

CACHE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 22, 2019

The Cache County Fire District Board convened in a regular session on January 22, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the Cache County Historic Courthouse, County Council Conference Room, 199 North Main, Logan, Utah.

ATTENDANCE

Fire District Board Members in Attendance:

Craig W Buttars – County Executive
David Erickson – County Council
Gordon Zilles – County Council

Advisory Members in Attendance:

Rod Hammer – Cache County Fire Chief
Jay Downs – Smithfield Fire Chief
Doug Fullmer – LCFD (for Chief Hannig)

Fire District Board Members Absent:

Others in Attendance:

Jeff Young – Richmond City Mayor
Janeen Allen – Minutes

Advisory Members Absent:

Brad Hannig – Logan City Fire Chief

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Buttars called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

ACTION: Motion was made by Zilles and seconded by Erickson to approve the minutes of November 27, 2018 as written. The vote in favor was unanimous, 3-0

DISCUSSION ITEMS

TRAINING BUILDING UPDATE

Hammer reported that the Certificate of Occupancy has been given. They are in the building and teaching 5 nights a week. It has been very good to get in there.

Logan City engineer still needs a few things including a video of the sewer line to show there are no bows. There was also some discussion about where the sewer line cleanouts should be located for the building. Hammer will meet with the engineer to work these last few things out.

ENGINE PURCHASE UPDATE

Hammer said he, Rod Kearl and Jake Johnson will fly to South Dakota in February for the final inspection.

NORTH COUNTY FIRE STAFFING PROPOSAL TO RICHMOND CITY

Hammer said he presented his proposal for staffing at the last Richmond City Council meeting. The proposal is for two firefighters on the north end and two on the south end of the valley. Mayor Young asked Hammer to come and present the proposal again at the next City Council meeting.

Hammer said ads have gone out for the four new firefighters and they are starting to receive applications. The firefighters need to have at least two years' volunteer firefighter experience. Fire Captains need five years' experience either as volunteer or full time.

RESCISSION OF RICHMOND CITY FIRE CONTRACT

Hammer said this item is premature until Richmond and Smithfield get things worked out between them. He asked that it be taken off the agenda for now.

Downs explained that November 2017, Richmond City approached Smithfield and asked for daytime assistance. They drew up a contract and Smithfield started responding to daytime calls in Richmond. They have been working this way for about a year.

Mayor Young added that they also approached Lewiston City, but they couldn't guarantee anything because they only have enough personnel for themselves. As the volunteers get less, the frustrations rise with the chiefs and other volunteers. So the contract, more than anything, is help with the administrative end of operations to help alleviate the frustrations that have built up. The agreement is for full time support 24/7 and Richmond pays a contractual rate per individual in Richmond.

They are still open to other options, but wanted to make sure Richmond City is being covered and has a fully functional department.

Downs noted that Smithfield also contracts with Hyde Park City to provide support.

Buttars asked Young if he thought they would ever go back to a volunteer department. Mayor Young responded that he would love to go back to that, but doesn't think it will happen.

A lengthy discussion followed over this contract with Smithfield and the pluses and minuses

SMITHFIELD METRO FIRE PROPOSAL

Mayor Young said Richmond, Smithfield, Hyde Park, Trenton and Amalga are on board with a metro system option he is proposing. He said this puts the County at a crossroads of joining the metro board and functioning as a department of that board or continuing as it has been doing.

According to the proposal, the County will join as a department and respond according to the portion of the covered areas are in the County.

Young proposed this in the hopes that somewhere down the line, the option that is best for the County and the cities will be found and worked out.

Zilles wondered if the Metro system would help or hinder the volunteer program.

Young responded saying that it is the only way to keep the volunteers. The metro would include full time, part time and volunteers, whereas the way the system works now, volunteers are going fast. Downs added that this would require a lot of details and policies to be worked out.

Buttars asked how close Mayor Young is to having a working document such as an interlocal agreement for cities and the County to consider.

Young said that all the mayors are actually waiting to see how the County responds to the idea but he believes there will be a document ready by February or March that can be approved by July 1st for the fiscal year. He also believes it's time for the County to bolster and protect its position.

Hammer said there is no cheaper way than to run through the volunteer system and the County's role has always been to support the volunteer system until it can't support itself. His concern with the metro system is whether it solves the daytime staffing problem or not. No matter what system is used, that problem has to be solved.

Erickson wanted to know how other communities have solved the daytime staffing problem.

Hammer said the evolution of fire departments is:

1. All volunteer
2. Combination of volunteer and full time
3. All career

Downs said the call volume usually drives the changes from volunteer to full time.

Young said the County needs more accountability. He thinks this can be achieved by the County joining the metro system as a board member. He thinks it will be more effective in the long run to have the cities and towns join with the County in a unified system. All contributing cities and towns must be accountable in sharing the cost.

He proposed that the County at least try this on the north end and see where it goes.

There was a lot more discussion at this point with a conclusion that Young will work with the towns and cities will work to put together a written proposal, and Hammer will be included to write it.

OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed

NEXT MEETING

April 9, 2019 in the Council Conference Room.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:39 p.m.