



Sagle Fire District

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REGULAR BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS MEETING

March 23, 2015

Chairman Goodyear called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.

Present were Commissioners Goodyear, Engelhart, Charbonneau, Fels (by speaker phone), and Shellhart. Also present were Chief Stocking and Executive Assistant RuthAnn Zigler.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Charbonneau made a motion to approve the accounts payables as presented. Commissioner Engelhardt seconded and the motion carried.

Commissioner Fels made a motion to approve the minutes of February 9, 2015 as presented. Commissioner Charbonneau seconded and the motion carried.

REPORTS

Chief's Monthly Report: Chief Stocking distributed the Operational Report for February 2015 for the Boards review.

Treasurer's Report: Chairman Goodyear reported that we are at 94% of budget on overtime. We are at 90% of budget year-to-date.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion and possible approval to renew lease on Careywood station: The Chief distributed a copy of the Addendum and Extension of Lease Agreement to the Board for their review and comment. The existing agreement is being modified to allow for the contingency of the Idaho Transportation Departments Highway 95 project. The Chief will give Attorney Dodson the changes that need to be made to the agreement; after changes are made a copy will be given to Delay Farms for their final review.

Commissioner Engelhardt made a motion to accept the Careywood properties Addendum and Extension of Lease Agreement with the Board's recommended changes. Commissioner Charbonneau seconded and the motion carried.

Discussion and possible approval to purchase two sets of volunteer turnouts: The Chief reported that the volunteer program is growing and we currently are in need of two sets of turn outs. Turnouts are good for ten years; a grant will be written to possibly get assistance in purchasing turnouts. The Board authorized the Chief to use his discretion in the purchase of turnouts.

Discussion and possible authorization to hire part-time Fire Marshal: The Chief requested authorization to hire a part-time Fire Marshal. The Chief distributed a job description for the Fire Marshal and reported that we have an interested volunteer who is a retired Fire Chief and Fire Marshal and who has been donating his time in both Sandpoint and Sagle to visit with every home owner who has submitted a permit application, providing recommendations, if needed, for fire prevention.

Commissioner Fels made a motion to accept the Chief's request for a part-time Fire Marshal. Commissioner Shellhart seconded.

Commissioner Engelhardt made a motion to amend the language as presented by the Chief for the Selkirk Fire, Rescue & EMS' part-time, no benefits, Deputy Chief Fire Marshal, and amend the list of activities proposed, following direction and approval by the Fire Chief. The fifth item where it states: "Perform fire inspections, fire investigations, and code enforcement", amend the language to read: "Perform fire inspections, assist in fire investigations and commercial building code enforcement". Commissioner Engelhardt also moved that item number seven where it now states: "Conduct inspections of existing structures, homes, and new construction", amend to read: "Where statutory authority exists, conduct inspections of existing structures, homes and new construction". Commissioner Fels made a motion to amend the amendment to include: "or as requested by a property owner". The language on item number seven would now read: "Where statutory authority exists or as requested by property owner, conduct inspections of existing structures, homes and new construction."

Commissioners Fels made a motion to amend the initial motion to accept the changes in the job description as proposed. Commissioner Charbonneau seconded. The motion passed with a 4 to 1 vote.

Discussion on Bonner County EMS Contract: The Chief reported that by April 1 of every year there is a contract review with Bonner County EMS. With our current contract we receive \$85,000/year. The Chief stated that he presented BCEMS with a new proposal that would include Sagle and Sandpoint areas of responsibilities. BCEMS wants to discuss the proposal further and then the Chief and Bob Bussey will meet this week to continue discussions. The Chief said he would like to see the District and BCEMS come up with a partnership and come together as partners and publicly supporting negotiations for a new contract. The Chief stated that he will keep the Commissioners updated on the discussions between the two agencies.

Discussion and approval to schedule Budget Hearing: The Budget Hearing date was scheduled for August 24, 2015. The hearing date will be submitted to the Bonner County Clerk prior to the due date of April 30, 2015.

Discussion on what direction to take on incidents involving property owners outside the District's coverage area: The Chief reported that we respond to brush fires that are outside the District's coverage area and our costs are not covered. Year-to-date we have had twenty-one incidents on properties where the majority of the property owners do not pay fire protection for their land, only for structures. The Chief stated that he feels that as a Fire District we need to come up with a way to capture funds. We have the ability to bill for fire suppression costs and if not paid can be attached to their tax bill for payment. County statutes allow the District to collect for fire suppression for areas where fire suppression is provided. After discussion, the Board tabled this item for further discussion.

The Chief was directed to get legal advice from the District's attorney and then we need to develop a policy that we can have for public consumption and guidelines that we can enforce.

Discussion and possible motion to continue moving forward with the merging of Sandpoint Fire Department and Sagle Fire District: Commissioner Engelhardt gave a brief update on the discussion from the JPA Board meeting with Attorney Lerma. He said there are three ways we can go: 1) Continue with the JPA as we currently have it; 2) Form an entirely new District, which by law, we would have to legally dissolve the Sagle Fire District. If we legally dissolve the Sagle Fire District; the new District would incorporate the Sandpoint city limits; and 3) Existing Sagle Fire District could annex the city.

Discussion needs to be continued and at some point this Board will need to give the City of Sandpoint our position.

OLD BUSINESS

Discussion and possible approval of Station 3 remodel: The Board concurred that at this point, there is no need for further discussion on the remodel of Station 3.

Commissioner Fels made a motion to table the discussion on the Station 3 remodel until we have better direction on what we are going to do with the land. Commissioner Engelhardt seconded and the motion carried.

JPA Board update: This item was discussed earlier in the discussion of merging the City of Sandpoint and Sagle Fire District.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Engelhardt made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 a.m. Commissioner Charbonneau seconded and the motion carried.