

ROCKVILLE/SPRINGDALE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
P.O. Box 159
Springdale, UT 84767
October 23, 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, Linda Brinkley and Barry Rhodes. Also present were Chief Ballard, Fire Captain Joe Barker and EMS Captain Vince Wood. 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 statement by John Callahan, Chair Orton confirmed that Chief Ballard has resigned and we have a proposal for an interim that will be acted on later.
4. **PRELIMINARY REVIEW OF PROPOSED BUDGET FOR 2014 AND CONSENSUS ON AMENDING THE CURRENT BUDGET TO ALLOW FOR PAID, ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS** – The Board had been provided with a proposed budget for their review prior to the meeting. Chair Orton pointed out that the biggest change for this year will be the purchase of the ambulance that will require an amendment to the 2013 budget. There will also be a need to allow for the on-call pay for the remainder of the year for firefighters.

For the 2014 budget, firefighter reimbursement went from a budgeted amount in 2013 of \$15,000 to \$99,840. We will have two firefighters on call at \$7.50/hr. from 5 pm to 8 am on weekdays and 24/hrs. on weekends.

5. **APPROVAL FOR JOE BARKER TO BE THE INTERIM FIRE CHIEF THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND TO HAVE TWO PAID, ON-CALL FIREFIGHTERS FROM 5 PM TO 8 AM ON WEEKENDS UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2013** – Chair Orton stated it was proposed in the special meeting that the Board have Joe Barker be the interim Fire Chief for the rest of the year, and starting November 1 we would have firefighters on call from 5 pm to 8 am five days a week. During the 40 hours a week we are not paying on call is mostly because the firefighters are in town working and can respond when needed.

The reasons we are proposing having on-call firefighters is 1) Joe Barker lives in Hurricane, and 2) we only have four local firefighters that live in the District. Not all of them are that experienced or will be available during those hours. With training, we will be utilizing some of our EMS personnel to be on call for fire when they are not on call for the ambulance.

Nancy Sanchez stated that she was concerned about allowing a Fire Chief to live 30 minutes away is setting the Board at risk of rightly being accused of negligence. The Board is saying that Joe being 30 minutes away that, in the event of a needed decision during an emergency, one of our on-call firefighters will be capable of making a decision. Because of this we, the Board, will be responsible for that decision, not the Fire Chief, because we knew and allowed the Fire Chief to live 30 minutes away. If we truly believe one of the local firefighters are capable in making a critical decision in an emergency situation, we should hire that firefighter as the Fire Chief and start the necessary training during this interim period. Nancy will support Joe as the Fire Chief only if he is willing to relocate to the area. She believes the most responsible course of action would be to combine the Fire Chief and Fire Marshal and advertise for that position immediately.

Barry Rhodes stated the Chief serves at the discretion of the Board, but the operation and the assignments and any duty assignments are up to the Chief – he runs the fire department. As such, it all falls on him and his discretion who he uses, where and for what.

Barry stated that if Joe accepts the job as the Chief and he knows he serves at the discretion of the Board. It is up to him to come up with reliable people who will be on standby. It is up to the Chief to run the fire department, not the Board.

Linda Brinkley stated that, having been on the end of family members that have been sued as Board members, she agrees with Nancy. She understands the predicament and realizes we are in a pinch and need to make do the best we can, but feels the sooner we can get someone who lives here and combine the positions, the better.

Barry stated that currently, our Bylaws do not require the Chief to live in the District. In order to require that, we would need to change the Bylaws.

Michael Plyler reminded everyone that the reason we only have four firefighters living within the District is because people can't afford to live here and for us to be able to hire a Chief and pay him the salary that would enable him to live here would be difficult.

During the next couple of months, the Board will be discussing what we will be looking for on a more permanent basis. Chair Orton stated there was no way we could continue this way, but in reality, there needs to be funds. We can't operate for very long on reserves.

Our equipment is 20 years old and we have not been able to keep up with the growth in Springdale. We don't need to find funds to patch the situation, we need to find money that will sustain the service for years to come.

