

Albany County Fire District #1 Board Meeting August 15, 2018

Meeting called to order at 5:16 pm. Board members present were Art Sigel, Joe Witt and Jon Essley.

No comments from the public.

Secretary Essley moved to approve the minutes. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

Secretary Essley moved to approve the wages for Badger Creek paid at 80% with the remainder to be paid later. Motion was seconded by Chairman Sigel and approved unanimously.

A break was taken at 5:20 pm to distribute the checks. Meeting reconvened at 5:25pm.

Fire Pay Discussion – Michele walked through the process she uses to review fire pay and explained what WSF in Cheyenne is looking at when they audit the paperwork before paying. Michele tries to catch any mistakes or inconsistencies before they go to Chad and then onto WSF so there is less of a delay in the district getting paid from the State/Feds. (ie. firefighter time on OF-288 not matching time on CTR's; Engine time on fire with no firefighters on engines)

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

EMA – THIRA meeting on Friday and there is a requirement to participate if we are receiving federal funds (ie. federal grant monies). We need to have some representation there so Aimee can in good conscience say we participated. Send Aimee some dates that work for the AAR for Badger Creek. Also need to schedule and AAR for the Wildhorse structure fire. Scott was IC and is currently on a fire, they will wait to hold the AAR until he returns. On November 14th there will be a Unified Haz-Mat training; it's an 8 hour course held over one day. This training is free, sign up on Eventbrite.

LFD – The 6th cent penny tax will help build a new training facility including a whole new burn multi-level, multi-room facility, with a garage, and a “clean” classroom space. Chief Johnson is happy to field any questions about this.

County Fire Warden – Fire restrictions come off tonight at midnight. If you out as a single resource you are responsible for getting your paperwork to Michele. Board thanks Chad for all of his work for the district.

New LFD/ACFD1 Contract – Changes to the contract mean we are evolving toward more responsibility for people in the District. Hopeful we can also reduce disregards and thereby get morning and experience for district volunteers. Chairman Sigel moved to approve the signing

of the new City of Laramie Contract. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

Hamaker Lease Extension – Attendees questioned how the lease extension aligns with the property acquisition and construction of a new station. The Board stated we should be just about ready to move into the new building at the end of this extension. Chairman Sigel moved to approve the signing of the lease extension through October 2020. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously.

Bills for Wildhorse fire – Spreadsheet includes reimbursements to Aimee with EMA for food, Hamaker Excavation, water line in Centennial, Dooley Oil fuel and firefighter time that will be paid after initial 8 hours. Chairman Sigel moved to approve the bills as stated at this time for a total of \$2201.72. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

Fire suppression in Wildhorse Ranch – The recent fire has created some action as things did not go as well as they had hoped. Their goal is to recruit volunteers to be red carded who can assist with but not do structure fires and get at least one type 6 in an insulated environment. They have decided it is time to take action for themselves. They are working with local agencies to be able to plan out a new response plan for Wildhorse Ranch. They are also working with Pioneer Irrigation System to get permission and a waiver to immediately draw water from the lake. The Board suggested a short term goal of six red carded firefighters with moderate pack test and a group that's providing leadership and demonstrating some continuity of sustained effort. A good initial monetary goal is around \$50,000.

Land Purchase – Site for Central Station – This site is a corner lot and good access to roadways. It is a good location for future development and a good price per acre as compared to the other sites that were under review. The Board will also apply for a Mineral Royalty SLIB Grant to construct the building. The SLIB grant will need matching funds and the land can be used as a match. The Board looks at possibly closing in October and will have the funds necessary to do this. Per the attorney for the District to moved forward on a leased property you can run into a lot of problems for the district when making improvement on leased land. This would be a phased development building the fire station first and taking down the old buildings at a later date. Richard suggested that everyone should have their input and should address that with Board at this time. This is not how stations have traditionally been built, but a need has been determined. He stated that we are all in this together and we need to move forward together. One question arose if Wildhorse will be handle the same way? Response from the Board was no, they don't serve as many people as Central and there are not enough firefighters. Other questions included what if the City of Laramie annexes those areas? The Board feels it is their responsibility to provide fire protection and they have reviewed this strategy with the County Commissioners and they are behind it. Chairman Sigel moved to proceed with the land purchase contract that they have with the intent to service as a site for a Central Station on the south side of the city. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously.

Land Purchase - Chairman Sigel moved to hire Shannon and Associates of Ft. Collins to do the appraisal of the property at a cost of \$3500.00. The Board solicited proposals and out of three

contacts, they were the only ones that could complete the project by the end of August. Please note Shannon and Associates has does a lot of work in southeastern Wyoming and they are familiar with the land values here. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously. The Board chose to solicit proposals but because this is a professional service bidding was not required.

Development of MRG SLIB grant proposal - The Board will hold a special public meeting every Tuesday between now and September 20th at 3:00pm at this location to work on the MRG SLIB grant.

Chief's Report – Inquire as to whether the Board is going to pay standby pay on June 29th. Richard is putting together the paperwork on that. Discussion about hydrant training, especially Centennial and Central because they deal with hydrant's the most, but open to anyone. Work on a potential date for Badger Creek AAR. The Wildhorse Ranch would like to advance the timeline of the AAR for that fire. It will be done when Scott returns.

BLVFD – The Epsom Center is doing a fundraising calendar for 2018 and Albany County first responders are the theme. Chairman Sigel would like to hold a meeting at Station 4 at some point to see the addition.

VVFD – VVFD is out of money after paying for PA 90. They are currently unable to reimburse members. The Board committed to put \$19,000. There is question about the bridge funding and how that was to be covered under this project. The Board could provide a bridge loan to VVFD for \$10,000 and once the reimbursement from the State comes in the Board would be reimbursed that amount. Secretary Essley moved to approve a \$10,000 bridge loan to VVFD for PA 90. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

Was there a decision on paying individuals to pursue their engine boss rating? The Board feels it is borderline unethical and does not support it. The Board might support people who are out money for ratings that are crucial for the District. They would also be interested in supporting training courses/program. The Chief's group can discuss and come to an agreement. Chairman Sigel moved to approve \$1000 for the mileage for VVFD. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

TSVFD – August 25th from 9-3 there will be a live fire training at the Fish Creek Ranch. Please let Jon Essley know if you can attend. Chairman Sigel moved to approve up to \$200 for food for the Fish Creek Ranch live fire on August 25th. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt, approved unanimously with Secretary Essley abstaining from the vote. Sept 2nd at 1100 TSVFD Potluck Open House.

CVVFD – The hydrant in Centennial is out of service until it is repaired. There were a couple of repairs to Engine 2; the parts were donated and Neil donated his labor for the repairs. New Station Open House on September 8 from 11-1. Chairman Sigel moved to support the garage door openers at the Albany Station at a 50/50 split with Centennial (\$1300-ACFD/\$1300-CVVFD). Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously. PA 151.

Central – Flat tire on Engine 12 coming back from BLVFD grass fire that they had to replace. Also a section of booster line failed. Chairman Sigel moved to approve \$800 for two sections of booster line hose. Motion was seconded by Secretary Essley and approved unanimously. PA 152

Would like to upgrade the door locks on the Central building to a more user oriented system. ID numbers would be entered into and could be taken out of the system and they could then track who is coming and going. The estimate is around \$2000. The Board questioned if there really is a security problem? Building improvement usually stay with the premises but we can provide the landlord notice and get consent. The Board does not want to make any unnecessary commitments at this time.

New Business – If Wildhorse Ranch people are interested in getting red carded, what department would they be associated with? They would be affiliated with Big Laramie.

Break was taking to open the Engineering proposals. There were no company representatives present at the meeting.

Meeting was called back to order - The Board will take the proposals under advisement and meet during a public meeting on Tuesday, August 21st to work on the MRG SLIB grant, as well as discuss the proposals and hopefully make a decision at that time.

New Business for Board – Hauled Water – Planning and Zoning has decided on small subdivisions up to and including 4 lots that they will not require a fire suppression plan. We just did a contract from Rex Noel and we have to return that to him, he is dividing one lot into two. Chairman Sigel moved to approve the return money to Rex Noel in the amount of \$1000. Motion was seconded by Treasurer Witt and approved unanimously.

Expenditures by the Board totaling \$18,100 to include a total of \$3500 to be paid to Shannon & Associates for appraisal of new central site; a \$10,000 bridge loan for PA 90; a total of \$1,000 for VVFD mileage program; up to \$200 for food for TSVFD live burn; a total of \$2600 for CVVFD garage door openers for Albany Station to be split 50/50 (ACFD1 \$1300/CVVFD \$1300); and \$800 for two sections of booster line hose for Central.

Public Meetings – August 21, August 28th, September 4th, September 11th, September 18th

Next Meeting – September 19, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele Turner, ACFD#1 Administrative Assistant