

The Rye Fire Protection District

**MINUTES OF THE RYE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING
Workshop Meeting October 5, 2015**

Present Directors – Mr. John Schaiberger, Mr. Wade Wills, Mr. Mike Davis

Absent Directors – Mr. Garry Melchi

Others - Chief Steve Bennett, Captain Jim Beach

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:11 pm by Mr. Wills who chaired the meeting.

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented.

Workshop Session

Opening Remarks

Mr. Wills opened the meeting with information he received from a resident of Huerfano County regarding the potential mill levy increase.

- Status and Assessments. No new information was reported regarding the station exhaust systems.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve Workshop Meeting Agenda for October 5, 2015 as posted.

Motion: Mr. Schaiberger
Second: Mr. Davis

Further Discussion: None.

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

Future Direction

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The balance of the meeting was directed towards Rye Fire Protection District's financial need.

Chief Bennett handed out the Estimated 2015 Assessed Values by County. This is the estimated tax revenue that will be received in 2016 by Rye Fire Protection District. Pueblo County showed a 1.64% increase with Huerfano and Custer showing a decrease. Overall, this will be a 1.45% increase in Property Tax Revenue for Rye Fire Protection District in 2015.

Chief Bennett handed out the 2016 Proposed Budget for Property Tax Revenue. This handout showed the difference between 2015 and 2016 line items. This information is based upon information received from the County Assessors Offices and will be utilized in the 2016 budget preparation.

Chief Bennett handed out a budget report with the actual line items thru the end of August. From there, projections were made to the end of 2015 with the 2015 Budget as comparison. The last column showed a potential 2016 budget for the board members to start reviewing for the 2016 Budget approval cycle coming up soon.

Mr. Schaiberger shared information he received from his meeting with Mr. Rick Jones with Pueblo County Assessor office. He shared that residential and commercial assessed value is different with agriculture being different as well based upon land usage. In previous sessions, it was noted that senior citizens get a break in their taxes and Mr. Schaiberger noted that the difference is made up by the State of Colorado, thus it does not affect Rye Fire Protection District revenue. Mr. Schaiberger will set up a meeting for the Board to meet with Pueblo County Assessor office so each member can understand how tax revenue is generated since it is a large portion of our budget.

At the Boards request, Chief Bennett handed out pie charts from 2015 noting how many people are on each shift for this year. The charts do not reflect a command staff person, who is always on. Consistently three or four people are on shift. The goal to meet ISO is to have four crew members.

Mr. Davis passed out some charts that were created based upon tax revenue budgets from 2003 to current. Included in the charts was EMS revenue. There were also references to the Consumer Price Index. Captain Beach will send Mr. Schaiberger the individual figures for verification by Pueblo County Assessor.

A good portion of the meeting was spent discussing salaries. In 2015, full-time employees received a 1% salary increase. It was noted that it has been a very long time since both full-time and part-time employees have received any salary increase. Both Mr. Wills, who was a full-time person, and Chief Bennett, who is a current full-time person, do not recall any salary increases. Both noted that it was discussed in the past, but no action was taken to make the change. Mr. Schaiberger inquired if the current salary scale includes any allowance for years of service. Chief Bennett noted that all individuals with the same qualifications and rank are paid the same, even if an individual has more experience than a new hire. The Board asked Chief Bennett to look into information on including this into the salary structure.

Chief Bennett noted that he does have comparable wages from several similarly sized agencies in this area. He noted that our wages from EMT-Basics and EMT-Intermediates is very comparable. However, our EMT-Paramedic wage is about \$2.00 per hour lower than AMR. He noted that AMR

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automatically increases wages 3% per year and believes than his current information from AMR is outdated. Chief Bennett will update the information.

Chief Bennett will look at the budget to include proposed staffing levels and some proposed wage rate schedules, which will be used during for the mill levy increase request.

Mr. Schaiberger noted that the single biggest argument for a mill levy increase is employee retention.

Wednesday, October 14th was discussed for a potential next workshop session with the Pueblo County Assessor. Mr. Schaiberger will verify the date and time and Chief Bennett will complete the required posting for this Workshop Session Meeting.

Monday, October 19th was scheduled for another Workshop Session, starting at 5:30 PM. Chief Bennett will complete the required postings for this Workshop Session Meeting. The Regular Board Meeting will follow at 7:00 PM that night.

The updated Task List from October 2, 2015 was reviewed.

Adjourn

Workshop Session adjourned at 6:21 P.M.

Dated this 5th day of October 2015.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Beach".

Submitted by Jim Beach, Captain