

**ROCKVILLE/SPRINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING
P.O. Box 159
Springdale, UT 84767
April 22, 2015
Springdale Council Chambers**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Chair Luci Francis called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members of the Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District Board present: John Callahan, Louise Excell, Chuck Passek and Adrian Player. District Clerk Elaine Harris recording.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Louise Excell moved the agenda be approved. Adrian Player seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.
3. **PUBLIC HEARING FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON THE DISTRICT’S INTENT TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING FROM THE UTAH PERMANENT COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND BOARD (CIB) TO COMPLETE AN EMERGENCY SERVICES FEASIBILITY STUDY AND MASTER PLAN FOR THE FIRE DISTRICT** – Chair Francis gave some background as to why the Board is presenting this proposal.

Since 1983 the RSFPD has provided Fire Protection Services to the Towns of Rockville and Springdale. Adding emergency medical services, we have built and consistently maintained a stable district that supports a dedicated and professional crew. Chair Francis felt the Board has made sound decisions in the past as can be reflected by the fact that we had a great deal of funds in reserves in the last year that helped us meet the crises that we faced due to the changing population dynamics and a lack of volunteers and staff.

As we all know, in the last two years our communities have experienced dramatic changes that has forced the District to take immediate action. We have all experienced the effects that growth has had, and will continue to have, but there has also been a shift in our resident population, leaving the District with fewer staff to fill our shifts. We went from an all-volunteer crew to paid on-call, and we have scheduled shifts so that we now have 24/7 coverage. To achieve this, our expenses increased, and with that - as you know - standby fees.

Whenever our fees increase, the Board is obligated to justify the reasons why, and the question is always: Is there a way to do it cheaper? Why do you staff the way that you do? Can you be more efficient? Is there another way to get something?

Some members of our community wanted to know if it would be beneficial to become part of Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District, and with that, rumors began to multiply and suddenly people had the notion that Hurricane was going to “take over.”

In January of 2014, Hurricane offered to perform a study of our district, and our then-board declined the offer. Since then, we have had multiple meetings with Hurricane to learn more about what it was they were actually offering, and our board ultimately agreed to having a study done. However, in February, the Hurricane Valley Fire District’s Board opted out of doing a study on our behalf because of changing circumstances: they didn’t have the same resources that they had a year ago; they had their reasons. Since then, we, this Board, have publicly discussed "where we go from here.”

The consensus of the Board is that there is a need to engage a professional organization experienced in emergency services who can determine how we are doing with respect to our current operational

and managerial practices, as well as provide us with strategic planning for the short, mid, and long term, based on our service area's needs and expectations. The overall outcome, simply stated, is how to effectively manage risk at an acceptable and sustainable cost. We are not talking about a fancy study where the results will not be utilized or considered; we will clearly state what we expect to have done in the study when we choose our firm. The results will be relevant and reasonable for this community.

The expense of such a study can be as much as \$50,000. Upon a preliminary search, we located an organization which provided us with some information about their services; in particular, what they call their Master Plan. We expect a customized scope relative to our needs/community might be in the neighborhood of \$30,000.

The RSFPD is applying for a 50% matching grant from the Community Impact Board. One of the requirements in that process is to hold a Public Hearing to inform people about our intention to undergo a study and that we intend to apply for this grant.

It must be noted that, while we are applying for a 50% matching grant it is up to the Community Impact Board to determine how they will fund the project, and they may instead offer funding in the form of an interest bearing loan which would require repayment. The interest rate for loans is currently 2.5% and terms can be up to 30 years, with no prepayment penalty. However, that being said, the CIB Board has, historically, matched the local entity's (the RSFPD) funding in the form of a grant.

We will issue a Request for Proposals, per State and District requirements, but will not engage a firm until we have the funding, which could be as early as July. Following this rough timeline, a study could be completed by November.

Chair Francis asked if there were members of the Board that would like to add anything that may bring about a perspective on the Board's position regarding the study.

