

ROCKVILLE/SPRINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 159

Springdale, UT 84767

February 27, 2013

Firehouse

1. **CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL** – Chair Bob Orton called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members of the Rockville/Springdale Fire Protection District Board present: Michael Plyler, Linda Brinkley, Nancy Sanchez and Barry Rhodes. Also present was Chief Ballard. District Clerk Elaine Harris recording.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Barry Rhodes moved the agenda be approved. Nancy Sanchez seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS** – Dan McGuire reported that on this day the Utah Legislature recognized all the men and women in the wildland force recognizing them for their work. Dan expressed his appreciation for our firefighters and EMS personnel.

Dan gave an update on funding possibilities for Rockville to be able to build a second bridge over the Virgin River due to the current downgraded condition of the current one.

4. **DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBILITIES TO INCREASE REVENUE FOR THE DISTRICT'S NEEDS** – Michael Plyler reported that he had met with Springdale Town Manager Rick Wixom and Mayor Pat Cluff. Michael did not feel Springdale would be working any money from their budget to the District's budget. We can begin the process of increasing our property taxes to cover a specific item(s) that we needed to purchase.

Manager Wixom agreed, conceptually, that the Fire Department is finding it difficult to keep up with the commercial development in Springdale. We do not have equipment or personnel to fight a major fire in one of the motels. They felt the best avenue for increasing funds was to up our standby fees on the commercial structures.

When Springdale decreased the transient room tax to the District, the justification was that they put it into the new water system, which delivers water to the hydrants that the fire department uses. They did neglect to mention that when the tax was imposed, it was imposed strictly for the ambulance service.

Michael understands there is one councilperson that doesn't think that was the right thing to do and Michael is going to approach this individual.

Michael feels it is perfectly legitimate to at least consider raising the standby fees for commercial structures at a higher assessment rate because it is the tourist element that increases the need for additional services.

Chief Ballard commented that his main concern during a fire is the protection of people.

Manager Wixom offered information regarding the fact that Springdale recently purchased new law enforcement vehicles and the financing with Zions Bank was for 1.54%. Hopefully, we would be able to do the same for our new ambulance.

Chair Orton has been talking to Dean Cook regarding the fact that the Board is considering increasing the fees for commercial buildings.

5. **DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT PROCEDURES FOR THE BILLING OF STANDBY FEES; THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT STANDBY FEES AND AMBULANCE SERVICE ACCOUNTS** – Chair Orton stated that Clerk Harris has worked with our attorney to create this ordinance. Barry Rhodes moved Ordinance No. 13-0227-1 be adopted with the amount of \$100 for a total balance due before pursuing any collection. Linda Brinkley seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

6. **UPDATE ON FINANCING POSSIBILITIES FOR AN AMBULANCE** – Chair Orton has spoken with Zions Bank and they are waiting for information from us, and the interest will be somewhere between a 1% and 3% fixed rate. It can be financed for five years with an annual or semi-annual payment. Semi-annual payments will have less costs.

Chief Ballard has prepared a bid packet and we need to start the process for receiving sealed bids from providers.

7. **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – FIRE SERVICE**

- a. Report on fire activity since the last board meeting – Chief Ballard reported that since the Board's last meeting, there has been one call – a false fire alarm.
- b. Consideration and possible approval of applicants for the Fire service – Chief Ballard presented an application from Scott Rawlins for the position of firefighter. Scott has been participating with department training for a few weeks and has fire experience. Chief Ballard recommends approval for probationary employment.

Michael Plyer moved that Scott Rawlins be approved on a probationary bases for firefighter. Barry Rhodes seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

- c. Training update – The trainings have been going well and we are continuing to do a monthly training with the Park Service. The two services are working well as a team.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – Chief Ballard said the State has cleaned out the wash adjacent to the firehouse on the opposite side of the road. They have requested that we take care of our side. Chief Ballard has a bid for approximately \$1,000.

There is also a need to begin purchasing some turnout gear, which was in the budget.

- e. Fire Marshal's Report – Chief Ballard reported the Fire Marshal is still working on all the new development in Springdale.

8. **FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – AMBULANCE SERVICE**

- a. Report on EMS activity since the last board meeting – Chief Ballard reported there have been two callouts since the last meeting, one of which was a transport.

- b. Consideration and possible approval of applicants for the EMS service – There were no new applications.
- c. Training update – There were two trainings since the last report. Chief Ballard has actually attended the trainings and they have been excellent.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – We never purchased a service contract for the new defibrillator we purchased last year. A one-year service contract is approximately \$700 and a three or five-year is approximately \$2,200. We have in our budget for such an agreement because we had one with the previous equipment.

Clerk Harris reported that she had received a thank you card from a resident for an ambulance service call with a \$200 donation.

9. **STANDBY FEE BILLING REPORT TO INCLUDE UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS** – As of the end of January, there was \$16,831.98 which was 120 days past due, a decrease of \$671.13.

Clerk Harris reported that the attorney had given advice that we turn our collection agency, United Recover Group over to our local police. Within 45 minutes an appointment had been made and she and Chair Orton will be meeting with them Friday to get our payment and review our accounts.

Along with the proposed ordinance under Item No. 5, the Clerk had distributed a form letter for the Board's review to be sent out prior to sending an account to a collection agency. The Board had no objections to the letter.

10. **CLERK'S REPORT**

- a. Account balances – There were no questions.
- b. Ambulance accounts receivable report to include action on any requests for an adjustment in charges – As of the end of January, the accounts receivable was \$65,122.61, a decrease of \$2,637.28.

The Clerk reported that all the required paperwork has been submitted to Medicare so we should be receiving the payments they have been holding.

- c. Approval of expenditures for January 2013 – Nancy Sanchez moved the expenditures for the month of January be approved. Linda Brinkley seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

11. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 23, 2013 REGULAR MEETING** – Linda Brinkley moved the minutes for the January 23, 2013 regular meeting be approved. Barry Rhodes seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

12. **GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION** – Chief Ballard submitted the specifications for the ambulance if anyone wants to review them. If the bid process is able to be completed before the Board's next regularly scheduled meeting, it would be helpful to have a special meeting to open the bids. The chassis costs will be less if we are able to award it soon.

Michael Plyler reported that when the two new motels are completed, the room occupancy for Springdale will increase by 28%, not including Zion Lodge. That is a significant increase and a significant burden on fire protection. There will be a total of 891 motel rooms in Springdale.

13. IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR FUTURE AGENDAS – There were no issues identified for future agendas.

14. ADJOURN – Barry Rhodes moved the meeting be adjourned. Linda Brinkley seconded the motion. A roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Minutes typed by:

Elaine M. Harris
District Clerk

APPROVED:

Robert W. Orton, Chairman