

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday March 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

Spencer Park

Jeff Wade

Chief Giles

EMS BC Clair Provost

Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Wade to approve the minutes of February 9, 2021 fire board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Nelson and the motion passed all in favor.

Warrants

The listing of warrants totaled \$284,290.60. This total included the added warrants and the payroll transmittals.

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

Chiefs Report

Chief: Last month we talked about an RFP for the financial advisor. We received 3 of them. They send the proposal of what they are going to do and how they are going to do it. We opened them up separately at advisory board meeting. Everybody read through them and the rated them prior to opening the finance one.

Councilman Crittenden: So did you open up the explanation piece first?

Chief: Yes, With that the ratings were in favor for Zions Bank. I would like to get a motion or approval to reach out to them and start that process.

Councilman Park: Are you going to forward to us all of the information?

Chief: I sent the bids.

Councilman Park: Are you going to send us the rest before we make this motion?

Chief: Sure

Councilman Parks: Is that okay? I would like to have some time to read through it.

Councilman Crittenden: Did you send the bids? I didn't see them.

Chief: They should be part of your packet. Yes, I can send them to you. Some of them are roughly 20 pages. According to the attorney we didn't need to do that. We had to have a commission open them, rate them, and then bring them back to you.

Farrell: I was in the meeting I feel like they addressed the concerns.

Councilman Crittenden: Was it close or did Zions come out way ahead?

Councilman Farrell: I think it came out 9, 9.5 and the other one was 6.

Councilman Crittenden: So they were between 9.5 and 6.

Councilman Farrell: Yes

Councilman Parks: None of them were from Colorado?

Councilman Farrell: Yeah, and the other one was from Lewis & Young. They were very close.

Chief: It should have been in your packet.

Councilman Crittenden: Its listed but there is nothing behind it.

Councilman Parks: Is this the individual that served on our advisory board?

Councilman Farrell: No, this is looking at bonding for the new fire station. I would hesitate to put this off for another month.

Councilman Parks: No, I was confused I thought it was the same individual we were trying to hire a few years ago.

Councilman Farrell: No, this was to get a financial advisor to help us with advice for a bond.

Councilman Crittenden: Would it be the people that the county has always worked with before or would it be someone new assigned to this account? Do we even know?

Councilman Farrell: I don't think they identified the individuals.

Councilman Parks: I was confused, if it was for bonding, I will make a motion.

A motion was made by Councilman Parks to approve Zions Bank as the financial advisor for the Fire District. The motion was seconded by Councilman Crittenden. The motion passed all in favor.

Councilman Farrell: I think John Bronson has been involved in this discussion.

Chief: Yes, him and Mark Anderson.

Councilman Crittenden: They are both very familiar with the county.

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to continue online meetings with the exception of some people meeting in person. The motion was seconded by Councilman Parks. The motion passed all in favor.

Councilman Nelson: I just want to put on the record that we want to start doing the meetings in person now. We want you guys to start coming in person as we are now. I'm fine with having Zoom as an option but we need to do the people's business in person.

Chief: I love it.

Councilman Crittenden: As we come back from online meetings, I wonder if we indefinitely continue a zoom component especially for public hearings.

Councilman Farrell: I can see a real benefit for some of the meetings to.

Councilman Parks: We may have a better attendance to.

Resolution 20-1

Councilman Farrell: We have your revised modifications to the resolution.

Chief Giles: The advisory board met Thursday afternoon and in conversation, that meeting was to take this and make corrections that they thought was beneficial to the district. That's what you can see in red in your document. I guess I am just curious where we are at with this thing. If you have concerns with the red or not, what are your thoughts?

Councilman Nelson: I think that this resolution came out of discussion that the council had about the existing advisory board and what we can do. What came out of the discussion that we had about the possibility of the Fire District under the county manager and that discussion. I think that the intent of the creation of this resolution has been fundamentally changed by the changes that the advisory board made in red here. In other words, what the councils intent was when creating this has been changed by the modifications.