John Callahan added the fact that the Board has had four chairs in the last year. We are a new Board and we have done a tremendous amount of work. We hope this new study is going to place us in a position to become even more efficient and more organized. Once we get there, John thinks we are all going to like where we are going, but in the meantime it has been frustrating, but thanks to these folks (referencing the staff) we have done a good job.

Louise felt a modest study, one that we can afford with the help of the CIB, is a good deal because what it will do is give us an objective, professional assessment of what we actually have and what we reasonably need to be an effective district. It will give us the information we need to go forward with the specific elements of making the District cost-effective and providing the best service for our constituents. She feels it is a good idea to start with. The idea of obtaining professional, objective evaluation of who we are and what we need and what we can reasonably afford would be very useful to the District.

Chuck Passek is supportive [of a study]. "We have basically a \$676,000 budget and we are dealing with the fields of structural fire and an EMS that are highly technical, highly regulated, and highly hazardous." Chuck feels he does not have the technical expertise to make decisions on what the appropriate staffing is for these departments or what Springdale and Rockville need in order to have a reasonable risk tolerance for these kinds of activities.

There isn't a study that he can look at that was done five years ago that indicated where the department should go to enable tracking where we are now. He doesn't believe there has ever been a study like this for these departments and we have been depending on our chiefs, which are highly qualified, but just in Chuck's short time on the Board, we have had three, separate groups of chiefs.

To answer all those questions, and he thinks it comes down to a staffing thing, he finds it hard to go to the public and say, "What should you have for fire?" EMS is set by the State; if we are going to have a Paramedic level service, we have to have a certain number of people on staff. Structural fire is a little bit more nebulous. He can look at national standards and say, normally, we should have six people show up at the station in ten minutes for your typical residential fire; that is sort of a basic minimum for an interior attack on those smaller structures. What he wants to present to the Towns from the experts is whether or not that is realistic for Springdale. If it's not, that educates us, but also the public to sort of decide their risk tolerance. "What do you want to have show up when you dial 911? If we have a professional entity tell us, 'this is what we recommend you should have because of these other factors/requirements,' people from Springdale and Rockville can decide whether that is what they want to support or not." Currently, we are getting that opinion from lay people and he wants to be able to provide the public with the expert opinion; a professional assessment.

Adrian stated this is an emotional issue. He was appointed to the Board in January of this year; however, he began attending the meetings prior to that. As a representative of the Springdale Town Council, he conveyed that Springdale wanted to have the study done for free, or for a nominal charge, by the Hurricane Valley Fire Protection District and it didn't seem to happen.

Adrian is not a professional firefighter. The Town of Springdale knows that no one on the Board, except for Chuck who has firefighter experience, doesn't really know about fire protection. We absolutely need a study. He felt the District could afford it with matching grants and with some help from the Town. A study will indicate whether we should have a full-time fire chief, four staff on call 24/7, or two, or one. We will be able to take that information along with the strategic goals over a number of years and utilize it to benefit the people in Rockville and Springdale. Adrian is definitely in favor of a study.

Louise Excell moved the Board go into public hearing to consider the potential application for grant funding from the Utah Permanent Community Impact Fund Board (CIB). Adrian Player seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

Mike Marriott from Springdale stated that given the makeup of the Board and our situation here, it would be a reasonable thing to do. He wondered if it would be possible to acquire a sample of studies that can be reviewed and make sure that is a product we think would be, in fact, useful to us.

It appears as though this could be very helpful in helping to chart the course forward. He hasn't been thrilled with the increased fees that he is having to pay; he doesn't think anyone is. Anything that can be done to help improve the budgeting and help the department would be good. If a sample could be acquired and made available, Mr. Marriot felt that is something people would be interested in reviewing.

Chair Francis responded stating that in our request for proposals, we will be asking for samples from each of the companies that respond so we will be able to examine those samples and make sure that they are what is desired.

