

The Rye Fire Protection District

MINUTES OF THE RYE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING Regular Meeting January 16, 2017

Present Directors – Mr. John Schaiberger, Mr. Rich Simpson, Mr. Mike Davis, Mr. Wally Rice

Absent Directors – Mr. Garry Melchi

Others - Chief Steve Bennett, Captain Jim Beach

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Mr. Schaiberger, who chaired the meeting.

Mr. John Schaiberger introduced Mr. Pat Garcia who is an Attorney with Peterson & Fonda PC in Pueblo. He is interested in becoming Legal Counsel for the Rye Fire Protection District. Mr. Garcia talked and explained his experience with governmental entities, special districts and fire departments. Mr. Garcia is currently legal counsel for Pueblo Rural Fire District. Following Mr. Garcia's talk, several Board Members asked questions in which all were answered. Mr. Garcia thanked the board and hoped to hear from them again.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and present members were introduced.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Schaiberger asked for any additions or changes to the meeting agenda. Mr. Schaiberger asked to include an executive session to discuss possible change in legal counsel.

Motion to approve Meeting Agenda for January 16, 2017 as posted with the added executive session.

Motion: Mr. Simpson
Second: Mr. Davis

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

The Rye Fire Protection District

Receive or Act on Board Correspondence

None.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

None.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Schaiberger asked for approval of the minutes of December 2016. Mr. Schaiberger asked how many Life Pack 15 cardiac monitors were requested and Chief Bennett noted two machines.

Motion to approval of the meeting minutes for December 2016 as presented.

Motion: Mr. Davis
Second: Mr. Schaiberger

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Treasurer's Report

Accounts Receivable. Chief Bennett noted that revenue from taxes and EMS was minimal. The cash accounts summary for the end of December showed a negative balance, but the Operating Line of Credit was received the first of January which corrected this situation. Chief Bennett noted that we will be receiving payment for the Hayden Creek Fire deployment. The Beulah Hill Fire and Junkins Fire are still outstanding.

Accounts Payable. The Operating Line of Credit will be reflected in next month's reports. Several other Interagency payments were received and paid out. Chief Bennett asked if the Board would consider processing utility payments via electronic fund transfers. Due to the timing of releasing checks, a couple utility companies are charging a late fee, which would be eliminated if the bill is paid electronically on the due date. The utility bill will still show up on the monthly bills to approve, but would be released prior to the meeting to eliminate any unnecessary extra fees.

Motion to allow payment of the Colorado City Metro Water, Colorado Natural Gas, San Isabel Electric and Rye Telephone via electronic payment and approve the payment during the next regular meeting session.

The Rye Fire Protection District

Motion: Mr. Davis
Second: Mr. Rice

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

EMA Activity. The handouts were reviewed which included information for 2016. Chief Bennett noted that the collection rates for 2013, 2014, 2015 were added in addition to the 2016 rate. Mr. Rice was unable to get with Chief Bennett and Captain Beach regarding the EMA Audit. The billing rate for procedures has not increased by Rye Fire since 2012 with the dollar amount increase in charges being reflected in increased activity. The collection rate continues to drop. This is indicative of how much insurance companies are reducing their reimbursement to Rye Fire. Chief Bennett has inquired with a couple other agencies for billing.

Motion to approve Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable.

Motion: Mr. Davis
Second: Mr. Simpson

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Fire Chief Report

Statistics. In the Month December 2016, Rye Fire was busy responding to 64 calls for service of which 48 were EMS and 16 were fire related. In comparison with previous year this is an increase of 8% from 2015 and an increase of 8% from the 5-year average of 59.

Rye Fire finished the year with 909 total calls. 685 calls were EMS related and 224 calls were fire related. This is roughly a 10 percent increase from last year's total of 818.

Administration/Operations. A grant request has been submitted for the purchase of additional firefighter PPE and two (2) Life Pack 15 cardiac monitors.

Still in the process of evaluating and modifying the current burn permit regulations for the area within Rye Fire Protection District. A lot of the stipulations on our permit have been more than what other departments have. Further research will be looking at other areas with similar topography to see what other modifications can be made. The no burning in our District is still in effect. There will be a few days when light snow is on the ground that will allow people to burn small piles if the weather is adequate.

Assisted the Boy Scouts with merit badges. This was an all day event at the Colorado City Station.

