if you remember, we were going to name it the Hicken Station. Anyway, Rob the Districts Attorney, Myself, their attorney, Kierstan, Jacee, Kristen has all worked on this to get it finalized out. We have enough money in there to do this with our impact fee and the general fund. Rather than keep paying interest on this I would like to see us pay this off and that is the biggest part of the warrants. Other than that, I would entertain any other questions on the warrants.

Councilman Farrell: So, this whole purchase came out of the impact fees? The \$913,000?

Chief Giles: It will. Eventually Steve, we are doing similar to what we have done in the past. We will be using general funds for impact fees to get us through the year. Just for the council's information extell

has a building permit for the apartments. It went through one cycle at the building department. The impact fee on it is a little over \$400,000. We have \$240,00-\$250,000 as of now. We are looking at about \$650,000 out of impact fees the rest will come out of general funds and then we will pay that back as the year goes and we collect more impact fees. I figure that's a better operation than paying the interest every month, especially were we have the money to pay it.

Councilman Farrell: How much money are we saving by this early payoff?

Chief Giles: Well, the contract is a 3-year contract. We are not quite a year into it. If you remember I think it was November that we put \$300,000 towards it. The interest was \$4,000 a month then. Right now, we are currently paying that \$3,045.50. If you calculate that over a year it would be around \$36,000 and in 2 years, we are looking at about \$72,000 and we still have until July or August. So about \$80,000 is a rough number we will be saving. I think that's quite a bit of money for taxpayers.

Councilman Farrell: It is. Anything else?

Councilman Crittenden: Ernie, What's this ambulance repairs for \$36,600?

Chief Giles: If you remember about 8 or 9 months ago, we had a collision. Somebody rear ended the ambulance. We have been back and forth with the insurance company on this thing. I think their total payment was around \$60,000 or \$70,000. We had to send the ambulance to Florida. That money is actually a pass through for the insurance company. We still have to buy a new stretcher and a load system that was damaged because we cannot get recertified. So, this is just the ambulance portion from the insurance.

Councilman Crittenden: Is it our insurance or the other individual's insurance? Who was at fault?

Chief: He was at fault. We have actually had him held up in court because I wasn't having very good luck with the insurance company. I mean they had to work with us a little bit, but we had lost wages. I didn't want to claim it on workers comp because it was their fault. Through the court system the judge was gracious enough to hold it up and we actually just released that when we the check last week.

Councilwoman Crittenden: What is the landscape bond reimbursement?

Chief Giles: Good question Marilyn because they show up a lot. On our wildland urban interface, when they go to apply for a building permit, they have to show a landscape plan. What happens is some of these houses get finished during the winter and they can't do landscape. What we do instead of holding them up to move into their house is we make them post a \$5,000 bond. Once they get the landscaping in and we do the inspection, we reimburse that. That's what you will see on a lot of these warrants. They are all \$5,000 generally. If you remember a few years back we were in trouble with the credit cards, so the owner had to pay the credit card fee on top of the \$5,000 so it wouldn't cost the district.

Councilwoman Crittenden: Thank you for that.

Councilman Farrell: Any other questions? Hearing none we will entertain a motion.