In response to Mr. Marriott's question as to whether they would be available to the public, the Chair responded she has a sample she would be willing to share at this time. Louise added that the Chair has been doing research and has found that most of these companies who perform these kinds of studies will allow us to tailor the study to our particular needs. We need to be able to tailor the scope of the study so it is relevant to our particular needs, which is more rural than metropolitan in nature. Chair Francis added the Board will be defining the scope and expertise they are looking for.

Louise added that in the Chair's discussion with Gary Zabriskie from Five County Association of Governments who has been assisting the Board in this process, his recommendation was that we apply for and receive the grant to fund the study from them before we send out requests for proposals (RFP). Chair Francis clarified that we can make our request for proposals prior to the approval of the grant, as long as the District does not sign a contract or expend any monies. This may be advantageous in that it will save time and allow the study to get underway sooner.

Alex Barajas, firefighter with the District, thanked the Board for considering the study and everything that goes along with it. He addressed the statement of Springdale being rural in nature as it actually compares to a six-mile equivalent of the population of Chicago during the tourist season. The area is continuing to grow in motels and other businesses.

Alex asked if the funding was being approved at this time to which Chair Francis responded that the purpose of this public hearing and agenda item is to hear public comment regarding our intent to apply for the grant. We will then wait to see if we are approved and what the approval is – a grant or a loan. There are funds in the budget (there is no "grant funding" line item) by way of the remaining funds left from the chief's salary line item. Those remaining funds will be reallocated for the study. When the funding is received, the Board will discuss where we are with funds for the match. We would like to pursue other resources for the matching portion. The municipalities in the District will be approached with a request for assistance to cover the match.

Louise also stated that one of the requirements for applying for this grant funding is that we hold a public hearing and hear from the people in the community regarding their desires or concerns. The minutes from this meeting will become part of the application. The purpose is to get a feel for how the Board feels about this application and how the community feels about what we are doing.

Alex asked if the Board was taking any suggestions on what objectives from a ground level operation and the response was yes. Chair Francis stated when we choose a firm to perform the study, their process includes Phase I, which is pre-contract. They sit down with the Board and the Board reviews the fine details of exactly what our expectations are. The Board is looking for input from personnel.

4. ADJOURN PUBLIC HEARING

Louise Excell moved the Board go out of public hearing. Adrian Player seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

Louise offered reasons why she feels it is important to do this study:

- a. This Special Service District needs, at a minimum, a five-year strategic plan, if not a ten-year strategic plan. That plan should include an action plan for funding such things as ongoing personnel training, certification, equipment and gear maintenance and replacement.

- b. The District needs a plan for regular increases in standby fees or for generating other sources of revenue to keep pace with the rising cost of services, personnel and equipment.
- c. The District needs to determine, for the foreseeable future, if we are better off with a full-time fire chief or if we will be able to function just as well with a part-time chief and supporting captains.
- d. We need to settle once and for all the controversy in our community as to our fiscal responsibility.
- e. We need to significantly upgrade our personnel, board and evaluation policies and our procedures.
- f. We need to make sure the Emergency Reporting System that has been implemented for record-keeping is maintained, that there is a procedure for keeping personnel training and evaluation records, run records, incident records, equipment inventory, testing and certifications up to date.
- g. We need to do some very serious public outreach in education and we need to create our own website and become acquainted with social media so we can interact and educate our constituents.
- h. We need to be able to offer training and mentoring for the Board members.

Louse felt all her above suggestions can only be achieved if we conduct an objective study of what we are doing and what we need to do and then take that information under consideration. This is very important for the sustainability and long-term success of the District.

Louise agreed with Alex in that this District isn't like any other fire district any place because we have a constituency in our combined communities of maybe 800 people, but we host approximately 3,000,000, and that is a phenomenal burden. We share it with the National Park; they have to be our good partners, always. Somehow we have to meet our obligation to not only our residents but to our businesses, and do it in the best possible way we can, and we need professional guidance.

