

MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2024

At 7:22PM Wayne DeGesualdo called the meeting to order. Wayne DeGesualdo, Chuck Nelson, Murray Thiessen, and Randy Zellner present for the board. Eric Brown had an excused absence.

Also present were public members Rich Phillip and Dave Hancock, and Administrative Assistant Stacy Cox. Due to an emergency call, member Courtney Griffith and Chief Charlesworth attended only part of the meeting.

Wayne DeGesualdo said an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Wayne DeGesualdo asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from last Board Meeting. Randy Zellner made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Murray Thiessen seconded the motion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Tank Update- Rich advised that Chief asked him to help design and install a drafting system. Tanks are ready to be filled. Rich advised he donated his time, tools and truck for this project. Only asked for cost incurred which, is a total of \$3584.54. Rich thanked Rick Weber and Wayne DeGesualdo for their help and use of equipment. Chief advised he will have a member fill the tank as part of his training on learning to operate the tender.

Handbook Update- Chief will email all board members the rough draft for review.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Member Positions:

It was presented to the board last month that Chuck Nelson will term limit and will need to be replaced and it might be good idea to have someone else step in this year to learn the role while he is here to support them. Randy Zellner said he may be moving out of state and if so will need to be replaced also. Eric Brown will also term limit. It was discussed that if Randy leaves Eric Talley may want to join the board and would be a good fit for treasurer if he is interested. It was suggested that Wayne DeGesualdo will stay as chair, Murray Thiessen as Vice Chair, Eric Brown member at large, Chuck Nelson as secretary.

Chief/Job Description

Wayne DeGesualdo said that since Chief is no longer on protocol we can either fire our chief or reword the job description. Board Members said they would like the have the chief be on protocol but at this time will rework the job description while pursuing meetings with the

commissioners to see about how protocol issues are being handled in Mesa County. Courtney said she just needs to know who will attend and will set up a meeting with the County Commissioners as she has already meet with them once about Chris Rowland and protocol issues. The board or at least some of them would like to meet with them, Murray Theissen and Wayne DeGesualdo both said they would be happy to attend that meeting. Courtney will work on getting a meeting with the commissioners with Murray, Wayne, Chief and herself.

OSHA Proposal

Chief advised that the OSHA proposal is an over 800 page document and they are asking for comments on their proposal. Some of the things they are proposing include a \$4,000 to \$,5000 per person for physicals, Officers must have Fire One, everyone else Fire Two and Chiefs will need Fire three. Wayne DeGesualdo said that they need to review and submit a comment but then said as Colorado is not an OSHA state may not be able to comment. Wayne advised that Colorado is not OSHA but NFPA.

Treasurers Report

Chuck Nelson presented the treasurers report. Advised there is not much to report so far this year. Line item 206, as stated last month, ambulance maintenance is already over budget for the year but it was necessary for maintenance. We are at 42% through the year and income from tax revenue starting to come in with 30.45% from Lands Ends and nothing from Central Orchard Mesa yet. The ambulance income is already at 36.24% for the year but with no providers that will take a hit. We are only at 25.27% of the expenses used for the year. Chuck also noted that we have not received a bill from Grand Junction yet for calls they are running for MCFA and has follow up questions for Gus at Grand Junction Fire. 1. Can we stand down man power, Gus was not comfortable that his folks should stand down if they feel they have it under control but Chief said if he has the man power and stands down then we will not pay for the man power they send. 2. Can we drive GJFD apparatus, the answer was yes. 3. Are they going to charge MCFA if we have people and are working a structure fire and need backup as we have in the past and if so are they charging other departments. It was suggested that once they provide us with a contract that Gus is in the process of drawing up right now, it will be going forward rather than retroactive. Randy Zellner made a motion to approve both treasurers' reports as written. Murray Theissen seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Chiefs Report

1. Val has got all her calls done and has her protocol meeting coming up on June 12th
2. We have a total of 4 more members in the process, Caitlyn is close with 10 calls, Hugo has 5 calls, Jacob not sure where he stands, and Breann just started.
3. Tender 51 out of service. The pump motor went out; Jeremy is currently working on it and should be back in service soon.

4. Weekly training is good, and Courtney is doing a good job putting those on.
5. Remote tanks are almost done Rich will have an update. Tender 51 is out of service and once it back in service will use it to fill the tanks which will be a training exercise.
6. We have new SCBA batteries under warranty, we ordered new batteries for our handheld radios, and new batteries for our AED's. John Hildebrand told us when we get our new batteries for our handhelds, we can send them in and get them tuned up and fixed if needed and that he had some others he could give us.
7. Drag strip races have been a struggle, we have been able to cover them so far, we had to increase the pay for EMT's to \$55 an hour and still have a hard time getting coverage. Courtney and Stacy have been sending out the coverage notices earlier to try and get coverage. Have a meeting with Chris tomorrow about Mutual Aid Standby with Olathe.
8. All the arrangements are made for getting the new bus and I should be back on Wednesday June 12th sometime late in the afternoon, it's a 16-hour drive. My plan is to stop in Mountain Home which is halfway the first day and make it home the next.
9. Station 52 will release the lease once it is up
10. Staff Pictures are done, would like pictures of the board members for the membership wall at each station.
11. Donated engine and old expired bunker gear to the fire program at the college

Other Matters before the Board:

A motion was made to remove Linda Weber and Kemitt White from all ANB bank by Chuck Nelson, Randy Zellner seconded the motion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

Rich Phillips is ready to make an appointment with commissioners himself to let them know how the public feels about how things are going with Chris Rowland and what they are asking from volunteers is too much. The public wants to see action on this matter.

Adjournment of meeting


Randy Zellner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murray Theissen seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:22 PM.

Next Board Meeting is June 25, 2024 at 7PM


Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Cox, Administrative Assistant

Mesa County Fire Authority



ATTEST



ATTEST