Councilman Parks: I am wondering if it would be worth sitting down with the original committee which was me, Kendall, and Marilyn and Gil and Gary. We could fine tune this in a word document.

Councilman Farrell: This really should have been done prior to this.

Councilman Parks: What do you mean?

Councilman Farrell: We should have done this before we presented the draft.

Councilman Parks: Probably, I don't think we were far off and I don't know if there will be a lot of changes. But we could go through it quick and have it part of our meeting next week if you want it. That's if it needs to be voted on soon.

Councilman Crittenden: Steven and I talked about it a little before the meeting and some of the red stuff are good additions. I would agree with what mark said some of the intent like changing Emergency Services back to the Fire District is contrary to the intent. Fire and EMS is all part of it. It's all one. It's kind of the new direction in calling it that. There are some other places that I think we need to look at. There were some good ideas put in.

Councilman Park: Kendall what are your thoughts on that?

Councilman Crittenden: Yeah, I think it's good.

Councilman Park: Then in our next meeting we can go to fire board.

Councilman Crittenden: I think we have done that before.

Councilman Farrell: Can you do it?

Councilman Park: Is Marilyn in town?

Councilman Nelson: She's in town.

Councilman Park: I am wondering if Thursday at 4 we could meet. I know that time is a time they could all work it out.

Councilman Farrell: Why don't we discuss some of the additions that I think were positive on this. I liked number 4 and we did talk about that.

Councilman Crittenden: Its roman numeral 5 under 1a. One alternate member.

Councilman Farrell: I think that was always an intent to have. I think number 6 that is something you need to address in that group. Most of the changes are eliminating emergency services and adding fire district.

Chief Giles: I guess the reason this was talked about, is emergency services is huge. It includes the sheriffs, its all emergency services. I just felt like this was to do with the district.

Councilman Farrell: I think Emergency Services is what the council defined it would be. We don't want the people under EMS thinking they are second to fire. I think some of the feedback is everything is fire and we want to have them on an equal basis.

Councilman Crittenden: Do we need to do a whereas defining what we mean by emergency services?

Chief Giles: It just seems broad. That's the comment that came from the advisory board.

Councilman Park: Well part of it was changing the name of the district to something like this.

Councilman Crittenden: Maybe we can talk about a different name or doing a whereas to define what we mean. I don't disagree with you if you look at that in context, it is very broad. But we feel fire district is narrowing it down to much. We need to meet somewhere in the middle.

Chief Giles: Maybe we can list Fire and EMS if that is the concern or like you said, explain it.

Councilman Farrell: When we talk about district manager we didn't specify as the fire chief, but it is understood that you are under both of them not just the fire.

Councilman Park: It's probably okay to keep it the district manager in case the chief isn't always the district manager.

Councilman Farrell: On powers and duties, there emergency services and advisory commission shall have all powers and authority to direct and conduct its own business a commission is created for the purpose of providing recommendation on operation and policy decision to the fire board. I think that

needs to be in there. Until we change it to a governing board that needs to be in there. I am fine with the changes under 2a approving the warrants.

Councilman Crittenden: and overseeing monthly expenses.

Councilman Farrell: Yes, I am fine with that.

Councilman Farrell: I am fine with number 3 that has been added.

Councilman Nelson: I am not sure I understand 2. Can an advisory board approve anything?

Councilman Farrell: With a commission we can probably delegate it if we want to. I think in the whereas it kind of outlines it.

Councilman Nelson: I think we need to make it very clear. It's very ambiguous here were some places it's called advising/suggesting. In other places it's approves. I don't think its very clear.

Councilman Farrell: I think that is something we need to have that group work out. I like the additions made.

Councilman Nelson: If we have a financial person.

Councilman Park: We have him be a required signer.

Councilman Nelson: I think if we had the state auditor listening to us have this conversation, he would not want someone else signing those checks besides us.

