

The Rye Fire Protection District

**MINUTES OF THE RYE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING
Workshop Meeting October 22, 2015**

Present Directors – Mr. John Schaiberger, Mr. Wade Wills, Mr. Mike Davis, Mr. Garry Melchi, Mr. Wallace Rice

Absent Directors – None

Others - Chief Steve Bennett, Captain Jim Beach

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M. by Mr. Wills who chaired the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve Workshop Meeting Agenda for October 22, 2015 as posted.

Motion: Mr. Schaiberger
Second: Mr. Davis

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Wills, Mr. Davis, Mr. Melchi, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Workshop Session

Opening Remarks

Mr. Rice was welcomed to the meeting. He has spent the last couple days reviewing information presented to him to bring him up-to-date with the discussions.

Reports

An initial discussion was done regarding what should the proposed mil levy increase should be. The consensus is that the Board should pursue a 5.5 mil levy increase. This amount will be figured during subsequent planning sessions until the 5.5 amount can be voted on during a regular meeting.

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Mr. Davis provided an updated Comparison of Present Tax Rate vs. Proposed Tax Rate for various home values. The calculations were made based upon a residential assessed value of \$25,000 thru \$250,000 in \$25,000 increments. The present tax rate was 10.036 and the proposed was 15.536. The yearly and monthly tax bill increase was shown for each assessed value, which was good information and will be presented in public presentations.

Chief Bennett passed out a Rye Fire Wage and Benefit Comparison chart. It compared Rye Fire to Pueblo Rural Fire, Pueblo West Fire, and AMR. Current wages including insurance benefits were shown for each entity. The amount of insurance coverage paid for by the entities varies. It was noted that the cost of the insurance (Pueblo West Fire) is similar to ours as we are all in the same general pool group. Some entities have different wages for firefighters depending on their qualifications. Wages shown were entry wages; no longevity rates were shown.

Chief Bennett presented a chart of Mil Levy Comparisons for various taxing fire departments. The chart compared Black Forest Fire, Beulah Fire & EMS, Canon City Fire and Pueblo Rural Fire to Rye Fire. Rye Fire mil levy is currently 10.036. The average total mill levy between all departments is 15.416. The average of differences between Rye and other departments is 6.726. It was noted that it is difficult to find comparable departments because of the assessed value level for many plus economic variables. These were provided as best comparison as possible. Several notes were included which will be compiled for the public presentation.

Mr. Schaiberger will pursue ballot proposal wording.

After reviewing the information discussed at this workshop meeting and several recent workshop sessions, it appears that a 5.5 mil levy increase is appropriate. The group decided that future meetings will need to be dedicated to putting together a presentation for the public. Mr. Rice noted that his wife is good at PowerPoint and can assist in the process.

The group determined that each person needs to define several bullet points for the mil levy increase and bring them to the next board meeting so they can be used to create the public presentation.

Chief Bennett passed out a chart of Pueblo County Assessments from 2004 to 2013 for assessed values, expected revenue (based upon 10.036 Mil Levy and disbursements from the Pueblo County Assessor. It was noted that this information is accurate and previous information should be discarded. The information was gathered and reviewed with Mr. Schaiberger. Mr. Schaiberger will work on obtaining the 2014 and 2015 information. Huerfano and Custer County information will also be obtained.

Mr. Davis noted that there has been an increase in inflation from 2001 to 2015 in the amount of 34.4%.

Next workshop meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, 2015 at 5:30 PM. Members were asked to bring bullet points for the PowerPoint Presentation.

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Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 8:03 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Davis
Second: Mr. Rice

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Wills, Mr. Davis, Mr. Melchi, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Dated this 22nd day of October 2015.

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

Submitted by Jim Beach, Captain