

ROCKVILLE/SPRINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 159
Springdale, UT 84767
March 26, 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, Nancy Sanchez and Barry Rhodes. Linda Brinkley was excused. Also present was Chief Ballard. District Clerk Elaine Harris recording.
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** – Barry Rhodes moved the agenda be approved. Michael Plyler seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT AND QUESTIONS** – There was no public comment.
4. **DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBILITIES TO INCREASE REVENUE FOR THE DISTRICT'S NEEDS** – Chair Orton proposed placing collection boxes at the commercial establishments to generate donations for operating costs. Michael Plyler felt that was not a guaranteed income and the standby fee assessment should be increased on the commercial structures.

Chief Ballard reported that Ruby's Inn at Bryce Canyon has a program in place where when a call is received to make a reservation, an offer is made to the person if they would like to donate one dollar towards the Park Service (Bryce Canyon). The customer can decide at that point whether or not to donate the dollar. If they decide to donate, one dollar per night is charged to their bill and the money is then transferred to Bryce Canyon. The park has collected between \$50,000 and \$60,000 per year from Ruby's Inn.

Michael Plyler responded that the Zion Natural History Association has been attempting the same thing in Springdale for years and the only one motel was willing to participate. Two or three others have indicated they would be willing but, so far, have not indicated they are ready to do so.

If the Board were to approach them, the two entities would be competing with each other.

Chair Orton still plans on taking different ideas to Dean Cook and the Visitors Bureau and he will consult with him whether they want the District to raise their assessment or are they willing to try other possibilities. Barry Rhodes felt they may be willing to try other possibilities on a trial basis to see what kind of revenue can be generated.

Chair Orton reinforced the fact that it is the tourists that need to pay for the services. We should try some alternatives this upcoming year and see what happens. If we want to increase the assessment, we will need to have a Public Hearing.

One of the objections of the motels is the extra bookkeeping involved in collecting and distributing monies. It would cost them more if their rates were increased. They would have to understand that the alternative methods would most likely not generate all the added income needed, but it would go towards lowering their possible assessment increase.

Chair Orton will meet with Dean Cook before the next board meeting and find out what the other motels would like to do with the understanding that something has to be done.

5. **AWARD BID FOR THE PURCHASE OF AN AMBULANCE** – Chief Ballard we had one bid from Rocky Mountain Ambulance submitted from the several that were distributed to companies. Rocky Mountain Ambulance built the last two ambulances for the canyon. Their bid packet met our specifications and the amount is \$156,854, which is less than we predicted.

Chief Ballard proposed a system (Cot Load Assist) which was demonstrated a couple of weeks ago. The system assists in the loading of the cot (gurney) into the ambulance. This system greatly reduces back injuries for emergency services personnel. Chair Ballard presented a video of the power cot and reviewed how it works. It has a 700 lb. capacity, including the apparatus. In case of a failure in the power, it can be operated manually. The cost, installed, is \$26,600. Michael commented that we were originally thinking a cost of \$180,000, so this addition would only be an additional few thousand.

Chief Ballard confirmed that all the existing equipment on our current ambulance will be transferred to the new one. There is a possibility we can get \$15,000 for our existing ambulance. It has 65,000 miles on it.

The process for loading a patient without this apparatus and loading a patient with the apparatus was discussed.

The load assist comes with a limited warranty and also a service agreement that will be offered.

Chair Orton stated the total cost would be 182,854; we agreed to put \$60,000 down and if we can get \$15,000 for the current ambulance, that would leave a balance of \$107-108,000 to finance over a five-year period, which would be about \$26,000/yr.

Michael Plyler moved the ambulance be purchased as bid by Rocky Mountain Ambulance. Nancy Sanchez seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

6. **CONSIDERATION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT** – It was assumed this purchase was approved to be included in the cost/financing of the new ambulance as one package.

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 – an illegal burn. He is trying to accommodate the residents as best he can in getting their vegetation burned.
- b. Consideration and possible approval of applicants for the Fire service – There were no new applications.
- c. Training update – The trainings have been going well and this evening they are walking through the new Hampton Inn. They will also be doing a walk-thru of the La Quinta at a later date.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – No requests were made.

Chief Ballard reported that the Park Service's wildland fire program has been cut severely this year. This impacts the District because of the lack of available assistance if needed. Their staffing levels have been cut drastically. The structural crew will also be limited.

For a structural fire in the District, the Park is automatically paged; for wildland, it is a different department in the Park Service and most times we have to request assistance.

- e. Fire Marshal's Report – Chief Ballard reported the Fire Marshal has set up the new motel walk-thrus and is still working on all the new development in Springdale and some projects in Rockville.

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. There were four EMTs on standby for the recent Zion Marathon Race.
- 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.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – There were no requests for budgeted expenditures.

9. STANDBY FEE BILLING REPORT TO INCLUDE UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS – As of the end of February, there was \$16,580.40 which was 120 days past due, a decrease of \$251.58.

Clerk Harris reported that she has sent out approximately ten pre-warnings letters that a lien was going to be placed on their property if their delinquent fees were not paid by March 31, 2013.

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 February, the accounts receivable was \$62,983.78, a decrease of \$2138.83. Four accounts were turned over to the new collection agency.
- c. Approval of expenditures for February 2013 – Nancy Sanchez moved the expenditures for the month of February be approved. Barry Rhodes 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 FEBRUARY 27, 2013 REGULAR MEETING – Barry Rhodes moved the minutes for the February 27, 2013 regular meeting be approved. Nancy Sanchez seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

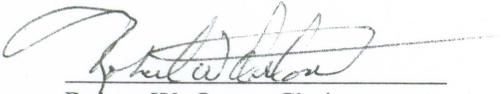
12. **GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION** – There was no general board discussion.
13. **IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** – There were no issues identified for future agendas.
14. **ADJOURN** – Barry Rhodes moved the meeting be adjourned. Michael Plyler seconded the motion. A roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Minutes typed by:

Elaine M. Harris
District Clerk

APPROVED:



Robert W. Orton, Chairman