Chair Francis reviewed this history of the District and its leadership and stated that there has never been a single, unified vision by our District that we have in place that transitional Boards can utilize as a guide and goal. When the study is being conducted, many may be contacted regarding their views. When the study is complete there will be a broad base of data that the District can rely upon to create strategies. We need help; we need expertise; we need professional, objective recommendations. Each one of us are subjective as Board members, and each of our chiefs have been a little subjective in their recommendations and what they want; it is based on their vision. We need something solid that will carry us through for many years to come despite the changes that we may face. It is a good investment for our future.

John Callahan responded to an earlier question from Mike Marriott and stated that we are already reviewing a boiler plate from a company that we are utilizing as a sample. There are things in that document that he never thought about. We are expected to direct our personnel and we should know about these things – fire inspections, etc.

The Chair has heard the remark that we have planners available to us. Many don't understand that the municipalities which we serve are separate from the District; we do not have planners. The planners in Rockville and Springdale have a different kind of expertise. What we are looking for is something that is very specific to emergency services. These companies do more than the typical feasibility study that a lot of business and municipalities go through when they are trying to build, for instance, streetlight improvements. We are looking for a very specific and regulated field with a

certain expertise so the people who will be looking at us will have an understanding of apparatus, risk, and all of the national regulations that go along with fire and emergency medical services.

Mr. Marriott, speaking to the point of objectivity, asked if the Board would be willing to entertain inviting some additional community members to weigh in and help with the selection process of the various firms being considered. The Chair responded it is up to the Board to choose the actual company. Louise added the Board has the same fiduciary responsibility a municipality would so when the RFP is released and we receive the responses, they have to be considered as part of a regular open meeting. The firm from which we have information indicates as one of their phases that they do interview community leaders, business leaders, neighborhood organizations, city officials to obtain opinions.

Chair Francis stated the RFP is a somewhat complicated document because there are specific requirements that the District has to perform so we get the results we desire from the kinds of companies we are seeking. The Board has to state our expectations, the goals we have, give an idea of our budget, and clearly state what we want out of the study. Once published, the RFP will be open for ten days and when the proposals are received, they will come sealed, to be opened in a public meeting. The RFP is a public document so anyone can see exactly what the District is requesting.

Louise stated that, as a Board member who has never done this for the District before, would welcome any input.

Mr. Marriott asked if, concerning the scope of work that is to be provided, would it be possible as part of the proposal request, to have a request that includes ongoing updates. For example, every five years there would be an update to the existing study without having to redo the entire thing. Would the company be willing to do that at some greatly reduced price so there is always a fairly current document? Chair Francis responded we could certainly propose that and some of the companies may already offer such a service.

Chuck stated that is one of the issues we have; we don't have a baseline study right now that we can refer back to. It could possibly be something they could tell us – whether the size of this community requires that we generate a review every five or ten years. As a part of the process, a question to ask would be if we add another 50 hotel rooms and x thousand square feet of structures to the town, that increases our work load by x. That could be a factor that goes into those things. Whenever a new facility is built, we know that is going to impact how we deliver our services by this amount – number of runs, increased number of structures to protect, etc. They should be able to look at the future and determine where we are going. Chuck echoed all of Louise's earlier points for the study and feels they are all things we need. For Chuck, it comes back to the staffing; he wants someone professional to tell us what we need for staffing; that drives everything else that we do. Personnel is the biggest percentage of our budget. If we don't have the personnel, we can't provide the service and he wants to be able to go to the public and say this is what we need.

Chuck stated, "We went from a volunteer department to having staffed EMS personnel, mostly because the State requires it, as we are providing the level of Paramedic service. Then we discovered that all the volunteers we thought were going to show up for a structural fire might not be available at night, so we staffed firefighters on standby at night. Then it was discovered there may not be personnel during the day, so we staffed firefighters for the day also."

