

Wasatch County Fire Board of Directors Meeting

November 9, 2021

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

Those in Attendance:

Danny Goode

Mark Nelson

Kendall Crittenden

Marilyn Crittenden

Spencer Park

Steve Farrell

Jeff Wade

Chief Giles

Deputy Chief Hales

Assistant Deputy Chief Provost

Dustin Grabau

Fire Marshall Neerings

EMS BC Provost

Fire Warden Morgan

BC Fitzgerald

BC Sessions

Minutes

A motion was made by Councilman Nelson to approve the minutes of October 12, 2021, Fire Board meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilman Park. The motion passed all in favor.

Warrants

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve the warrants as presented in the amount of \$877,923.95. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade. The motion passed all in favor.

Chief: The reason these are so high if you actually look at the total, is we are buying a pumper out of Florida and an ambulance out of Oregon. So, between the two, I think the total is just under \$600,000.00.

Wade: The ambulance was around \$215,000, right?

Chief: Yes, on page 5 they are both there. And the advisory committee has looked these over.

Councilman Crittenden: Is it brand new?

Chief: Yes, it will be our 2022 Ambulance. We are going to try to buy one every year so that'll be our 2022 ambulance. We have had this ordered for about 10 months now.

Park: So, is that for \$250,000 is that completely new? Wasn't used on an old chassis or anything? But brand new.

Chief: Yes, but there is still nothing inside yet.

Chiefs Report

Park: First on the agenda is 3rd Quarter Financials.

Chief: So, Kierstan isn't here tonight-she asked to be excused tonight. But everyone should have in their packet September's financials. If you actually look those over the numbers and percentages are all there.

Nelson: With Kierstan not here, you're going to have to explain that cash number.

Chief: They're all small numbers. She actually sent out an explanation on the quarterly finances because she knew she wasn't going to be here.

M. Crittenden: Did you email that? Because I haven't seen it.

Kristen: It's in Onbase and I emailed it.

Park: Anything else we needed to go over on those?

Chief: We just need a motion to accept.

A motion was made by Councilman Farrell to accept the 3rd Quarters financial statements that was presented today. The motion was seconded by Councilman Goode. The motion passed all in favor.

Park: Second on the agenda is Auditor RFP Request, Squire Public Pricing. And that was also emailed to us as well.

Chief: About every 5 years, we go after a bid for our auditor firm. We reached out to Mike Bailey and Squire. Both presented bid and Squire was a little bit cheaper and so that's the one we are proposing for our new auditing firm.

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to approve the recommendation in the bid for Squire for 2021-2025 for auditor. The motion was seconded by Councilman Farrell. The motion passed all in favor.

Park: The next item in the agenda is Statement of Ethical Behavior.

Chief: You should have that handed out to you. If you remember last month, we presented a risk factor that we were about medium on. This is one of the things we can actually get done once I believe. So it'll

actually raise our score immensely. Then I don't know if you guys take the yearly class, I you're your supposed to for the county and if we have record of that, that'll actually give us some more points.

K. Crittenden: You mean the special service training?

Grabau: What we're supposed to do, is have the attorney's office provide training on open public meetings. I'll look into it with the attorney.

Chief: Anyway, that is what this letter is about, and we have to have them sign and back to Kristen. Just the board and the administration. So, if we can sign them and hand them down, Kristen can get them, and we can just torment Danny (Goode) later.

Park: Next up on the agenda is the Proposed Budget.

Chief: Just to kind of give you a little idea of where we are going this next year with the budget, our fast attacks are 30+ years old and in this new budget, I would like to buy two of those new fast attacks and two support vehicles. Just a little update on the station side, I know we've visited a little about it, but I think we're going to put this upcoming Spring on hold and work toward the next Spring instead. Just to see where we are financially at because it came in at \$15 Million.

K. Crittenden: What's that based on? Just the plans?

Chief: The square footage. So, what I've done is sign an agreement with the architect firm, we'll split it up into 3rds. This first 3rd, you're going to get the blueprints. We're going to get the lay out, look them over and see where we're at, then at that point in time we're going to hold off on the other 2/3rd's until we're ready to build. So that's kind of where we are at with that, it'll at least get us to where we can tweak the floor plan around if need be. We want to meet with them to cut off two bays and drop some square footage, but it was still at \$13 million with off costs. I think its just going to be in our best interest to give it a year, even though interest rates are low right now, but give it a year to see where we are at financially.

With that, we will move into the budget. I think all of you have a copy of it, you should have one from '19 to the proposed '22. I will entertain questions or any concerns you may have through the week. We're going to set the hearing for this on the 14th of December at 6:00pm for the public. We will still be holding our regular Board meeting at 3:30pm as well. You'll see a couple of changes, the tax increase is that 200 if you actually look at the amended '21, we're at 5.2 and that's going to be the 5.4 so roughly the tax increase is about \$200,000. That is what is in the proposed '22 budget. Do you have any questions on those? I can go down line by line and go over those or if you just have any questions.

