

MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 27, 2024

At 7:02 PM Wayne DeGesualdo called the meeting to order. Murray Thiessen, Chuck Nelson and Eric Brown (by phone) were present for the board. Randy Zellner had an excused absence.

Also present were public members Rich Phillips and Wayne Kennedy. Chief Charlesworth and two members of the department joined toward the end of the meeting due to being on an emergency call.

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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. Murray Thiessen made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Chuck Nelson seconded the motion. All were in favor, no opposed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

Tank Update- Rich Phillips wants to know when the tank on Reeder Mesa will be filled, he wants a hard and firm date. Said that he knows half a dozen water haulers that would do the job, Fire season is almost over and still don't have filled and tested tanks. Can't have Sorter Construction finish up their work until the tanks are filled and tested to make sure all leaks are filled. Rich and the board talked about different ways to see the water level and Rich will look at a float gage. Rich also asked if the fence posts have been pulled at Kannah Creek tank yet. Wayne advised not yet but will get that done. Once Chief Charlesworth joined the meeting, the board advised him to hire someone to fill the tanks if he does not have the man power to fill them.

Handbook Update- Chief said no progress has been made on the policy manual this month.

EMTS Funding Program FY 2023 – The reimbursement for the Stryker Cot system has to be resubmitted as Stacy Cox missed the picture of the second serial number, which is on the power lift system. Also the made up invoice number was too long for State of Colorado.

EMTS Funding Program FY 2024 – Stacy Cox has submitted the reimbursement request for the Ambulance waiting on the reimbursement.

FEMA Grant COM Tender Stacy spoke with John today and he said he hopes the tender will be on the production line by end of the year. Mesa County Fire Authority is 19th in line.

Exempt from Audit - It was actually with the 2022 Application for Exemption from Audit. I will send an email to the Office of the State Auditor to let them know of the discrepancy, but the

letter doesn't make it sound like there is further action needed. However, if there is then I will get it taken care of. For your reference, the error was that we had \$17,832 in capital asset additions on the 2022 application (line 3-14), but it didn't get annotated in Part 6 Capital and Right-To-Use Assets (line 6-4). We did however carry it forward on the 2023 application which created the discrepancy. Ultimately, that means the 2023 application is correct.

SDA Conference - Wayne DeGesualdo will attend the SDA conference, his reservation is already made and he will be sharing a condo with a friend who is also attending. A check covering half the condo has already been sent to the department who paid for the condo.

NEW BUSINESS

Treasurers Report

Chuck Nelson presented the treasurers report. Advised there is not much to report so far this year. Line item 206- ambulance maintenance is already over budget for the year but it was necessary for maintenance but when looking at the total for 200s it is only at 55.21% for the year. We are at 66% through the year and income from tax revenue starting to come in with 85% from Lands Ends and 50% from Central Orchard Mesa. As far as the utility expenses go as a whole they are at 50% for the year and may stay in line if we do not heat station 52. Rich Phillips asked about bank interest, Stacy advised it is going into two different line items and will fix that. Chuck advised that we do not get some the interest reports until the maturity of the CD. Murray Theissen made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, Eric Brown seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Additional comments during the treasurers' report: When talking about the cost of utilities, the Chief gave an update on his thoughts of keeping Station 52. In reading the contract, it is a 90 day notice and since this year has been paid for will keep it this year and revisit the lease in March. He will weather the building for the winter so there will be no need for heat thus keeping the costs down. Also talked about how the roof leaks.

Stacy Cox advised that a budget committee will need to be formed next month. Wayne DeGesualdo advised he would like to make sure that our budget is goal driven and has interest on being on the budget committee.

Confirming the New Treasurer

Wayne DeGesualdo advised the board that Murray Theissen has agreed to take on the role of treasurer in September. Only Wayne DeGesualdo, Murray Theissen, Chuck Nelson, Randy Zellner and Eric Brown are signer on bank accounts.

Chiefs Report

We have no new protocol providers. Val is doing a great job and continues to get better. We have one new member that just started the process to get on protocol but it has been slow because GJ and Clifton was both full of third riders.

I had my first meeting with Dr. Bucket, it went well, and he had no significant comments.

We have filled the tank on Kannah Creek Road, and have started to fill the tank on Reeder Mesa.

All of the vehicle tires have been checked and the ones that were expired have been replaced.

I spoke with an ISO specialist about closing station 52 and was told that it would not affect the citizens of Whitewater. There are 5 hydrants in the area and Whitewater is within 10 miles of two fire stations, 5.2 miles from station 51 and 4.7 miles from station 53.

I have not made any headway on the policy manual.

Frank Cavalier has expressed interest in working one or two days a week for a salary of \$20 per hour. Board talked about this and sees the upside for both Frank and Mesa County Fire Authority but also wants to be fair to our volunteers as our EMT is only getting \$75.00 for a shift. It was suggested that he becomes our EMS coordinator so we have one in house and pay him for that. It was also suggested that when looking at the budget we could possibly do a part time assistant chief position.

Image Trend Call Reports

Four reports were provided which are Assigned and Mutual Aid, Time of Day and Arrival in Minutes, Area/District of Calls, and Call Category. Asked if we have a report to show who of our people are responding. Stacy advised Courtney tracks that on a spreadsheet by day/call but will see if Image Trend can pull that information.

Other Matters before the Board:

Chief Charlesworth said that Chris Rowland wanted an update on EMTs getting on protocol and their progress. Advised had to wait until August to start making progress because Grand Junction and Clifton are full for 3rd riders until then due to academy and college programs. Mesa County Fire currently had seven probationary members and two close to completing their rides. Chief Charlesworth is hoping to have ten EMTs on protocol by the end of the year. The board asked how many of our 20 plus are responding to calls and taking shifts. Stacy advised consistently there are three members who take shift up to five once in a while. The same three members consistently respond along with Chief when available, we have about four members that respond periodically. It was also asked how many members are going to trainings. Courtney said about 4-6 but some come in during the week and make up trainings. Courtney advised she has been reaching out to members to see where they are with classes, responsibilities etc. to see when they can start running calls and attending trainings regularly.

Equipment that Chief Charlesworth is looking at selling is Dodge at Station 52, tender (when the new one comes in) and one ambulance, also the pick up at Station 53.

Public Comment:

Rich Phillips is concerned that this end of the district and the response time from station 51, the number of people who are actually certified and the fact there is only one working fire truck and one fire tank that is filled. He also voiced his concern about Dr. Burket and that he has not lowered his standards some for volunteer fire departments and asked if he should write a letter to the county about it. Courtney Griffith advised that county just hired a medical director assistant for him and not sure what he role is at this time. Rich said that he would hold his tongue for a month or two.

Rich Phillips also voiced that with money in the bank he feels Mesa County Fire Authority should take the money and pay our folks so we have a working department.


Adjournment of meeting

Eric Brown made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Murray Theissen seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:13PM.

Next Board Meeting is September 24, 2024 about 7:15 pm following the LEFPD meeting at 7:00.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Cox
Administrative Assistant
Mesa County Fire Authority



ATTEST



ATTEST