

The Rye Fire Protection District

MINUTES OF THE RYE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Regular Meeting February 15, 2021

Present Directors – Mr. John Schaiberger, Mr. Rich Simpson, Mr. George McGoff, Mr. Wally Rice, Mr. Graber

Absent Directors – None

Others - Chief Steve Bennett, Captain Jim Beach

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. John Schaiberger, who chaired the meeting. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, meeting was held via Zoom.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and present members were introduced.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Schaiberger for any additions or changes to the meeting agenda. Mr. Schaiberger asked that a discussion regarding the Audit be added along with future Zoom vs. in person meetings.

Motion to accept the agenda as posted for February 15, 2021 with the noted additions for audit discussion and future meeting types.

Motion: Mr. Simpson

Second: Mr. McGoff

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice, Mr. Graber

Abstain: None

Nay: None

Receive of Act on Board Correspondence

None.

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Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Schaiberger asked for approval of minutes for the Regular Meeting for November 2020.

Motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Meeting of December 2020 as presented.

Motion: Mr. Schaiberger
Second: Mr. McGoff

Further Discussion: No meeting was held in January 2021.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice, Mr. Graber
Abstain: None
Nay: None

Treasurer's Report

Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable December 2020 (Year End) and January 2021. Mr. Rice went over key points in the December 2020 report. It was noted that the interest received during 2020 was only \$4,028, but due to financial planning on the Boards part, this number is substantially higher due to funds be routed to ColoTrust and receiving a much higher interest amount than the normal savings.

Motion to approve Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable for 2020 Year End.

Motion: Mr. Simpson
Second: Mr. Graber

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice, Mr. Graber
Abstain: None
Nay: None

Mr. Rice then went over the reports for January 2021. He noted that typically this time of the year, Property Tax Revenue is minimal, which was the case at around 1% of the budget. Under the expenses, the following accounts are included in the Administration Expenditure on the Pie Chart on the Income/Expense Summary; 7101, 7102, 7103, 7104, 7105, 7108, 7113, 7217, 7218. This 7108, Billing Adjustments, is so high and not really an administration expense, it will have its own slice of the Expenditure Pie Chart. Likewise, EMS billings will have its own slice of the Revenue Pie Chart.

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The amount of EMS write-offs for the month of January exceeded the charges. Under the bills to pay, it was noted that because of the colder weather recently and the newly installed exhaust fans, the propane and natural gas bills appear to be higher. This was a byproduct of the new fans which are creating a better indoor quality for the staff at the stations and this installation was a fraction of other products considered. MarGas is the propane supplier and several board members noted that they have seen higher per gallon prices than anticipated. Chief will keep an eye on this for proper billings. If necessary, the Board may consider buying the tank and procurement of fuel from the best supplier. Due to timing of the meeting to approve the bills, the Wright Express Fuel Account was moved to pay via credit card. Recently, the check did not arrive in time which caused the gas cards to be frozen during the middle of the night which impacted operations.

Motion to approve Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable for January 2021.

Motion: Mr. McGoff
Second: Mr. Graber

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice, Mr. Graber
Abstain: None
Nay: None

For the EMS Billings, Captain Beach noted that the charges for the first month of 2021 show billings down about 37%, which is fairly consistent with the call volume in January. Collections are at about 61% of budget, but this is only for the first month in 2021 and expected to increase. Revenue is only generated when a patient is transported. Due to the pandemic, area hospitals are encouraging people to stay home if their symptoms are not severe due to the risk of contracting the virus. Transports are being done when the patient's condition warrants medical attention.

Capital Projects. Exhaust System. The fans are fully operational at both Station #1 & Station #2 and appear to be working effectively. Project is complete. A side effect to the project is higher natural gas and propane bills since the fans evacuate all the air in the bays when the doors open, and reheating is required during the colder periods of time.

Fire Chief Report

Statistics. In the Month of December 2020, Rye Fire responded to 71 calls for service of which 62 were EMS related and 9 were fire related. In comparison with the previous year this is a 17% decrease from 2019 and an increase of 1% from the 5-year average.

In the Month of January 2021, Rye fire responded to 87 calls for service of which 73 were EMS related and 14 were fire related. In comparison with the previous year this is a 4% decrease from 2020 and a 11% increase from the 5-year average.

Administration/Operations. New truck and chassis, was ordered in April 2020, the truck has been at City of Pueblo Fleet Maintenance to have the retrofitting of pump and tank along with emergency lighting. This has been completed and will be working on decals to complete and get into service.

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Question - Old Brush Truck is at City Shops, thoughts on what to do with it? There was an offer for \$600 to purchase the truck.

Motion to accept the \$600 offer for the old brush truck.

Motion: Mr. Graber
Second: Mr. Simpson

Further Discussion: Mr. Graber noted that the truck engine and transmission is no longer any good and this is basically what would be received for scrap metal.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. McGoff, Mr. Rice, Mr. Graber
Abstain: None
Nay: None

COVID-19 is beginning to spread and cause issues, especially with the uptick in documented cases. No outside visitors are allowed in fire stations at this time. Policy and procedures have been updated in regard to mask wearing, clothing, cleaning and sanitizing. Temps are constantly monitored with personnel. Nearly half the staff have received vaccinations when they were available for the first responders.

Prevention. District 70 has students back in class learning. We will give schools time to get settled back before we start monthly fire drills. Monthly fire drills have been scheduled with Craver and the High School.

Mitigation flyers have been passed out to residents in Colorado City and Rye, these were left in newspaper boxes for the resident. Flyers were also placed at Loaf n Jug and will be ongoing. This is on a continuous monitoring basis with Colo City and Rye residents for additional needs. Flyers will continue to be distributed throughout the area.

Some Rye and Colo City Residents have expressed an interest in have a fire safely class for the community. This is something that we are currently developing for the future, and a fire safety power point plan for the community is done and ready to go as we move forward.

Continuing face book monthly safety tips.

We continue to provide Mitigation assessments for homeowners throughout the District.

Training. Training has been ongoing with SCBA drills, fire entry drills into buildings, hydrant setup training, building construction, extrication techniques. EMS training ongoing to maintain continuing education requirements.

Task List.

- Exhaust System. Discussed earlier.
- Colorado City Hydrants. Have not done any additional testing due to the current drought issues with water restrictions in place. Until the lake issue resolves itself, it is unclear with this will resume.

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- Town of Rye Hydrants. Completed.
- Research Accounting Fees and Audit Fees. Chief Bennett is researching.

Old Business

Upcoming Year Projects

- Fires in Region. Chief Bennett noted no fires in the region.
- Staff Updates. Chief Bennett noted that he intends to hire two (2) paramedics in the next 45-60 days. There are two (2) open full-time slots. Per the Boards recommendations, he will be offering them to existing paramedics who are tied to shifts and would like to become full-time staff members.

Truck Purchase (Cab/Chassis) Status

- Discussed earlier. Chief Bennett asked the Board if they would like to use funds from Operating to pay for the truck when the invoice comes or take it from the Capital Account. The consensus from the Board that if there are operating funds available, to use them and keep the Capital Funds available for other intended use.

New Business

Future Meetings

There was a discussion whether future meetings will still be held virtually via Zoom or should in person meetings start again. It was noted that in person meetings may require social distancing and masks. Mr. McGoff noted that he does have some troubles with masks. A survey of the board will take place right before the next meeting to determine which direction will be taken.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:59 P.M.

Dated this 15th day of February 2021.



Submitted by Jim Beach, Captain