Chuck stated that, according to the Chief, if we had to rely on our volunteer firefighters in case of a fire, many would be from out of town and we wouldn't have more than a few show up locally; the rest would have to come from out of town. Therefore, the need to have paid, on-call personnel during the day. What is the public's expectation? We may not be able to have enough show up to be able to enter a building. The study may indicate we need more on-call, maybe less, but it is a question that needs to be answered. Is what we are doing now be adequate for the future and, if not, what is the projection?

In regards to the vendor being objective, Chuck felt the firm was credible.

- 5. PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS** – Mike Marriott asked what the options were for finding revenue has the Board considered beyond simply raising fees. What are some creative things other fire districts do to help add to their budgets? The Chair responded that our department, historically, has not really received very many grants. She has been informed that is due in large to the fact that we don't have a high call volume. The current chief has been instrumental in obtaining grants when he has worked for both Hurricane and LaVerkin. There are grants out there. There is a grant that helps with staffing, a grant that may have helped in the past. There are State grants for protective equipment. We are hoping Ashley will be able to direct us to some of those opportunities that we have not taken advantage of in the past.

There is also the availability of purchasing used equipment from other departments. Louise added that the reality is that grants, whether they are from federal agencies such as FEMA or Homeland Security or whether they are grants from state agencies, it is always going to be soft money; it is always going to be sporadic and conditioned by any number of things. The reality is fire districts, wherever they are, special service districts rely on those basic sources of revenues which are either charges like standby fees or property taxes.

In response to an indistinguishable comment from Mike Marriott, Louise stated she understands it is difficult when business owners have to meet their patrons, but essentially what this fire district does is ask the business owner to tax their customers for their protection by passing along the cost of the assessment to those people who are really impacting the district [tourists/transients].

Mike Marriott agreed that they are an impact but then there is a whole segment of people that flow through here that aren't paying anything. The hotels are being hit fairly hard with the TRT tax. But there are a significant number of people that pass through and enjoy the services that don't pay anything for them. A toll road would gather funds for all who travel through the area. While we talk about the 3,000,000 people who come through here, there is only a certain percentage of those

that actually stay in the hotel rooms at nighttime. On any given night, there may be 10 – 15,000 people that visit the park daily, but at night time, there might be 2,000 people in town on a fully occupied evening.

Louise Excell acknowledged it is a problem but in a place like Springdale when most of the people we serve is approximately 70% visitors, and the other 30% of the calls are generated by the people who actually live within the District and pay taxes and fees, Louise doesn't feel we can burden those property owners much more when 70% of our calls are for transients. It seems fair and reasonable that we ask the innkeepers, restaurateurs and retailers to pass their costs on to those people.

Mr. Marriott agreed that they should share some responsibility, but his point was that whether they bear the entire responsibility because there are 15,000 people coming through on a daily basis and they are only responsible for maybe 2,000 of those 15,000 [assuming he meant the business people are responsible], so you have all those other people that help generate the demand.

Louise asked for Mr. Marriott to think about it and help the District solve the problem.

Chuck Passek felt the question of who generates the activity – is it the 2,000 that stay that are generating the 70% of the EMS calls, or is a portion of the 13,000 that just pass thru, may be able to be answered in the study.

The Chair added that the Board tried, in the creation of the complex and lengthy document called the standby fee classification schedule, to create a sense of parity among the different classifications of entities that we have within our service areas – the businesses, the residences, etc. The businesses were further broken down to what services they provide. She is unaware of any other department that has gone to the trouble to try to put the burden where it is on risk and also the ability to, hopefully, pass on to a more transient population. We understand that not everybody spends the night or eats in a restaurant, but they may end up riding in an ambulance and not pay for it. *Mr. Marriott's remarks were not picked up on the recording from a distance in the audience seating.*

The Chair suggested the District seek to obtain some of the tourism tax received by Washington County.

John Callahan stated that one of the objections of the Board is to be looking at the classifications in the fee schedule to see how we can make them more fair; that is a tough decision. We are open minded enough to listen to suggestions. Chair Francis added that the Board will be reviewing the classifications again as we approach our next billing cycle to see if we have as many classifications as we need based on the kinds of growth that has happened in Springdale, to make sure we've included everything. It is a fairly new document and it is dynamic.

6. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – FIRE SERVICE

- a. Report on fire activity since the last Board meeting – Chief Averett reported there were 13 incidents – nine EMS of which four were transports. There were four fire calls.

Chief Averett had recently submitted a grant application for wildland clothing and fire shelters. It is a \$15,000 grant. If it is awarded (notification should be in June), we have to purchase the items; send the State of Utah the receipts and they will reimburse the District.

If we ever do anything with Rockville [a substation], that will help our ISO rating. Chief Averett has a contact with the State of Utah where we can obtain Army trucks for free. There is one similar to Tender '91 that is ready for Rockville if we had a place to house it. Those vehicles can actually stay outside. It would need to have a tank and pump installed on it. It is an automatic transmission, whereas the current one is a five-speed. There is also another vehicle available in California which has a 2,500 gallon water capacity. It could also be stored outside. The State of Utah would retain ownership of the vehicles but the District would be responsible for the maintenance.

The chief suggested that a Tender be positioned in a place where it could readily respond to a call on the Rockville mesa.

Chair Francis asked the Chief if we obtained another tender that is easier to drive and does pretty much the same thing our current tender does, could we sell the current one? The Chief's response was yes, and the State would actually give us as many as we want as long as we are using them. The Chief felt we should have one in each community. The District has pumps that could pump water out of the river, if necessary. The trucks could also be utilized to deliver water to residents in case of an emergency and culinary water was not available.

Chair Francis asked if the purchases he was suggesting we make and submit for reimbursement through the State were in already things that we planned on purchasing, and if they were in our current budget and the Chief responded he thought we could come up with the funds. We do not have to purchase the items all at once – just as long as the purchases are completed by November.

There is going to be a wildland class and the State wants to begin the second or third week in May. The certification for completion is represented by a "red card" certification which enables our crew & equipment to assist in wild fires statewide.

Discussion took place relative to the sharing of resources with other entities when needed in an emergency. It was clarified that, although we have mutual aid agreements, we are never required to send equipment or personnel to another area outside ours if we are left with inadequate protection.

- b. Consideration and possible approval of applicants for the Fire service – Three applications were presented for approval – Dan Snyder (resident of Virgin and employed by the Hurricane Fire Department), Damon Spellman (Rockville resident and returning to the District), and applicant Josh Averett (LaVerkin resident and son of the Chief). (NOTE: Josh Averett's application for hire was later withdrawn, with a change to volunteer status.) Alex, Dillon (Fire Captain) and Maggie (EMS Captain) feel we need to set some rules relative to putting new employees on the schedule. Suggestions were: give them a year to obtain certification (a grace period since the current personnel weren't certified for five or six years, and now they are.) There needs to be some sort of grace period. The plan is to have another Firefighter I and II class in the fall to allow for new personnel to become certified. Maggie wants to have an EMS class for EMT certification at the first of the year, after the FFI and FFII classes are completed.

Chair Francis stated if the Chief and his officers wanted to, they could start updating some of the verbal SOPs [Standard Operating Procedures] and writing some of those procedures down. She understands there are some protocols in place but they need to be put into writing.

Chuck Passek asked if training could be staggered – Rockville/Springdale do FFI and FFII this year and Hurricane do them next year. The Chief responded that does take place, but we would not want to send everyone up here down to Hurricane for an EMT class and then have a call up here. Chuck was referencing, say, three people that needed the Firefighter I and II certifications.

Chief Averett said we may have the class up here but we may have two or three from Hurricane come up to participate, and maybe one or two from Colorado City, and some from New Harmony, etc. It would be better to have the classes here because we are limited for personnel and it is difficult for our staff to travel out of the area.

Chief Averett felt that every department that is having any training should welcome others from surrounding departments to attend.

