

Albany County Fire District #1 Board Meeting June 19, 2019

Meeting called to order at 5:25 pm. Board members present were Art Sigel, Joe Witt and Jon Essley.

No comment from the public.

Chairman Sigel moved to approve the business meeting minutes and public meeting minutes from May 22, 2019 as published. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously.

Toll roads are not to be used when submitting bills for reimbursements. June is the end of the fiscal year, please get all bills in by the end of that first week of July because the auditors will be coming in. The budget was amended to allow for the purchase of the land. Chairman Sigel moved to approve the amended budget as presented. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously. Chairman Sigel moved to approve the financial report. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously.

County Fire Warden - State type 3 meeting is tomorrow. There will be a firing ops training class this fall. Moving forward with the pilot fire mitigation project on private lands (burning slash piles in the county during the winter and spring/summer would be taking down tress and cleaning up areas). Board encourage people to get in on the training that Chad is proposing. This program would be partially funded by the Board, no grant monies involved. Thoughts are that we would pay a crew and foreman to do the work at a set hourly rate. (ie. FF1 at \$15/hour and Crew Boss at \$20/hour)

Fire Season – Board recommends paying at a rate of 50% on federal fires this year, to be able to stretch ACFD monies. When ACFD receives reimbursement from the State, the volunteer would receive the rest of the money (the other 50%). Minimum turn-around from the State is about 8 weeks. EFSA fires will be handled differently if we have one. Paperwork must be turned in in a timely manner and be correct. You should be turning in completed and correct paperwork to Michele within five days of returning from a fire and you should not go out again on another fire unless your paperwork has been turned in. Michele should look at the paperwork and submit for payment within that next week (two weeks total). If your paperwork isn't turned in in a timely manner, then you will have to wait until the next go around (monthly business meeting) to get paid. Comment from the room that the Board cannot sit on money from the State once they receive it. Comment from the Board, the Board had fiduciary responsibilities and they can make sure that everything is correct and in order before paying (including paperwork). The Board requests that there is communication back to the people who are going out on fires, as they do not attend these meetings, and they are relying on the departments to make this information clear to those who respond on federal fires. Payment at 50% might impact those going out on federal fires, is it possible for the departments to extend money for payment of individuals until the Board receives the money from the State? The Board requests

a proposal be brought forward regarding this. Michele will put together a fact sheet to distribute.

LFD Contract – We have approval from the City Council. There were two changes: fee increase to \$121,000 and the insertion of language regarding dispatching “the party having jurisdiction will be paged first”. EMT calls will stay the same with LFD. Treasurer Witt moved to approve the revised ‘City of Laramie Contract’ as submitted. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously.

Dispatch Status – ‘Desired End State’ has been sent to LARC to be reviewed by the LARC Board. County – County dispatched first, then LFD, except for EMS, LFD EMS will always be dispatched first. Central will be dispatched to all. Structure – ‘All County Volunteers’ page will initiate the tenders. Wildland and vehicle – Local VFD response and central. We received a positive response from LFD Chief Johnson. There were questions about Search and Rescue calls.

Strategic Plan – Two public meetings have been held and revisions have been made. Comment from tonight’s meeting won’t change the Strategic Plan but the Board will create a policy regarding firefighter safety and speed when responding to incidents. Secretary Essley moved to approve Draft #3 of the Strategic Plan as presented. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

Central Station Project – Tomorrow is the SLIB meeting and we have a very positive response from staff at SLIB, they are recommending funding at 75% and ranked #1 in the state for the go around. The Board would like as many people as possible to attend. Zoning change has been submitted to change from current status as residential. Chairman Sigel moved to approve \$15,000 more to Dowl for Central Station project to cover their billings between now and December 31, 2019 (these expenses are covered in the grant). Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously. PA200

Radio Update – July 15th – July 17th Bearcom will be at Central to install the mobile radios, starting at 10 am on July 15th. These are the only three days they are available in the next six months. They are focused on grant radios, but could possibly install one from a truck in another truck, if they have the time. Chiefs will discuss the schedule next week. Portable radios have been programmed and will be shipped next week.

Proposed 2019/2020 Budget – The Board will meet on July 10th in Executive Session at 2:00 pm. Public discussion regarding the budget will be at the Board Meeting on July 17th.

There have been discussion about accelerating the Wildhorse Ranch as a substation of BLVFD. The Board maintains its position that they need six red carded firefighters and to raise \$50,000. BLVFD is accepting application from Wildhorse residents and they will train and respond with them. Shawn will set up milestones and a tracking list. It is understood that if Wildhorse residents are brought on with BLVFD they would be members of the Harmony Station.

Chief's Report – Richard has retired and Shawn Sommerfeld is the new BLVFD Chief. Chiefs are still in favor or providing some support for EMT continuing education expenses. Treasurer Witt stated that as long as they are a red carded firefighter who is active with the department and responding to fires, the Board will pay for it. Chief can certify they are an active member. Departments can pay for it, submit for reimbursement to Board. We are short engines and firefighters this year for federal fire dispatches.

Departments please comment on the 'Fitness for Duty Policy' in your reports.

CVVFD – Open House is June 15th. Live burn is planned at Scott's house on Saturday at 1300. Secretary Essley moved to approve \$2250 for new engine 14 repairs at a 50/50 split (\$1125 ACFD/\$1125 CVVFD). Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously. PA 201

Fitness for Duty Policy – CVVFD has always had a policy regarding alcohol. "Fit" is harder to determine. No reactions to date.

Central – Report of missed calls from dispatch. Finishing remodel for extractor. The dryer is here. Secretary Essley moved to approve a total of \$3600 for Central PPE (wildland PPE and eight line web gear packs with shelters for each seat in a vehicle) with ACFD paying the first \$1800 and Central paying the remainder. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

BLVFD – Held elections; Shawn Sommerfeld is the Chief, Kim Howard is the Assistant Chief, Cooper Johnson is the Secretary, the Treasurer remains the same, and Mike Morin resigned as the Training Coordinator.

Chairman Sigel moved to approve \$900 of BLVFD funds to purchase a gas meter/tester. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously. PA 203

VVFD – Elections are next month. Windfest and Brewfest fundraisers are coming up. Department appreciates that the Fitness for Duty policy is no so punitive. There was a concern expressed, what if it's the Chief. Looking to improve their water supply by installing a large tank in the group and a pump. Will talk to Dowl. Is there any update on the property line issue?

TSVFD – Above ground tanks are filled up. No problems with the Fitness for Duty policy. Need to fill their Treasurer position.

Expenditures by the Board totaling \$142,750 to include \$121,000 for the City of Laramie contract; \$15,000 more to Dowl for Central Station project to cover their billings between now and December 31, 2019 (these expenses are covered in the grant); \$2250 for new engine 14 repairs at a 50/50 split (\$1125 ACFD/\$1125 CVVFD); \$3600 for Central PPE (wildland PPE and eight line web gear packs with shelters for each seat in a vehicle) with ACFD paying the first \$1800 and Central paying the remainder; and \$900 of BLVFD funds to purchase a gas meter/tester.

Next meeting is November 17th, 2019 at 5pm.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Turner, ACFD#1 Administrative Assistant