The Rye Fire Protection District

Rye Fire transported Santa Claus to the Christmas at the Lake event at Lake Beckwith in Colorado City.

Prevention. We continue to provide Mitigation assessments for homeowners throughout the District. A lot of the mitigation assessments are requested from the homeowner's insurance or the insurance agent of the purchaser.

Rye Fire assisted the school with their monthly fire drills.

Rye Fire helped with Christmas door judging at the Elementary School.

Training. Training has been ongoing. Fire training covered ladder operation, ground operations, mapping and SOG's. EMS training is ongoing with a new topic every 6 days providing continuing education for annual requirements.

Task List.

- **Fire Hydrants.** Mr. Schaiberger sent a letter to Colorado City Metro which was distributed. An article was also posted in the Greenhorn Valley News.
- **Burn Permit Issues.** See Administration/Operations section of Fire Chief's Report.
- **Research Billing Companies.** Chief Bennett is still researching companies.
- **EMA Contract.** Chief Bennett E-Mailed a copy to the Board on 12/28/2016.
- **Attorney Meet & Greet.** Mr. Schaiberger completed and Mr. Garcia met the Board earlier in the meeting.
- **Credit Line.** Mr. Schaiberger and Mr. Rice signed the papers on January 3rd and funds were being utilized.

Old Business

Hatchet Ranch Updates

Chief Bennett reported no new updates. He did a check after the recent wind storm and one (1) tank had minor metal cover damage.

Interagency

Chief Bennett reported no new updates.

Fire Hydrants

This was discussed under Fire Chief Report.

The Rye Fire Protection District

New Business

Legal

This was discussed at the beginning of the meeting with Mr. Pat Garcia.

Power Outage

Chief Bennett noted that during power outages, the phones still ring and operate at both stations. At Station #2, the phone ring tone is even different.

Death of a Family Member

Mr. Schaiberger inquired as to the process a family needs to take in the event of a death of a family member. Chief Bennett noted if the family member is on hospice that hospice should be contacted and they will make the appropriate calls. Typically, Rye Fire nor Pueblo County Sheriff is not called out. If the party is not on hospice, then the family needs to call 911. Typically, Rye Fire is dispatched as well as the Pueblo County Sheriff. Certain legal procedures need to take place if the party is not on hospice and responding agencies try to limit response and interruption to the family.

Medical Director Contract

Chief Bennett presented a contract from Dr. Weber, who is Rye Fire Protection District's Medical Director. Due to increased costs, Dr. Weber increased his contract to \$425 per month, a \$75 per month increase. This is the first increase from Dr. Weber in several years. He formed a firm, SOCO EMS, LLC to accommodate the billings.

Motion to approve the contract with Dr. Weber for Medical Director Services.

Motion: Mr. Davis
Second: Mr. Simpson

Further Discussion: Mr. Schaiberger will sign the agreement.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Executive Session

Mr. Schaiberger noted as authorized by C.R.S. Section 24-6-402, Subsection 4, Paragraphs A-H, this board will now convene in Executive Session. The topic of the Executive Session will be for possible change in legal counsel and status of raises for staff. The Executive Session will not be open to the

The Rye Fire Protection District

public. No adoption of any proposed policy, position, resolution, rule, regulation, or formal action shall occur at this Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn Regular Meeting of January 16, 2017 to executive session was made at 6:32 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Simpson
Second: Mr. Rice

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Discussion was:

- Possible change in legal counsel and status of staff raises.

Motion to adjourn Executive Session of January 16, 2017 to regular session was made at 6:43 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Rice
Second: Mr. Simpson

Further Discussion: None.

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Melchi, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Following Executive Session, the Board returned to regular session and the room was opened back up to the public.

A discussion took place regarding possibility of changing legal representation for Rye Fire Protection District. Mr. Schaiberger noted that there were no issues with the current Legal Counsel, but the board felt it was in the best interest to obtain Legal Counsel from a more local firm. Mr. Schaiberger will discuss this further with Mr. Pat Garcia.

Adjourn

Motion to adjourn was made at 6:45 P.M.

Motion: Mr. Davis
Second: Mr. Simpson

Further Discussion: None.

The Rye Fire Protection District

Aye: Mr. Schaiberger, Mr. Simpson, Mr. Davis, Mr. Rice
Nay: None

Dated this 16th Day of January 2017.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Beach".

Submitted by Jim Beach, Captain