

CACHE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2012

The Cache County Fire District Board convened in a regular session on February 21, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. in the Cache County Council Conference Room, County Historic Courthouse, 199 North Main, Logan, Utah.

ATTENDANCE

Members of the Fire District Board in Attendance:

Craig Buttars - Chairman / County Council
Gordon Zilles - Vice Chairman / County Council
Lynn Lemon - County Executive

Members of the Fire District Board Absent:

Others in Attendance:

Rod Hammer - Cache County Fire Chief
Janeen Allen

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Buttars called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

ACTION: Motion was made by Lemon and seconded by Zilles to approve the minutes of December 13, 2011 as written. The vote in favor was unanimous, 3-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Changes to Utah Air Quality Rules

Hammer referred to a letter that came from the state about air quality rules changes. He was happy about the changes they had made including crossing out the parts dealing with non-attainment and restrictions to burning. He said they added a statement saying that the rules would be based on the federally approved State Implementation Plan. Hammer concluded that the state addressed and resolved the concerns he had about air quality and burn restrictions and he's satisfied with the status now.

Hammer said the only other concern he has with the air quality issue is that the Clearing Index is 500 feet. He recommended that his people monitor it this year during burn season to see if it poses a problem with particulate matter not dissipating adequately which could possibly lead to a potential local decision to raise the ceiling on the index.

Wildland Firefighter Recruitment

Hammer said that the number of firefighters was stretched pretty thin last Fall at the time of the Millville fire and numerous other simultaneous fires. This year, he would like to create a recruitment pool of existing firefighters that can be called anywhere in the valley especially to help with multiple-day events and subsequent clean-ups. He added that the majority of the chiefs are favorable to the proposal. The firefighters will be paid out of the federal money that is reimbursed to the county for fires in wildland areas.

Feedback from County Chiefs Meeting on Engine Purchase Options

Hammer said he met with the county chiefs and discussed the proposal to buy the tenders. For the most part, they are in agreement. Lemon asked which departments have already purchased tenders and Hammer said Hyrum and Lewiston have each purchased tenders. Smithfield got one through a grant, and Richmond has just been awarded a grant for the purchase of a tender. Lemon then asked how many we would still need to purchase. Hammer said Logan (which covers the canyon and a lot of the unincorporated areas), Clarkston, Newton, Trenton, Mendon, Wellsville, and Paradise for a total of seven. The cost depends on what type of trucks we purchase, but it would be between \$80,000 and \$120,000 each for a total around \$800,000.

Lemon and Buttars wondered about having fewer tenders that serve a region rather than one in each community that would rarely be used. Hammer said that makes a lot of sense to have a regional tender task force that could serve the whole county more efficiently. Zilles agreed and added that he would prefer to see fewer tenders and more fire engines.

Hammer said he would look more into regionalization and talk with the chiefs again to come up with a recommendation for tender purchases that would better serve the county as a whole.

OPEN ITEMS

No other items came up for discussion.

NEXT MEETING

April 10, 2012 at 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.