Barry Rhodes and Michael Plyler have a meeting coming up with the Town of Springdale regarding funds. Michael stated the importance that the District cannot support fireworks and leave the rest of the District unprotected as they don't have enough equipment to handle two incidents at the same time. It is hopeful the new administration will be open to some discussion regarding funding.

Discussion took place regarding the fact that any increase of the Standby Fee should be directly attributed to the tourism and Michael gave some examples of possible ideas for calculating the increase.

Nancy Sanchez moved for Joe Barker to be the interim Fire Chief to December 31, 2013 and to have two paid, on-call firefighters from 5 pm to 8 am on weekends to December 31, 2013. Michael Plyler seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.

Discussion took place regarding when, exactly, Chief Ballard, was resigning and the new appointment was to take place. Chief Ballard had not received any formal notification that the Board had accepted his resignation. Chair Orton stated that had taken place at the special meeting where Chief Ballard was not in attendance.

Chair Orton stated that the District was in great debt of the service Chief Ballard has provided.

6. 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 medical assists, one fire alarm and one controlled burn.
- 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.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – There were no requests for expenditures.
- e. Fire Marshal's Report – Chief Ballard reported Marshal Barker is doing business as usual.

7. FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT – AMBULANCE SERVICE

- a. Report on EMS activity since the last board meeting – Chief Ballard reported there were 10 calls, six of which were transports.
- b. Consideration and possible approval of applicants for the EMS service – There were no new applications.
- c. Training update – There has been training every two weeks. Tonight's training was for protocols for medications and also incident command and radio communications.
- d. New business to include requests for budgeted expenditures – There were no new budget requests other than the need for computers.

8. STANDBY FEE BILLING REPORT TO INCLUDE UPDATE AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS

– As of the end of September, there was \$7,286.91 which was 120 days past due, a decrease of \$872.88. The total past due as of the end of September is down by approximately \$10,000 from last month.

9. 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 September, the accounts receivable was \$67,808.36, an increase of \$6,215.55.

Clerk Harris presented a request from our billing agent, JCI, for proposed write-offs for disposable supplies that aren't covered by Medicare. A portion of the Affordable Care Act is affecting payment of these supplies. The Clerk will have more information for the next meeting to enable the Board to make a decision.

- c. Approval of expenditures for September 2013 – Michael Plyler moved the expenditures for the month of September be approved. Barry Rhodes 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 SEPTEMBER 25, 2013 REGULAR MEETING AND OCTOBER 15, 2013 SPECIAL MEETING** – Barry Rhodes moved the minutes for the September 25, 2013 regular meeting and October 15, 2013 special meeting be approved. Nancy Sanchez seconded the motion and a roll call vote indicated all those present voted in favor of the motion.
11. **GENERAL BOARD DISCUSSION** – During the first couple of months of the new year, some decision will have to be made relevant to the Standby Fee. We have reserves to cover the new budget as proposed for the upcoming year.
12. **IDENTIFICATION OF ISSUES FOR FUTURE AGENDAS** – The Tentative Budget for 2014 will be presented for approval at the November meeting. The disposable supplies issue with Medicare will be presented again for consideration.

Discussion took place regarding the restructuring of the Standby Fee for commercial businesses.

Nancy Sanchez asked if we were going with Joe Barker as the Fire Chief or are we looking at other options after January 1. Chair Orton felt we had to and had explained to Joe that it was going to boil down to a full-time Fire Chief living in Springdale. When that time comes, he needs to think about moving if he wants the position. Chair Orton has talked with a few people up north and he has feelers out.

The possibility of finding someone that was semi-retired with a retirement income would be a good possibility.

Chair Orton projects the District is going to need an extra \$250,000 to operate the District and that funding has yet to be determined. We need firefighters on call; we need equipment and a full-time Fire Chief at no less than \$30,000/yr. A total volunteer situation doesn't work anymore – there just aren't the people.

13. **ADJOURN** – Michael Plyler 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 7:25 p.m.

Minutes typed by:

Elaine M. Harris
District Clerk

APPROVED:

Robert W. Orton
Robert W. Orton, Chairman