

**ROCKVILLE/SPRINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING
P.O. Box 159
Springdale, UT 84767
February 17, 2015
Rockville Community Center**

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Chair Luci Francis called the meeting to order at 4:20 p.m. with the following members of the Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District Board present: Adrian Player, Chuck Passek, Louise Excell and John Callahan. 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 voting in favor of the motion.
3. **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO DETERMINE WHETHER TO ACCEPT HURRICANE VALLEY FIRE SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT'S PROPOSAL TO PERFORM A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY OF THE ROCKVILLE/SPRINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT OR CHOOSE A THIRD PARTY AND SEEK FUNDING FOR SUCH** – Chair Francis reported on her conversation with Gary Zabriskie at Five County Association of Governments stating she had discussed with Gary the kinds of reviews, data and information that would be collected and the kinds of professionals that would be involved in the Hurricane study. Gary thought a study of that kind would be helpful in future funding requests and could be used as data to substantiate any requests the District may make.

Gary also stated it is a very easy process at this point for the District to apply for Five County funding. There will be a prioritization meeting on March 3 for CIB funding. One representative needs to attend from the Board and provide the name of the project. That is all the information they require at that time.

Between March 3 and June 1, the Board can decide whether or not they want to proceed with an application for funding and submit it, if they decide to do so. Gary offered to assist with the writing of the application and felt it would be relatively easy to obtain a grant, which is a 50/50 match. We would need to have a public hearing regarding the intent to apply sometime in late April or early May, prior to submitting the application.

In a phone conversation with Chief Kuhlmann, the Chair conveyed that we did not have the proposal of last April that was provided prior to the meeting on February 11. She indicated gratitude for their offer to assist the District. Chief Kuhlmann responded to the question of his ability to share some of the results of some of the studies he had done in the past by stating he could not. When he had done the studies, he was in the employ of the agency that he did the studies for and they were proprietary, they could not be shared. We have no opportunity to see what results a study would yield.

Chief Kuhlmann wasn't sure at this point whether the HVFSSD Board would want to do a study with the RSFPD, but we could always ask. If they didn't want to offer the RSFPD that service any longer, he would be willing to help us in any way he could by offering us names or putting us in the right direction.

Chair Francis felt at this point the District needs to have a study done that answers the questions that have been put to us by the public and questions that the Board now has of ourselves to help us operate more efficiently and also for the purpose of gaining grant money in the future. Does the Board want to go back to Hurricane and make a request and enter into this study with them, or does the Board want to go our own way? She felt if the decision is made to ask Hurricane, we need to have a contingency in the motion where if we ask and they say no, we have to say we will pursue our own study. If we decide to pursue our own study, we should go ahead and apply for funding,

but at the same time we also begin looking to get assistance from Hurricane for any names or contacts they may be able to provide that may be willing to help us on a pro-bono basis. We may have resources that each Board Member may be aware of that would be happy to help us.

Clerk Harris clarified for Louise that she had not been aware of the response from HVFSSD last April to then-chair Bob Orton.

Louise questioned why the decision to possibly not assist the RSFPD with the study and Chair Francis stated it was unfortunate we did not have the information provided last April prior to the February 11 meeting. There was definitely a misunderstanding of what the RSFPD thought the HVFSSD was going to do and the purpose of what they were doing.

During the meeting it was mentioned there has been a rumor mill going on that there have been members of the public walking into the Hurricane firehouse asking many questions of Chief Kuhlmann such as if they can provide the service cheaper and wanting an answer. He responded the same as he has responded to our Board – he cannot give an answer without doing a study. He was possibly frustrated about the rumors and the sense that they were being accused of wanting to perform some kind of hostile takeover of the RSFPD. It was made clear at the beginning of the meeting that was not the case. Chief Kuhlmann felt there was a feeling that perhaps the data and whatever may be revealed from the study was going to be tainted because of the perception of what Hurricane was trying to do and because of the rumors. They didn't want to go through the time and expense of a study if there was a possibility the RSFPD wasn't going to use it.

Louise questioned if we asked them to do what the scoped study that was outlined in the April 14 proposal, would they do it? The RSFPD was unaware of these additional documents and, therefore, felt that HVFSSD was dragging their feet. This has caused a problem. Chair Francis stated the HVFSSD is looking at other things right now; they are looking at annexing Leeds and Chief Kuhlmann is definitely busy. As to Louise's question, the Chair felt it would depend on the way we approach them to ask. John thought if they were asked they would do it; if not, they weren't going to bother.

Adrian felt like their response was they just needed to be asked. He referenced the timeline and thought we could ask for both. It is incumbent upon the Board to follow through on Michael Plyler's statement to the public, which was perceived by those in attendance that in addition to raising the standby fees, we would have this study done. Adrian felt Hurricane Valley needed to be asked to do the study and if they say no, we have done what we committed to do. At the same time, we can pursue the grant.

Chuck agreed with Adrian. His sense was that they were somewhat upset and indicated we should just look at the materials sent in April. Chuck felt the studies are two approaches. We would want a study to show us how we can operate better. We should prepare for the grant, but if we find out in March that Hurricane is willing to do the study, we could propose utilizing the grant to possibly fund his study. Not asking Hurricane is not an option. Even if we do our own study, we will never have that proprietary information as to what their costs would really be or what their intent would really be. We would have a third party, but would not have the apples to apples comparison without Hurricane doing it themselves.

One question the Chair asked in the meeting was if we did a third party study, one of the questions could be to have these professionals look at the option of having ourselves annexed to Hurricane Valley. This was just one of the many question that could be asked to help us determine the best way to run the services in Rockville and Springdale. If we did that, would they be able to use that

data, and she believed the reply would be that they would still need to their own study; they would need to do their own cost analysis. It would be speculation to say that their study would then be much simpler as we would have already done a lot of the ground work for them. What would remain to be done was a basic cost analysis, which is what the Chair thought we were getting from the beginning.

Louise felt we need to ask Hurricane Valley to do the study with the assurances that there are no costs to the District, or that we, prior to the final agreement, know what those costs will be. Louise felt that could be matching. Then we go to CIB and ask for the grant to help with the study, or we call this a grant to request funding for the necessary studies and data collection and analysis to do at least a five, if not ten, year strategic plan for the RSFPD. If Hurricane will do it, we should ask them what it is going to cost the District so we know the cost up front so we can approach Five County. If they say no, we approach Five County and request funding for a strategic plan study.

Chuck stated Hurricane indicated the only cost would be postage. Chief Kuhlmann has many professionals that will provide their services pro bono.

Some CIB grants allow for in-kind services for matching and some require a cash match.

John felt we should proceed with both processes.

Chuck felt we should request the services from Hurricane and if we do not get a response prior to the March 3 Five County meeting, inform Hurricane that since we haven't heard from them we are covering our bases by approaching Five County to ensure funding.

Chair Francis stated that Hurricane indicated the RSFPD could take whatever role we would desire, and she would offer her own personal time to assist. Louise also volunteered.

Adrian Player moved that the RSFPD ask the Hurricane Valley Fire Special Service District to do the study that they proposed in April 2014. Chuck Passek seconded the motion. Louise suggested asking them to give us some more idea of what the cost would be because it would require amending our budget. Adrian stated they had already informed us it would be postage of approximately \$500. A roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

Louise Excell moved we also continue to keep alive the possibility of a grant through the Five County Association of Governments and that we have representation at their March 3 prioritization meeting. Adrian Player seconded the motion. Chuck stated that he supported the motion as he felt we, as a Board, need to keep our options open. A roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes typed by:
Elaine M. Harris
District Clerk

APPROVED:

Luci Francis
Luci Francis, Chair