Chuck Passek verified that when either service (EMS or fire) responds to another service's call that is noted because it is important to have a record of how many times both services are needed at the same time.

John Callahan inquired, and it was verified that all the incident reports are up to date in the system.

Clerk Harris indicated that some of the applications presented for approval are not complete.

After discussion, Louise Excell moved that the Board approve the applicants contingent upon the completion of the I-9 form required by the Federal Government and that the Board, as soon as possible, develop a procedure for getting these people certified to department standards.

Captain Barajas commented that the Policies and Procedures hasn't been reviewed since 2006 and clarified that employee input is welcome to make recommendations for the review.

Adrian Player seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion to approve the applicants.

- c. Training update – There was no training update.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – There was no new business and no requests for budgeted expenditures.

7. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – AMBULANCE SERVICE

- a. Report on EMS activity since the last board meeting – This was included in the fire service report.
- b. Consideration and possible approval of applicants for the EMS service – There were no new applicants at this time, but there are some pending. Dan Snyder was approved under the fire and he is also an EMT. His certifications need to be provided.
- c. Training update – Captain Averett wants to start the EMT class in January.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – There was no business or requests for budgeted expenditures.

Chuck Passek asked if the training time was in the budget and the Chief responded it was.

The District Clerk read a thank you note from a patient that was transported in our ambulance.

John Callahan stated that in discussions the ISO rating is often referenced. John asked if it was the kind of report that can be shared with the Board; can it be accessed on line; is it in a report form that lay people can understand? Chief Averett responded we have a current rating but a couple of months ago we had a review done and the results are not yet available.

John asked if there was anything the Board can do to enhance our rating by reading and understanding what they are looking for.

Chief Averett reported that half of the rating is determined by the water system which is the responsibility of the municipalities – size of water tank, size of water lines, how many fire hydrants, etc. Presently, we are at a low rate [the lower the rating number, the better] compared to Hurricane.

Chair Francis stated that, to her understanding, before they issue a rating, the District is given a chance to make some changes.

Louise stated that the criteria for the rating system is available on line. Louise offered to send a link to the information. It isn't just water; it is personnel, training, equipment, certifications, etc.

Chair Francis previously sent information to the Board in December just before our ISO meeting was to take place with just layman information and would be glad to provide a copy of the 2008 report.

John Callahan commented that our ISO rating could affect our scope of work for the study. Chuck Passek stated if it was to stay the same or do better, that would be a thing for Mr. Marriott's concern with the businesses. It has a great impact on their insurance rates as to what we provide, and if we can show them that we are maintaining our current level, or making it better, that is a monetary thing for them. If we didn't have the stuff, it would cost them money to have less of a department.

Comments by Chief Averett from the audience relative to the ISO rating – comments not clear.

8. **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT** – There was a community meeting the previous evening for Wildfire in Zion. Those presenting were: David Eaker, Fire Education Specialist from Zion National Park and Area Fire Management Officer for the State of Utah Dept. of Natural Resources Mike Melton. The Chair felt most of our entire fire crew was there. There were a few members of the public present, maybe ten or less, but there was good participation.

People were interested in learning how to create a defensible space around their homes, and Mike Melton adjusted the subject of his talk to include discussion about a Community Wide Protection Plan. Mr. Melton explained how the District may become involved and pro-active as a department, build our collaborations with the park and the towns, and work together with the community at large to create fire-wise, fire-safe neighborhoods. Mr. Melton offered to help us with that and offered training specifically to our crew to go out to properties and assess the landscaping, etc. and give them suggestions about how to create defensible space. Working with both towns and their ordinances as far as building materials goes to create safer homes during the building process is also part of the Community Wide Protection Plan.

Louise felt the Board should approach both municipalities and request they work with the District on a community plan. It would be a great opportunity to utilize the resources of the state agency and the woman who runs that program. All she needs to know is that we want to be involved and she essentially will do that work for us. Louise addressed Adrian in stating that Tom and Monita and the Town of Rockville need this document (referencing the pamphlet Firewise Landscaping provided by Utah State University) to give to anyone who wants to build, whether it be commercial or residential. One of our EMS personnel, Erin Lytle, is the Wildfire Community Planner.

