

## ROCKVILLE/SPRINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 159

Springdale, UT 84767

July 24, 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: Linda Brinkley, Michael Plyler and Barry Rhodes. Nancy Sanchez arrived at 6:35 p.m.. 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** – In response to a question by John Callahan, resident of Springdale, the most current agreement with the Town of Springdale for ambulance service is dated 2009. In response to the question as to why it isn't more current, Chair Orton explained the agreement was for how much of the TRT funds they would pass to the District and any increases would be based on a five-year average of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). Mr. Callahan indicated the CPI index listed in the agreement was through 2013.

In response to Mr. Callahan's question if there was formula that the District utilizes for billing for the services, the Clerk stated that when the Standby Fee was instituted, there was a committee that determined how the charges were going to be attributed and the process. When she does the annual review each year, she checks for business licenses and building permits with both towns, then evaluate the businesses per the Standby Fee Schedule. She has created a spreadsheet that keeps track of each parcel and the justification for the charges.

Mr. Callahan asked where he could find the monthly financial reports. The financial reports are given to the Board each month so they can see where we are financially; the report isn't something that is posted. If a copy is requested, it can be furnished.

During the major holidays, the parking along SR-9 in front of the firehouse is often occupied by large RV's, etc. This makes it extremely difficult to see oncoming traffic when coming out of the neighboring driveways. One of the neighbors has requested some action by the Town of Springdale, but Mr. Callahan felt it was a safety issue and asked the board's position would be if the neighbors request that area be permit parking or no parking. Michael Plyler stated that was an issue everywhere in Springdale. Mr. Callahan voiced his concern about the emergency vehicles being able to exit the driveways of the firehouse. Barry Rhodes stated that neither the Department nor the Board have the authority to create parking zones; they can request from the local law enforcement that they designate an area no parking or limited parking, but they don't have the authority to create a zone nor any way to enforce it. That is up to the local law enforcement.

Chief Ballard could support efforts to limit the parking in this area and he has spoke with Springdale about it some time ago. He would prefer the parking in front of the firehouse be for the fire department personnel – emergency parking. Chief Ballard will make another request.

Chair Orton suggested the concerned residents also contact the Utah Department of Transportation as it is a State Route, not a municipal road.

Chief Ballard clarified their concern was the section between Gifford Park and the west end of the station.

Phil Anderson stated the last time he attended a meeting it was because the District was looking at a raise in the fees because there wasn't enough money to operate the services. He has heard that the District had purchased a \$158,000 new ambulance and he never saw any notice that was happening. In addition he understands there have been some pay increases and then he discovered the Board was seeking other avenues of revenue. He was concerned the District was spending money they didn't have in the hopes that paint the public into a corner where they have to approve another rate increase when the current one is up. How are we paying for a new ambulance?

Chair Orton explained the old ambulance was 13 years old and it is recommended they be replaced every ten years. Chief Ballard added that we were able to get another three years because how well we maintain our equipment. The new ambulance had been saved for over a year and it has been discussed for the past several months in the board meetings. It has been on the agenda and the agenda is posted on Springdale's website. The ambulance was a budget item at the end of 2012.

The price of the ambulance was actually \$186,000. We put a certain amount of money as a reserve/replacement for a new ambulance; we did not have the entire amount so we put \$75,000 down (\$60,000 from the District's funds and the future sale of the existing ambulance at \$15,000). We have budgeted for the next five years for a lease/purchase from Zions First National Bank at a low interest rate.

Michael Plyler brought up the issue of the fact that the current Springdale administration removed approximately \$60,000/yr. from our budget by lowering the amount of the TRT (originally created specifically for support of the ambulance) to be passed to the District. The history of that action was discussed. Regarding the issue of raising fees, the Board is looking specifically at the businesses, mainly the motels as the majority of the ambulance impact is created by the tourist industry.

