

The Rye Fire Protection District

**MINUTES OF THE RYE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING
Regular Meeting November 21, 2016**

Present Directors – Mr. John Schaiberger, Mr. Rich Simpson, Mr. Mike Davis, Mr. Wally Rice

Absent Directors – Mr. Garry Melchi

Others - Chief Steve Bennett, Captain Jim Beach, FF Matt Nolting

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mr. Schaiberger, who chaired the meeting.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and present members were introduced.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Schaiberger asked for any additions or changes to the meeting agenda. Mr. Schaiberger asked for the following additions: status on legal research for grant writing fees, update on Junkins Fire, update of propane supplier change.

Motion to approve Meeting Agenda for November 21, 2016 as posted with the noted additions.

Motion: Mr. Simpson
Second: Mr. Rice

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Receive or Act on Board Correspondence

Chief Bennett read correspondence that was received regarding an individual burning in Rye in which neighbors expressed several concerns. The correspondence was sent to both Pueblo County Sheriff

The Rye Fire Protection District

and Chief Bennett. Chief Bennett explained the burn permit process and status of burning at the time of the incident. Since that time, Chief Bennett noted that both Rye Fire Protection District and Beulah Fire Protection District have implemented a burn ban and all permits have been cancelled. No burning will be allowed in either area until substantial moisture has been received. Chief Bennett will look at up-dates to the burn permit process for a report to the Board at next month's meeting. Chief Bennett did note that any changes would have to be approved by the Pueblo County Fire Marshal, who is Sheriff Taylor.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Schaiberger asked for approval of the minutes of September 2016.

Motion to approval of the meeting minutes for September 2016 as presented.

Motion: Mr. Rice
Second: Mr. Simpson

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Treasurer's Report

Accounts Receivable. Mr. Schaiberger noted that they do not anticipate any significant income from taxes until February 2017. The current income statement reflects income higher than budgeted which is an indicator that people are getting caught up on back taxes. Captain Beach reported that October EMS billings are being reviewed. In October there were a total of 53 EMS calls, of which 30 were transports and subject to billing by EMA. Of the 30 transports, 11 transports have resulted in a payment. Another 2 transports were not paid due to coding errors. Captain Beach has asked for more reports from EMA, which will be able to track individual client accounts. More information should be available for next board meeting. Captain Beach noted that it could take several months to get all information gathered.

Accounts Payable. Mr. Schaiberger noted that the Board will be obtaining a loan against ambulance revenue until next year's tax revenue resumes. Mr. Schaiberger asked how much has been billed against the last couple fires. Chief Bennett noted that between \$16,000 and \$17,000 has been billed with most the revenue projected to be from the use of the equipment.

The Rye Fire Protection District

EMA Activity. Captain Beach reviewed the handouts. He noted that due to a paperwork delay in getting payment information to EMA, the amount EMA is reporting as paid to date does not match the Accounts Receivable. A substantial check from Medicare was received during the last couple working days in October. This large payment will be reflected in next month's report.

Motion to approve Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable.

Motion: Mr. Simpson
Second: Mr. Davis

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Fire Chief Report

September / October 2016

Statistics. In the Month September 2016, Rye Fire was busy responding to 92 calls for service of which 73 were EMS related and 19 were fire related. In comparison with previous year this is an increase of 7% from 2015 and an increase of 16% from the 5 year average of 79.

In the Month October 2016, Rye Fire responded to 70 calls for service of which 55 were EMS related and 15 were fire related. In comparison with previous year this is an increase of 35% from 2015 and an increase of 16% from the 5-year average of 60.

Administration/Operations. A grant request is being prepared for the purchase of additional firefighter PPE and Life Pack 15 cardiac monitors. This is still in process and will be submitted next month. Another grant will be submitted to the State for additional structure gear which will ensure that 100 percent of the staff will be complimented which includes additional new hires.

Rye Fire will be receiving 25 new handheld Motorola radios with batteries and chargers, new dual head radios for the ambulances and new mobile radios for all vehicles. These radios were purchased for Rye Fire through Pueblo County via funds from CSEPP and Homeland Security.

A 4-wheel ATV was received via Search and Rescue grant. This 4-wheeler will be used to assist with Search and Rescue activities within our District and Pueblo County. The grant did not provide enough funds for a trailer. A local business, Strawberry Fields donated a new trailer for the ATV, the trailer was picked up at Canon City True Value, true value donated a spare tire and tire mounts for the trailer as well as an upgraded jack.

Greenhorn True Value donated funds to Rye Fire for a remodel project that will begin in February/March. The bedroom that is currently shared by two firefighters will be extended with a common area for lockers and doors for each room to provide some sleeping separation.

Rye Fire participated with a major drill at Rye High School in September. This was in partnership with District 70 and PCSO. Exercise went well. This was an active shooter drill.