Farrell: The tax increase is just taking it to the prior years?

Chief: That's right, 7.10 was what it was at a couple of years ago.

Nelson: And that raised it about \$300,000?

Chief: No, \$200,000. The growth is 3. If you actually look at where we had proposed the original '21 and look where we are at on the amended. Roughly, that's about \$300,000 or a little more than that but that's something with growth.

K. Crittenden: Why is that down \$300,000?

Chief: On any of these revenues, I mean on that building tank I don't really like to overshoot that amount, so we have to go back and amend it. That's why we are looking at redoing the fees as well, or at least have visited with the Advisory Commission about it. And we will probably have a public hearing about February to address those changed fees, because we have to have public hearing and a resolution to do it. So, that's why that one's down, I know its huge amount but I like to be a little more conservative on these revenues than not.

On these revenues, I think it is best to be more conservative. You know, you look at the ambulances, if you look at the original in '21 and look where we are projected to be, I've raised it from \$900,000 to \$1.2 million because it's the similar to those inspections where it's based on call volume. So we just want to be cautious with both of those.

K. Crittenden: Where are the donations? Where did that \$200,000 donation come from?

Chief: That was Claud when he donated \$200,000 to the building when we bought the property.

A motion was made by Councilman Crittenden to set the hearing for the '2022 Budget and the Taxation Hearing' for December the 14th at 6:00pm. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade. The motion passed all in favor. For the record, M. Crittenden was not present at time of motion.

OTHER

Park: The next item on the agenda is the advisory commission report.

Grabau: Council, I was involved in setting the agenda for the advisory commission meeting but I had conflicting meeting so I wasn't there, and I will just be conveying the minutes from that meeting. I wanted to give an update to some things you had asked about; the battalion chief position closes Friday, so they will be looking to back fill that position. There was talk about the fire station and there was some talk about the impact fees, and I guess the status of that. I think they are hopeful that they will collect all of the fees that the district is rightfully owed, like the Mida Developers and I think there is some progress there. I think as we get the Zions impact fee...

Farrell: How close are we to getting documented Zion impact fees?

Chief: So, where it's at right now is, Susie Becker from Zions has actually forwarded a tentative cost to our attorney's office, and he is actually in conversation with a couple other attorneys like Extell. We had them look it over apparently and we are hoping by next week or within a few weeks after we should see something.

Farrell: Well, we are currently getting an impact study done. If we find no difference in appreciation, can we adopt some fees but not the others? Leave the ones that are in place as they are and not adopt more over the 90-day waiting period?

Grabau: I think technically anyone that's applied under the old fees, they are vested under those fees. Whether or not we change them would be for new ones. But I think you would have the option to not adopt those fees and not have that window open.

Chief: There is not a lot of change, I mean one went up and little bit and the other one dropped a little bit.

Farrell: I think the main reason for the justification.

Chief: Yes, it is.

Grabau: Next there was robust discussion about the budget. I think they offered some potential future changes to that budget. There was a discussion about fees, one of the things that we've address is trying to get all of ducks in a row when it comes to the fees that the fire district is charging so they are kind of above scrutiny. To have everything lined up in a way that people know what they are paying and we're transparent about how we got there. It's a work in progress right now. There is some thought about how we will change it and implement it, so we will come back to you on that with more specific recommendations in the future.

Farrell: Are we talking about a lot of fees or just one to two?

Chief: There is probably 15 different fees right now.

Farrell: Are we looking to change all 15 or just a few?

Chief: We are adjusting a lot of them; they haven't been done in a while.

Grabau: We want to make sure we are covering the costs of the services that we are providing. We also want to make sure we are not over charging as well.

Farrell: And all that will take is a public hearing and the fees will be implemented immediately?

Grabau: Correct, I think there is a 14-day waiting period though. There was also some discussion about potential future on administrative control board and then a discussion about the fire code officials. I imagine, we will need to have a larger discussion. Some of it we will need to digest as an advisory committee and maybe you'll want to be involved in that at some point. There are just some propose changes to how the current status que is, as far as who is responsible for what, when it comes to approving developments.

K. Crittenden: And you're talking about the Fire Marshall?

Grabau: Yeah, so the fire department right now is designated as fire code official for certain things. And I think there is a little bit of confusion on our constituent's side of what they have to do and how we are transparent about what the requirements are for those fire codes.

So that is it from the Fire Board Commission meeting. If there is anything you'd like to add to our list of discussion. One thing we did talk about is changing the Heber Station. I don't know if you want to address that yet Chief or if we aren't there just yet. But there is some potential there.

Chief: I think we will do that at a later time.

Park: Are we ready to close session?

Clair: Real quick, on that grant proposal, do we need to post the public hearing for that?

K. Crittenden: Yes, that got posted on the website today, for the meeting next Wednesday at 6:00pm.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Nelson to close session. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wade. The motion passed all in favor.