

Albany County Fire District #1 Amended Board Meeting Minutes August 19, 2020
Hybrid Meeting

This meeting was held as a hybrid meeting with in-person attendance at the Central Station for Board Members, Board Staff, and Chiefs and also via the internet using Zoom due to state regulations restricting the size of gatherings because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meeting was called to order at 4:32 pm. Board members present were Art Sigel, Joe Witt and Jon Essley.

Secretary Essley moved to adjourn into Executive Session to receive advice from District's attorney at 4:33 pm. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

Regular Board meeting reconvened at 5:15 pm.

Secretary Essley moved to approve the July 15, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

No comment from the public.

See page two of the expense reimbursements where deposits were made for the amount designated per department what would be given out monthly. Page three is the same thing, but please note: One is for July and one is for August, as of now we are caught up and you will only see one deposit made each month going forward. The deposit will be less if Teri Jo has to pay expenses such as fuel/propane, etc, therefore the net deposit might differ.

Secretary Essley moved to approve the financial report as presented. Motion was seconded by Chairman Sigel and approved unanimously.

Chairman Sigel moved that there will be no intrusion into the \$100,000 operating reserve with the Board being fully on board with what they are doing. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

County Fire Warden – County fire restrictions are now in effect and the Forest Service has gone to Stage 2 fire restrictions.

EMA – County EMA has the responsibility to maintain equipment lists within our county and they need the most up to date lists from us. For HazMat incidents there is a HazMat checklist;

regarding potable water please note there are requirements for notification. VistaBeam is expanding broadband services and received money for six locations, 3 of which are the District, VVFD, BLVFD, LLVFD. Aimee will investigate moving the LLVFD to CVVFD because LLVFD is no longer in existence. If possible, they would like to move to the Buckeye Station.

The Board would like to recognize Tom Kern who has stepped aside as Centennial Chief after 25 years on service in that position. Scott Davis has stepped in as interim Chief. Tom has done a great job for his community and the district. He has over 40 years as a volunteer firefighter with Centennial. The Board would like to present a plaque for his years of service. Thank you Tom!

Should the District have the auditors come in January to look at how the District is handling money with the new department budgets. Thoughts are to tag onto current audit but need to get a cost estimate.

Pilot Hill – Difficulties in getting leadership group to focus on safety issues. As of now, First Responders will be the Sheriff's Office and the Sheriff's Office will call us if needed. LFD will be first responders for injuries because they have the contract with IMH. This project will not generate any tax revenue into the District so going out and purchasing apparatus is cost prohibitive at this point. An option would be to fundraise to raise funds directly for that purpose. As of now, the District does not carry any unusual responsibilities regarding Pilot Hill, our basic responsibility is fire response and that is all.

District Funding Sources – We receive three mils from real estate taxes. We also received funds from real estate taxes paid in arrears with included interest penalty, license plates sales within the county, fees from the State selling discounted plates (ie. Veterans), and odd License plate fees. None of our revenue is sales tax based or mineral royalty based.

Central has asked the Board to pay for COVID testing from May. There were 8 tests done at \$239/piece. These cannot be coded to Workers' Comp because there wasn't a positive test. Only if the tests are positive will Worker's Comp pay for the test and for the 14-day quarantine. If the test is negative it is out of pocket. Some insurances cover the test. The District will pay those bills that were not covered by firefighter's insurance. There is also the CARES Act for all citizens. As always, we need receipts and please go to the lowest cost provided.

Central Station Status – The steel structure is up, siding has started along with internal construction of the buildout. We are still within the limits of the project. Chairman Sigel moved to approve the Rocky Mountain Power bill in the amount of \$3157.04 so they can turn

on the power. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously. RMP is also going to raise the power line 5 feet by putting in a taller pole. Also have permits for the septic tank and leach field.

Bark Beetle Grant with WSF – The District is the intermediary between Wyoming State Forestry and the Contractor who is going to work on the bark beetle project; we are currently holding \$51,000 in grant funds for this project. Treasurer Witt moved to approve the contract for \$18,000 with Bull Moose Land Services for the Bark Beetle Grant. Motion was seconded by Chairman Sigel and approved unanimously.

Chiefs Report - No meeting

Central – Get a simultaneous page every now and then. Jon will visit with Steve at LARC. Central is committed to \$19,000 for the SCBA's and there is a wait period for reimbursement from the State. AC-21 needs a new set of windows. Chairman Sigel moved to approve the purchase of windows for AC-21 not to exceed \$2000 and to be shared 50/50 (\$1000 Central/\$1000 District). Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously. PA240

Please make sure requests are coming in on the correct forms. Secretary Essley moved to approve the purchase of tires for the Central Durango up to \$1000 out of Central funds. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously. PA241

BLVFD – BL12 was hit by a boulder on the way to the Grizzly Fire. This falls under truck maintenance for a dispatch vehicle. Friday evening someone broke into the main station, all the locks had been cut and fuel was stolen. Called the Sheriff's department and filed report. They will be looking into security cameras for the Station.

BLVFD Station 4 – Laramie County has a pumper truck they are willing to donate to Station 4. Station 4 would like to accept the donated vehicle. One concern from the Board is that when we look at receiving new to us (used) apparatus, the apparatus usually needs tires and does not come fully equipped or lettered. There is then a big cash outflow to equip the trucks. Board would like time to study this – the average age of our fleet is 25 years old and that is why our maintenance bills are so high. Also need to look at number of calls responded to and how do we extract a value. It will be parked in existing building and they currently have six full-time residents who volunteer on the department. The Board is wondering what the full compliment of engines at Station 4 is and how does this fit. Chairman Sigel moved to approve 400 foot of booster line for BL15 at \$1460 of BLVFD funds. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously. PA242

Chairman Sigel moved to approve the purchase of floating foot valves in amount of \$720 of BLVFD funds. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously. PA243

TSVFD – Request authorization for installation of donated gen set, has two paper and one verbal bid, all priced between \$6000-\$7000. Chairman Sigel moved to approve \$7000 of TSVFD funds to install gen set. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously. Secretary Essley abstained from the vote. PA244

CVVFD – Scott Davis is Interim Chief until November at which time elections will be held for Chief, Assistant Chief and Member at Large. His plan is to keep everything running. Tender 4 (CAT tender) has damage to the pumphouse and is leaking. Will email Patrick regarding this. This cost will be covered by the District, as it is one of the District tenders.

New Business – Board met with the attorney this afternoon to discuss a legal matter affecting the District. Chairman Sigel moved to authorize legal counsel to act consistent with the Executive Session discussion. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously.

Expenditures by the Board totaling \$15337.04 to include Rocky Mountain Power bill in the amount of \$3157.04 so they can turn on the power; purchase of windows for AC-21 not to exceed \$2000 and to be shared 50/50 (\$1000 Central/\$1000 District); purchase of tires for the Central Durango up to \$1000 out of Central funds; 400 foot of booster line for BL15 at \$1460 of BLVFD funds; purchase of floating foot valves in amount of \$720 of BLVFD funds; and \$7000 of TSVFD funds to install gen set.

Next meeting is September 16, 2020

Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Turner, ACFD#1 Administrative Assistant