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

Chiefs Report

Chief Giles: You should have received an email and in your packet a site layout of the admin building and the fire station. I think its B1, I don't have it in front of me, but its 1b or b1 plan that I would actually really like. I think there's 3 options there. That middle option I like better. The reason being, the station stays pretty well the same on all 3, it's the admin building that changes. When we done this ground agreement there is actually an access that comes in on the east side of that property. Claude, if the time came, he would really like to use that if possible. More than likely as these business's come in, they will most likely curb cut that into their own place. That is the reason I like that. If you look at it, it pulls in straight onto that road and he could go into his place where the dirt mound is and we can still utilize our parking. Off to the northeast of the station site, we would like to use that possibly for a training tower in the future. The piece is laid out fairly nice I believe. If any of you have any input, I would entertain it as you look through this if you have a better site idea. That firm is working that way and going to help me with an RFP. I have reached out to financial companies (Lewis Young, Zions Bank, and a place out of Denver) and talked with them on what I would like to do. I looked at a 8.5 year call. That's as soon as I could get one. The interest rate on that versus a 10-12 was a little higher. It looks like on a 10-year call and 20 year note basically the interest rate is roughly \$300,000 per year on the pay. Last year on the impact fees we generated a little over \$500,000. I am feeling comfortable that we could make that. I would like a head nod to gather some of this information together to bring to our next board meeting. Every single one of them want me to sign a contract but I want to make sure the board is comfortable with this and us moving forward, that is the reason I bring it up. Zions bank looked like they had the best deal with the ones I have in my hand. I want to make sure I reach out and give everybody a chance and then bring the information back to our next board meeting.

Councilman Crittenden: Why do all 3 plans have a dashed line through those far western bays?

Chief Giles: That's the ground elevation. That's a 10 foot increment I believe.

Councilman Crittenden: So those 2 western bays would be at a higher elevation then?

Chief Giles: The ground drops off a foot there. It will be the same level they are just showing the elevation change.

Councilman Crittenden: Alright I was just curious.

Chief Giles: I think that's what you mean. I don't have it in front of me right now What is the council/boards thought on pursuing this? We are still a ways away from getting this thing started but the finance is the first part of it to make sure we can do it and are comfortable with it and get a contract signed.

Councilman Farrell: We are talking about a revenue bond based on the impact fees revenue correct?

Chief Giles: That is correct, a couple of these have reached out to some private money, the outfit in Denver. I told him before he went and did too much work, I wanted to get approval from the board and make sure we are good to go. I would like to get the top 3 and bring them back to the board next month on who we are going to use.

Councilman Crittenden: I like 1B the best for the reasons you have stated. It fits well. It only creates 2 accesses onto 1200 south. I like the 1B.

Councilman Wade: Yes, and keeping that access farther east is better. It backs up there at school time. The farther east you can keep that the better of your going to be.

Councilman Crittenden: Yes, I agree.

Chief Giles: We will have a light there as we build this thing to let us on and off. When it isn't school time it really isn't too bad. At nighttime when the workers are getting off and coming home it backs it up a little bit. It's generally when school gets out and lunch time that it backs up past that cut.

Councilman Wade: Well and that access is already there anyways.

Chief Giles: The one is. The other one for the fire station we just cut I think it was in December. We will go in right were that plan b shows and the other one is the cut that is already there that goes into the admin building.

Councilman Crittenden: I like the sign out on the road on the corner.

Chief Giles: It looks good, I have had a lot of compliment and wondering what's going on. They appreciate letting them know what is going to happen there. Thank you.

Councilman Farrell: So, you're going out to get proposals on the financing not necessarily on the design, right? So, we are talking proposals on how we are going to finance it and sell the bonds.

Chief Giles: Correct

Councilman Crittenden: Well, do you know that before you get the blueprint plan for the buildings?

Chief Giles: The one that's doing the layout is going to put an RFP together and give us an idea. As I mention before when I chose this firm, they are doing 5 stations for unified fire. A couple of them have already been built. We still have work to do but I would like to try and get the financing nailed down, so we have a firm to work with. None of them really want to get into nitty gritty until they are picked.

Councilman Farrell: So we need to go out for an RFP then for a financial advisor as it relates to selling the bonds.

Chief Giles: I don't think we need to do an RFP for it. What they are looking for on the RFP is a contract. This firm is actually going to put the blueprints together and write an RFP for the fire station and admin building.

Councilman Farrell: For a contractor. But I think we need an RFP on the financial side of it to. Who is going to put together the bond documents and who's going to review the financing and sell the bonds?

