

CACHE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES April 10, 2012

The Cache County Fire District Board convened in a regular session on April 10, 2012 at 3:45 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
Lyle Bair – Fire Chiefs Association
Jay Downs – Cache County Ambulance
Janeen Allen

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairman Zilles called the meeting to order at 3:55 p.m. Hammer asked for a correction to the minutes to reflect a total of seven tenders rather than eight. Allen made the correction.

ACTION: Motion was made by Lemon and seconded by Zilles to approve the minutes of February 21, 2012 as corrected. The vote in favor was unanimous, 2-0 with 1 absent

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Reimbursement Charges for Incidents:

Newton Reservoir Hazmat Response

Hammer said the county spent a little over \$1200 in equipment and manpower to protect the watershed as they pulled the two trucks out. He said they split that cost and billed each of the drivers. He doesn't know if they will pay, but he said it will send a strong message that there are consequences for their actions.

Mt. Pisgah Wildland Fire Response

Hammer said the Mt. Pisgah fire was 45 acres located at the end of Meridian Road on private land that belongs to a game reserve. The person who caused the fire had the intention of burning just a 1-acre fire. He didn't have a burn permit and when the fire got out of control, he didn't call 911. The fire was actually discovered by two fire personnel who saw the smoke and investigated. Hammer said the cost to the county was \$3,263 which is the amount they billed to the man who started the fire.

Hammer said his policy is that if a person has a burn permit and is tending the fire but it just gets away from him, the county won't bill him. However, if a person doesn't get a permit or is burning illegal material, the county will bill him for being unwilling to follow the rules.

4:01 p.m. – Craig Buttars arrived

Cache County Fire District Medical Unit Designation

Hammer said he is trying to get the County Fire District designated as a medical unit in order to be able to provide emergency medical response to their personnel fighting fires especially in wildland areas. This will eliminate the costs and time of having other medical units respond to medical situations faced by the firefighters as they are fighting fires. This designation would provide the same medical training and certifications as the other emergency medical services in the county, but Hammer noted that they would not be called to respond to medical emergencies. It would just allow them to provide intermediate emergency medical services to their own personnel, if necessary, while responding to fire emergencies.

Lemon asked what the process is to become designated as a medical unit. Hammer said that they have to get approval from the state for Quick Response Unit (QRU) designation, contract with CCEMS for medical control, and buy the medical supplies to have on hand as well as refresh perishable supplies each year. He noted that they already have the necessary medical training and his main reason for this designation is to be able to provide more immediate first aid on-scene to the firefighters without having to wait for other medical units to respond.

Downs said that they would have designated areas, mainly wildland, where they will be allowed to provide medical services so as not to overstep other medical units' responsibilities. He added that it is a great option for them because they would otherwise have to pay for an ambulance unit to standby or wait for an ambulance to respond to provide those services. Downs said he would work with them to provide ambulance training, as well.

Lemon said he thinks it is a great idea and will actually save the county a lot of money by having the trained personnel who can respond immediately. Zilles added that it can, quite possibly, save lives.

ACTION: Motion was made by Zilles and seconded by Lemon to allow Chief Hammer to proceed with the application and process for the Fire District to be designated as a Medical Unit. The vote in favor was unanimous, 3-0.

Vehicle Accidents:

CT154

Hammer said his vehicle was rear-ended at an intersection. The repair cost is about \$2000 and it is in the shop now. Everything is covered by the person's insurance.

Engine 30

The hose bed door was left open on the top of the engine when it pulled out of the station and it was torn up. Hammer said Richmond will pay the \$1000 deductible and the County Fire Department will pay the rest (about \$200) for the repair probably out of the budget rather than submitting it to the insurance company for such a small amount.

Fire Inspection Contracts

Hammer said he is working on a contract with Wellsville City to do business fire inspections for them and charge just the cost for travel and time. Lewiston has also requested this same service. The main reason for providing the service is because the county has more personnel who are fire inspection certified and the communities would rather contract with the county than try to train their own inspectors.

National Fire Academy – Jason Winn

Hammer said Winn just returned from a week at the National Fire Academy. The training focused on an evaluation of progressive designs, specifically sprinkler systems in larger buildings and remodels. He added that we're dealing with a lot of that kind of thing lately, particularly with Pepperidge Farm and other business expansions in the valley.

Regional Homeland Security Grant

The fire department received \$15,000 from the state for 2 thermal imagers. We've also been designated with Box Elder County to receive \$90,000 for technical rescue equipment. And we have been given \$2000 to upgrade microphones for hazmat confined space communications. All of these grants are non-matching.

Open Season Burn Progress

Hammer said that as of today, the county has issued 422 burn permits since burn season opened on March 23rd. The season will close April 21st. Half of the permits were open-yard burn waste, etc. The other half were agriculture burns. The area covered by the permits is all of Cache County except Logan City and Smithfield. Hammer noted that they have responded to eight fires that got out of control, including the Mt. Pisgah fire where a permit was not requested or issued. Hammer and the board agreed this was a very good percentage considering the number of permits that have been issued.

Tender Purchase Progress

Hammer proposed replacing the FEPP trucks in Paradise, Wellsville, Clarkston and Logan with new tenders. Then purchase a new engine splitting the cost with Smithfield. This would put us into the next engine buy in about four years, rather than six like we have been doing. The cost of the tenders if we purchase the highway models is about \$100,000 to \$120,000 each. The engine will be about \$150,000 putting the total cost at around \$650,000. This is less than the

last few buys which were over \$800,000. Hammer also proposed purchasing all-wheel drive vehicles with smaller tanks so they can accommodate the canyons and dirt roads in the county. He emphasized, however, that tenders don't need to go off-road. They get to a certain spot and then the brush trucks go to the tenders. Buttars asked Hammer to keep working in that direction and come with a proposal to the next meeting.

OPEN ITEMS

Hammer said dispatch has a new program that sends a text message when they page a unit out. The response from the firefighters has been extremely positive. The added communication has cut down on radio traffic and confusion as to the location of the emergency. He wondered about using \$2000 of his communication budget to purchase more slots to increase the capacity of the program, and another \$200 for annual maintenance. The board approved the purchase.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for June 12, 2012 at 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.