Received a new multi meter gas monitor. This was funded through the HazMat Committee. This

The Rye Fire Protection District

detector is known as a 5 gas detector. Our previous detector was a 4 gas, we have chlorine added to this one. We also received a Personal Wireless monitor for combustible gases and vapors which was also received from the HazMat Committee.

Rye Fire was evaluated by ISO. With the new inspection Rye Fire's Grading has improved and changed from a 5/9 to a 4/4x. The 4/4x is the same as a 4/9. This grading has been updated with the insurance systems. It would be beneficial for homeowners to contact their insurance carriers and notify them of the better ISO rating. This required evaluation of training records, manpower and equipment as well as apparatus. They also re-evaluated the water systems in Rye and Colorado City.

In the month of October there were two significant events. Beulah Hill fire started, Rye Fire sent personnel and equipment as part of the initial attack, this was accomplished without jeopardizing the coverage within the district. Adequate personnel and equipment were still covering our area.

The Junkins fire was another significant event. Again, we provided equipment and personnel without depleting our District. We had crews in multiple areas which included Highway 165 corridor and crews in Beulah helping protect areas impacted by the fire.

Prevention. We continue to provide Mitigation assessments for various homeowners throughout the District. A lot of the mitigation assessments are requested from the homeowner's insurance agent or the insurance agent of the purchaser.

Rye Fire assisted the school with their monthly fire drills.

Rye Fire provided stand by at the Football games as well as attended other various high school sporting events.

Rye Fire had equipment participate in the Rye High School Homecoming parade.

Rye fire provided trick or treat spot at Halloween Town.

Training. Training has been ongoing. Fire training covered building construction, fire behavior, hydrants and vehicle refreshers, SCBAs and Ladders. EMS training is ongoing with a new topic every 6 days providing continuing education for annual requirements. We also had in service training with Dr. Weber, we utilized the conference/training room at the Library. Some of those topics covered were cardiology, pediatric emergencies, concussions, report writing along with several other topics.

Task List.

- **Propane Switch Over.** Chief Bennett noted that this is complete and now transferred over to MarGas.
- **Incentive Level.** Chief Bennett noted that he has this ready to review in a future executive session.
- **Fire Hydrants.** Chief Bennett will follow-up with Colorado City Metro as the Metro has not set any dates.
- **Grant Fees.** Information received from Legal Counsel which will require more discussion in future meetings.
- **EMA Accountability.** This was reviewed under Treasurers Report.
- **Box for Water Tank.** This will be discussed under Old Business.

The Rye Fire Protection District

Old Business

Hatchet Ranch Updates

Chief Bennett noted that weather cover over the valves was complete. Chief Bennett did note that the tank siding is buckling some, which maybe an indicator of settlement of the gravel pad. Chief Bennett will monitor the situation.

Interagency

Chief Bennett noted earlier the billings from the last fires with no revenue being received at this time.

New Business

Discussion of 2017 Budget

The Proposed 2017 Budget was discussed in detail with Chief Bennett providing additional break-down of line items as requested. The revenue is based upon the additional amounts per the recent mil levy tax increase approved by the voters this summer and amounts were verified by the Counties. EMS revenue remained the same as last year due to insurance companies cutting back on reimbursements. Income and expenses were included for grants that have been submitted. The increase in Fleet-R&M is to accommodate necessary maintenance on the big rigs. A \$75,000-line item was included to set aside funds as per the mil levy request.

Motion to approve the 2017 Budget.

Motion: Mr. Rice
Second: Mr. Schaiberger

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Discussion of Health Insurance Packages

Chief Bennett noted that health insurance premiums went up by about 18% this year and has already been reflected in the 2017 Budget just approved. The insurance group is thru a public-sector organization which pools several public-sector organizations together to obtain a better rate. Currently, Rye Fire is paying for staff health insurance on six (6) full-time personnel. Chief Bennett noted that he was told that there was another health insurance provider available with a slightly less rate, however the window of opportunity to change providers is coming up very soon. After a

The Rye Fire Protection District

lengthy discussion, the Board decided to remain with the current provider for this year and reinvestigate this next year.

457 Retirement Account through FPPA

Chief Bennett noted that he would like to offer to full-time staff the option for staff to participate in a 457 Retirement Account. This is like a 401k account and would be at no cost to Rye Fire other than accounting transfer of dollars during payroll transactions. This would require Board approval. Mr. Schaiberger noted that it would be a good benefit for part-time personnel to take advantage of this. However, part-time personnel do not pay into FPPA, only Social Security.

Motion to allow full-time personnel to participate in 457 Retirement Accounts offered by FPPA.

Motion: Mr. Schaiberger
Second: Mr. Simpson

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Distribute Comp-time Balance Sheets

Chief Bennett passed out comp-time balance sheets for all full-time staff.

December 2016 Meeting

Next month's meeting will be held on December 19, 2016 at 5:00 pm, which may contain an Executive Session.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:45 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Simpson
Second: Mr. Rice

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

The Rye Fire Protection District

Dated this 21st Day of November 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Beach". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping tail.

Submitted by Jim Beach, Captain