

# **CACHE COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES APRIL 9, 2019**

The Cache County Fire District Board convened in a regular session on April 9, 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  
Brad Hannig – Logan City Fire Chief  
Troy Fredrickson – Paradise Fire Chief

### **Fire District Board Members Absent:**

### **Advisory Members Absent:**

### **Others in Attendance:**

Janeen Allen – Minutes

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Buttars called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

**ACTION: Motion was made by Zilles and seconded by Erickson to approve the minutes of January 22, 2019 as written. The vote in favor was unanimous, 3-0**

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **PAVING OF GROUND AROUND TRAINING BUILDING**

Logan City and Cache County have budget reserve money to put in asphalt and pave the parking area in front of the training building at about a quarter of the cost to contract it out. Logan City will waive permit fees and the asphalt is scheduled to be done May 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **ENGINE PURCHASE UPDATE**

The engines have been delivered. Lewiston, Richmond and Wellsville are in service. However, one has an issue with a tire or the drive line and it was sent to Salt Lake to be repaired. It should be done and in service soon.

### **HIRING OF NEW FIREFIGHTERS**

Chief Hammer will discuss this at tonight's County Council meeting. He has met with all the chiefs and found about half of the departments need manpower help during the daytime shifts. He

showed a map indicating the number of homes in municipalities and the unincorporated county (Attachment A). Hammer said there looks to be a bigger need in the unincorporated county on the south end than the north end. There are also more resources in the north end during the day. Consequently, he recommends the new firefighters be placed in Hyrum and Mendon rather than Hyrum and Richmond. Hammer said there is so much development around Mendon and he feels the county fire department can best meet its legal obligation of providing fire protection to the unincorporated county by having the firefighters go where the need is greatest.

Zilles noted that there have been some recent fires that Mendon didn't respond to because they didn't have a crew. He asked how Richmond and Smithfield feel about not having the new firefighters go there.

Buttars responded saying that Richmond has contracted with Smithfield so there is daytime coverage there. Hammer also noted that he approached the Richmond City Council twice and they didn't seem very interested in receiving the new firefighters, and after studying the population density and growth demographics, he thinks the best placement is Mendon.

Erickson and Zilles both agreed that it is a workable plan. They also commented that there seems to be a lot of diversity between departments, but they are dealing with pretty much the same issues.

Chief Hannig brought up the point that as soon as full time paid firefighters come into the departments, the volunteers will go away. Hannig also argued that Logan City should receive more remuneration from the towns they respond to, particularly Millville and Nibley. He contends that the nature of the service is changing and these cities want to stay status quo when that doesn't work anymore. The cities need to step up and pay for the services they are receiving from Logan City and the County.

Chief Hannig asked if there could be some kind of mechanism put in place to help cities pay incrementally more for the services they receive as they grow. He thought that a municipal services tax might be a start to solving the underlying problem of the County and Logan City providing services without reimbursement.

Chief Downs commented that he sees more and more cities and towns consolidating for service in the future.

After more discussion, the recommendation from the Fire Board was to place the new firefighters where there is the most need to provide service in the unincorporated county as determined by Chief Hammer.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed

### **NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING**

May 28, 2019 in the Council Conference Room.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

CACHE COUNTY FIRE BOARD  
APRIL 9, 2019

# ATTACHMENT A



# Cache County