Councilman Farrell: I think if we have a paper trail outlining their responsibilities, we would be fine.

Councilman Nelson: I just want to make sure because the things that could possibly go wrong.

Councilman Farrell: The catcher behind is the next paragraph added.

Councilman Crittenden: A copy of the warrants come to us every month.

Chief Giles: Mark, even an administrative control board would have those powers. I'm like Steve, if they are delegated and listed.

Councilman Nelson: You're underscoring what I said earlier. The discussion was about an administrative control board, but it didn't go to an administrative control board. It wen to an advisory board.

Councilman Crittenden: We will get together Thursday.

Councilman Park: We will meet if we can. I will talk to Marilyn, Gil, and Gary.

Councilman Farrell: Do we want this on the agenda for next week?

Chief Giles: I think if the council is comfortable with it, Wednesday is great for me.

Councilman Farrell: Lets shoot for next Wednesday.

Other

Chief Giles: I don't know how many of you know what a ARF truck is. It has been in the county for I would guess 7 years.

Councilman Crittenden: Is this something we got from Murl?

Chief Giles: Yes so it's a surplus. We have been trying to figure how much this thing would cost. Finally, I got the guy up from trucks unlimited to look over this truck. It has been parked at the airport. They stored it for a couple of years. It is not in service. There is some work that must be done. He had one down their close to it for \$250,000 which is a decent deal. He went through it with a fine-tooth comb. It is actually in Henderson Nevada right now. We hauled it down there Friday. Just his initial look it looks like \$80,000 - \$100,000. I wanted to haul it down there to get a firm price because it's not a matter of if a plane crashed it's a matter of when a aircraft crashes. That is hard to put out. You cannot put it out with water. It has a dry chemical system in it and also a foam system. That's one of the biggest reasons I wanted to take this down. With our ISO rating we get credit for it. Even if it's not in working order and it's in the repair shop, they will still give us credit for it. So, with that I want to bring you up to speed. I would love to reach out for a grant, I just don't want to do it with the airport because then they will want it stationed at the airport. I'm hoping we can station it at the new Heber Station but for now it would probably be stored at the Heber Station. He' thinking it will be a 4-6-month rehab.

Councilman Park: Is that in your budget?

Chief Giles: Yes

Councilman Nelson: Did you haul it or drive it?

Chief Giles: Hauled it. If you actually look at that last one it was \$3,000 to get it down, there to Henderson because its over height and width. Its big. Its 9'6" wide. I think from the ground up its about 12'6".

Councilman Nelson: So, what's its ability? Can it go off a road?

Chief Giles: No not off an asphalt road. A gravel road you could maybe. Like some of these tanker fires that we have had that you have seen. We have no way to put those things out so we have to let them burn off until it gets to the point that we can extinguish it with water. I didn't want to include the FAA with it because they will want it stationed there. I want to be able to use it for other things.

Councilman Crittenden: Could you still go to strawberry where this is wider?

Chief Giles: Yes, they were touring around with it the other day going 70mph. It's a handful to drive at 70. This guy has rebuilt tons of them. He said they are tough and simple to run. I think it's a 2002. We just got our ambulance back from there on our remount. We bought a new chassis and used the old box. I just seen it and its impressive. You would think its new. We have another one down there right now. I just wanted to bring you up to speed. We are saving between \$60,000 - \$70,000 with these remounts.

Councilman Crittenden: There is nothing wrong with the box?

Chief: Yes, you will see that some of them we are selling some in surplus the boxes were short in lengths and heights. We will probably sell them in the next month or month in a half. That's backs of them are patched so I don't know how it will go with bidding. I think there are 2 that we are going to sell as is. Clair brings up a good point. The high school is starting up a program for EMS & Fire. They suggested that we could maybe donate on of these ambulances to the high school. We will not receive a lot of

money out of them so the investment to get some of those kids would be a great offset. I will keep you guys updated.

Councilman Farrell: Anything else for Ernie?

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