Chief Giles: John Bronson with Zions bank talked like he was going to do all of that. But they wanted us to sign a contract before they went out to do that.

Councilman Farrell: Yes, but they are going to have a cost involved with that. We need to know what their cost is going to be and how it compares to others. When we went out on the open space bond, we went out with proposals on who is going to provide that financial service.

Chief Giles: That's what I was going to do with these 3. Your right, each one of the charges a certain percentage of what the total loan is.

Councilman Farrell: But there are other things. Are they going to include the bond councils? What are they going to include?

Chief Giles: They have sent me those documents. What I wanted to do is bring back to this council next month and all of us look at those and make a decision. If you want me to send out an RFP, I can sure do that to.

Councilman Farrell: I think that would be better to send out an RFP so everyone would have a chance to bid on it. I just don't want to hand pick 3 and say that's all we are going to look at.

Chief Giles: Okay, I can get that done. I will bring that next month.

Councilman Farrell: What does the rest of the board feel?

Councilman Nelson: I agree

Chief Giles: Okay I will get a RFP so they are all bidding on the same thing. I figured we would do that next month with these 3. I don't want to have 6 or 8 or these going different ways.

Councilman Farrell: I think if we are talking this much money we should go ahead and do that.

Chief Giles: Sounds good.

Councilman Farrell: Any other comments or questions?

Chief Giles: Other than that, if there are any other questions that's all I have.

Councilman Farrell: Any other questions? Anything else on the agenda that we need to discuss?

Other

Chief Giles: I have Gil Rodriguez with the advisory board, that has put a presentation together. If that would be fine?

Councilman Farrell: That would be fine. Welcome Gil.

Gil Rodriguez: How are you guys doing? Thank you for letting me address you guys. I appreciate it. More than that I appreciate all of the work and support you guys have done for the fire department. Currently the fire board and city council have the authority to oversee the fire protection district. The citizen advisory board with no direct authority provides input to the fire chief and staff. As one of the documents we have that we have lived off of the last few years is a master plan that was put together by ESCI and we have been following it pretty diligently. One of the things, as fire and ems in Wasatch County provide fire, rescue, ems, medical transport, hazmat, and many other calls for service which are pretty complex. As I wrote that down and look back the fire departments are virtually called for everything. Firefighters and the fire service has to be prepared for anything. With that being said, I don't have to tell you Wasatch County is growing. With this growth, the fire department needs become more difficult and require a lot more attention. The fire board has done a great job providing administrative oversight of Wasatch Fire and EMS. Most fire districts throughout the nation are governed by a board of directors which is what we are going to talk about. This is just an option and will give you guys

something to think about. It is something we would like you to consider. It follows along with the master plan. The board would consist of 5-7 committee member. Im sure you all know that if it gets bigger than that it could be difficult to run. Some of the suggestions as far as board members go Wasatch County Council Chair designee (would not only represent the county but the small cities and towns within Wasatch County) Also Wasatch County may want to consider appointing a legal finical expert to the board. We have also talked about having the mayor of designee of Heber City and Midway City because they have the biggest population and affected areas. We also talked about having 2 fire and ems experts who are proficient and knowledge in the operation with administrative aspects of the fire service. I can tell you it does get complicated and it does require some expertise. Listening to your last meeting, you guys have a lot on your plate. This board would work directly in unison with the fire chief and the county council. Of course, the administrative control board would answer directly to the Wasatch County Council. That is an option to consider. Do you have any questions? I am just keeping it pretty simple right now, but we would like you to give it some consideration. If you have any questions, I would be glad to find an answer.

Councilman Farrell: Any questions for Gil? Seeing no Gil, thank you for your presentation and discussion. Chief, do you have anything else?

Chief Giles: I don't. Thank you for your support. It will be great to get this site paid off. I appreciate all of your support and concerns. I look forward seeing this thing through.

Councilman Farrell: Thank you chief, we appreciate your work.

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Park. The motion passed all in favor.