Chuck Passek indicated we have previously discussed outreach to the communities through community events. This would be a good item for the fire department to have booths and offer information. Chair Francis suggested a community service and have our firefighters go into people's houses and giving them directions and instructions. Also, that is one of the things that is in the ISO – community outreach and proactive or preventive measures we take. If we are working with our communities to create firewise landscaping and buildings, that is noted.

Louise indicated if we have community-wide plans, we are eligible for additional grant monies.

The Chair reported that the department is proactively seeking people who are willing to train with our crew to fill shifts in the short term. She expressed thanks to Captain Barajas for taking the lead on this and getting the May shifts covered.

The Chair also expressed appreciation for Nick Mees who has been putting in many hours of labor toward the kitchen remodel. Tyler Ames and Alex Barajas have also assisted with donated time, and possibly others.

8. **STANDBY FEE BILLING REPORT TO INCLUDE UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS** – As of the end of March, there was \$18,389.96 which was 120 days past due, an increase of \$2,721.53 from February. The total past due as of the end of February is \$112,000.

9. **CLERK'S REPORT**

- a. Account balances – There were no questions or comments.
- b. Ambulance accounts receivable report to include action on any requests for an adjustment in charges – As of the end of March, the accounts receivable was \$63,088.24; an increase of \$10,658.05.
- c. Approval of expenditures for March 2015 – Louise Excell commented that Blake Electric is expensive and asked if they were the automatic go-to, or was there somebody else who does that kind work that would work better for us. Chief Averett responded they had obtained the required number of quotes and he was the most reasonable.

Louise Excell moved the expenditures for March, 2015 be approved. Chuck Passek seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

10. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING:

March 25, 2015 Regular Meeting
April 07, 2015 Special Meeting

Chuck Passek moved to approve the above listed minutes as presented for March 25, 2015 and April 07, 2015. Louise Excell seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion excepting John Callahan who voted no.

11. GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION – Adrian Player reported the first of the budget work sessions for the Springdale budget is April 28 and he was in hopes someone from the Board will be present.

Louise Excell reported that she compared the information from ECSI which included a scope of work, with the information provided by Chief Kuhlmann. The Chair stated the next step is to write the RFP and a lot of the language that will be utilized in that can also be utilized for our application.

Chair Francis reported that Theresa Overfield approached her at the community meeting the previous evening, and offered to volunteer her services with grant writing. She taught grant writing at BYU for 16 years.

12. IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR FUTURE AGENDAS – Chair Francis indicated we are approaching the time when we will be collecting the data in preparation for the annual standby fee billing. This is the time when we will take a look at our classification fee schedule and what we have done to make sure we have included everything that needs to be included and determine if any adjustments are to be made.

The Clerk has been keeping notes of comments, etc. relative to the classification fee schedule and she and the Chair will compile proposed additional language to clarify the document. It was indicated that many members of the Board weren't serving when this was created and it would help them to have a better understanding.

The one comment the Chair has frequently received is that we don't have any kind of discount for those businesses that have rather expensive sprinkler systems installed in their hotels, motels, etc. It has been suggested that maybe we need to offer that. It should be discussed.

There may be the need for a work meeting.

Louise advised she would be gone from May 9 thru May 23.

Chief Averett offered information relative to a source for purchasing used turnout gear. He will research this and if they are certified and the cost is in our budget, some will be purchased as needed.

John Callahan stated that some grant applications require a resolution of the Board and inquired if we needed to do any resolutions relative to some of the grants being proposed. At this time, this process is not required.

13. **ADJOURN** – Louise Excell moved the meeting be adjourned. Adrian Player seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Minutes typed by:

Elaine M. Harris
District Clerk

APPROVED:

Luci Francis
Luci Francis, Chair