Chief Ballard responded to the issue of raises in pay. The ambulance personnel were being paid \$6/hr. to be on call. There are only two people who live within the District who serve on the ambulance. Therefore, you have to attract certified EMTs from out of the area to serve shifts. A year ago, the increase was \$1.00 and then another 50 cents this year. We aren't close to what other entities pay. There is a bonus for taking a patient to the hospital.

The fact that running an ambulance is not, by any means, a profitable operation, but it is a necessary service. Collecting is difficult. We also don't have the call volume that there is in a larger city. Accounts are sometimes turned over to collections, but you can't collect outside of the country.

The lack of information provided to the residents by the District was discussed. The District has monthly meetings and those meeting agendas are posted at both the Rockville and Springdale post offices and at the firehouse. Barry Rhodes asked what part of the service would Mr. Anderson suggest the District discontinue in order to absorb the expense of sending out mailers. If the public wants to know what the Board is doing, they need to attend the meetings and ask questions.

Mr. Reber suggested that the Board give a report at the Springdale Town Meetings. It would help with PR. Chair Orton asked him to volunteer to be the PR officer for the Board. Chair Orton would be more than willing to discuss it with him.

Chief Ballard reported that only two of the firefighters are vested in the communities by owning property. Three others rent. The rest serve as volunteers from other communities to serve our communities.

**4. 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 had been four calls – two false fire alarms at the elementary school and two brush fires, one in Zion Canyon started by fireworks in the campground and 50 acres northwest of Rockville. That was also in the Park so the incident was turned over to them.
- b. Consideration and possible approval of applicants for the Fire service – There were no new applications.
- c. Training update – Trainings have continued on a weekly basis and some very good ones with the Park and EMS on the new ambulance.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – There were no budget requests.
- e. Fire Marshal's Report – Chief Ballard reported Marshal Barker is still involved in final inspections on the new motels and doing plan reviews for other new development. Marshal Barker has also been doing the annual business inspections.

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

- a. Report on EMS activity since the last board meeting – Chief Ballard reported there were 10 calls, five of which were transports.
- b. Consideration and possible approval of applicants for the EMS service – Three applications were presented for approval – Jerald Yeaton (Advanced EMT), Shawn Stenson (Paramedic), and Matt Goodman (Advanced EMT). All three came recommended by Captain Wood. Chief Ballard stated that the State is not going to have an Intermediate Certification any more; there will be a Basic, Advanced EMT, and Paramedic.

In response to the question about background checks, Chief Ballard stated that is handled by the State when they are certified.

Nancy Sanchez moved the applicants be approved as presented. Linda Brinkley seconded the motion and all those present voted in favor of the motion.

- c. Training update – There has been extensive training on the new ambulance and the lift system.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – Chief Ballard requested the purchase of a new pediatric cot adapter that secures a child on the gurney. The cost is \$250 plus shipping.

**7. STANDBY FEE BILLING REPORT TO INCLUDE UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS** – As of the end of June, there was \$6,491.23 which was 120 days past due, a decrease of \$2,981.00.

**8. 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 June, the accounts receivable was \$62,638.53, an increase of \$10,183.78.

As a follow up to last month's request for consideration of a write-off of ambulance charges, Clerk Harris reported that contrary to what the request stated, the insurance had not paid. The amount was applied to their deductible. The Board agreed that the charges need to be paid.

- c. Approval of expenditures for June 2013 – Barry Rhodes moved the expenditures for the month of June be approved. Michael Plyler seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.
- 9. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 26, 2013 REGULAR MEETING** – Nancy Sanchez moved the minutes for the June 26, 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.
- 10. GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION** – The Clerk reported that she is having a problem with the computer and will research having it being repaired, but may have to purchase a new one if it isn't repairable.
- 11. IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** – There were no items identified for future agendas.
- 12. ADJOURN** – Barry Rhodes moved the meeting be adjourned. Lindy Brinkley seconded the motion. A roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Minutes typed by:

Elaine M. Harris  
District Clerk

APPROVED:

Robert W. Orton  
Robert W. Orton, Chairman