

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting – March 6, 2024

PENSION BOARD MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Murray Thiessen. In attendance were Murray Thiessen, John Sigle, Eric Talley, John Chutka, and by phone Randy Zellner. Dave Gitchell was absent with an excused absence. A quorum was established. Others in attendance were Administrative Assistant Stacy Cox.

MOTION by Randy Zellner and seconded by John Sigle to accept the January minutes as written. Motion carried.

Old Business- None

New Business- Copy of the Fund reports was provided. It was asked what happens to the money if we have funds left when everyone who is on the account is no longer drawing funds. It was also asked if 2 mils still want to be deposited into account. It was noted that answers will be obtained before next board meeting.

MOTION by Randy Zellner and seconded by John Sigle to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:12PM

FIRE BOARD MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 7:13 PM by President Murray Thiessen. In attendance were John Sigle, Eric Talley, Murray Thiessen, John Chutka, and Randy Zellner by phone. A quorum was established. Others in attendance was Administrative Assistant Stacy Cox.

MOTION by Randy Zellner and seconded by Eric Talley to accept the January minutes as written. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution for Exempt from Audit

MOTION was made by Randy Zellner and seconded by Eric Talley to approve the Resolution to submit the Exempt from Audit application. Motion carried. All board members physically presented signed the resolution and then it was scanned to Randy Zellner to sign.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Stacy Cox gave the year to date treasurer's report. It was explained that little tax revenue has been generated due to late tax statements going out to residents due to the executive orders.

Stacy Cox went over all the deposits and expenses since January's meeting.

Property Tax Revenue for 2024 so far is \$1,937.31 while total income is \$7051.48.

Total expenses year to day is \$4,790.15

Being no questions, a **MOTION** by Randy Zellner and seconded by Eric Talley to accept the March 2024 treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Stacy Cox advised the bill for the new chassis is due for \$124,162. Advised have enough in the bank for half of it but not the full bill. Option one is to see if Mesa County Fire Authority would lend us the money for the second half of the chassis. Option two is to carry the balance and accrue interest until the balance is paid. A **MOTION** by Randy Zellner and seconded by Eric Talley was made to see if Mesa County Fire Authority would lend the money to Central Orchard Mesa Fire to pay for the Chassis until COM is paid back by the grant. Motion carried

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Chief Charlesworth was not at the meeting. Stacy Cox provided a copy of the February Chief's report to Mesa County Fire Authority to the board of Central Orchard Mesa and Courtney spoke a little about it.

5 new people pending interviews

3 People on supervised calls to get on protocol

14 member's total

6 members in fire one class

Working on getting pipes for the remote water tanks located in Whitewater Area

Talked about possible solutions for call coverage

Murray asked Stacy to explain to Randy what happened at last board meeting for MCFA. Stacy advised:

Chris Rowland along with Andrew Martsolf and Clifton Fire Chief Chervney came to speak to the board of Mesa County Fire Authority about some concerns they have about services being provided as that they have received two formal complaints about the amount of mutual aid being required by and provided to Mesa County Fire Authority. Concerns are -Decrease in EMTs on Staff - Increase in Mutual Aid Needs - The two ASA's are under served.

Chris Rowland advised that on 01/01/2022 there were 10 EMT on Staff when MCFA was formed. On 04/20/2023, when MCFA ambulances were licensed, there were three EMTs on Staff. As of today, 02/27/2024, there is only one EMT on Staff which is a 90% reduction of EMTs on staff.

In 2023 210 EMS calls of which 107 required Mutual aid- this could be ALS, Mass casualty incidents, or lack of manpower which is 51 percent of the calls requiring help from other agencies. As of 02/26/2024 of 40 EMS calls 29 calls have required outside help for a total of 73 percent.

Chris and Andrew would like to have some short term, mid term and long term goals in place for this issue otherwise they feel like they maybe forced to act with one of two options.

First is Change the ASA boundaries and have Grand Junction serve Land End Fire Protection District and the Clifton serve Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District. The Second option is Grand junction serves both ASAs.

Right now, the county is over the ambulance licenses but is changing state licensing as of July 1.

Chief Charlesworth spoke about offering a fee to help with mutual aid and was told by the other agencies that he could not afford to pay them. He also talked about Silt having a private service coming and helping but they are not on Mesa County Protocol and again the cost with be

prohibitive and not a short-term solution since they are not on Mesa County protocol. Chief advised that he has three members who are working toward getting on protocol right now. One of them is Carey which should be on protocol by end of March. Ramirez just started today on his calls so he has to be on probation for two months. Smith also is running her calls right now with Grand Junction and has about three more calls to complete but will depend if she is required to wait the full two months. If all goes well, within two months of this meeting the department should have three more EMTs on protocol. Have one student in EMT class right now and several interviews for EMTs to come on board.

Wants to know what avenues we are looking at for short term and long term solutions and what is the root of the problem.

The county does not want to push MCFA into giving up their ASA but needs a solution to better serve the residents.

When Chris and Andrew were asked what short term solution, they had in mind they suggested shift work like Gateway does. When asked what Gateway pays for a shift was advised \$300 for BLS and \$400 for ALS plus mileage for a 24-hour shift.

Other Matters before the Board:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

AJDOURMENT:

Murray Theissen adjourned the meeting at 7:46 PM.
Next meeting scheduled for May 1, 2024 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Cox: Administrative Assistant

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Attest:


