

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting – February 4, 2021

**PENSION BOARD MEETING:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Randy Patterson. In attendance were Tim Bevan, Randy Zellner, Murray Thiessen, Dave Gitchell and John Sigle. Darrell Charlesworth was absent with an excused absence. A quorum was established. Others in attendance were Lieutenant Dave Fetherston and Administrative Assistant Linda Weber.

Minutes of the January 2021 Board Meeting was read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to accept the January 2021 minutes as written. Minutes approved 6 to 0.

**OLD PENSION BUSINESS:**

Linda Weber said she submitted the actuarial study form and no additional plan requests were made.

**NEW PENSION BUSINESS:**

Linda Weber said the 2020 end of year information won't be available until the end of March 2021.

Being no other pension board business Randy Patterson closed the meeting at 7:03 PM.

**FIRE BOARD MEETING:**

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by President Randy Patterson with board members John Sigle, Randy Zellner and Tim Bevan in attendance. Darrell Charlesworth joined later during the meeting. A Quorum was established. Others present were Interim Chief Murray Thiessen, Lieutenant Dave Fetherston, member of the public Dave Gitchell and Administrative Assistant Linda Weber.

Minutes for January 2021 meeting were read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to accept the minutes as written. Motion carried 4 to 0.

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

Linda Weber gave the treasurers report. Linda said the year was pretty new and there wasn't a lot to report. Some revenue coming in, paying all the regular bills as seen on the Deposit and Expense Report.

**MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 4 + 0.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**NEW FIRE CHIEF:** Tim Bevan reported four candidates for fire chief. The committee, Murray Thiessen, Dave Fetherston, Linda Weber and Tim Bevan interviewed all four candidates. John

Hall, Dane vanLoon, Sam Craven and Shawn Cox. Tim highlighted the pro's and cons of each candidate and then recommended from the committee to choose Shawn Cox.

**MOTION** by Randy Zellner and seconded by Randy Patterson to offer the position to Shawn Cox with an official start date of 2/15/2021 with a request to be on protocols in 4 months if possible. Motion passed 4 to 0.

#### PAY FOR EMT CLASS:

Last month Interim Chief Murray Thiessen asked if we could consider paying all or part of EMT class for current members of the department. Tim Bevan had asked that we make sure we don't owe anyone from previous years under the current policy and we would take the discussion up this month. Murray reported we do not owe anyone from the past under previous rules.

Chief Thiessen reported on the EMS reimbursement program:

-Reimbursement for Crystal Nelson for her EMT course. She was on our department when she started, and then got hired on with Palisade as an EMT. At that time, we did not allow dual membership, and she had to leave (she wanted to stay with us, but we made the decision not to keep her on). We could do all or part of it, and we could pay it out in a lump sum, or spread it out over 6 months. The cost was \$2,200.00.

-Reimbursement for Jarrett Nelson who is now in an online EMT course. We have stated in the past that we would reimburse the cost over 1 year, but would like to do this again in a lump sum or over 6 months once he passes and is on protocol in Mesa County. \$2,995

-Savanah McGuire is enrolled in the EMT program at CMU, and would be eligible for reimbursement once finished and on protocol.

- No other member has taken EMT courses that did not get paid for all or some of it (per conversation at business meeting 1/12/2021)

Our policy has been to reimburse cost of the course once the member is on protocol with Mesa County and is actively running calls with COMFD as an EMT.

Reimbursement was spread out over 12 months and paid each month as long as the member was still in good standing at the end of the month (making 30% of calls and making meetings/trainings).

In the past we have paid for EMT courses through the Mesa County Chiefs Association as they were cheaper and we received grant money to cover some (I believe they are giving grants for this for \$715).

I would propose that we pay for Crystal and Jarrett but do away with the 12-month rule and go to 6 months or no wait period at all, as it is a barrier to getting more EMT's.

After discussion on what the reimbursement should be: **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to pay 25% of the cost of the class when the person is finished with school and 25% of the cost of the class when they are on protocols. All class costs to be pre-approved by the board before payment is made. Motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS:** Linda Weber asked Randy Zellner and Darrell Charlesworth if they had any personal financial (monetary or gift) gain in dealing with the fire department. Randy and Darrell acknowledged they did not have any conflicts.

## **CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Interim Chief Murray Thiessen started his report by turning in his letter of resignation (see attached)

Calls for January:

15 Total

EMS: 12- Aide received-4, Transported by another agency:3 Had 2 calls at once for transport. Calls transported by COM – 7.

-Fire: 3

-1 EMS, 1 Fire Training, Rescue is Ice Rescue Training was next Sunday but cancelled due to ice melt, 1 Business meeting

## **Personnel: 10**

- 2 in Fire I training
- 3 in EMT classes
- 1 retirement
- 1 New Fire Chief

## **Apparatus:**

### Ambulance 51:

Scheduling time to put in new air tank.

### Engine 52:

Will need to replace batteries

Brush 52 and Tender 52 are both still out.

Still at Dave Gitchell's, Jarrett has offered to weld them. The next issue is where to put them. Can put them at Eric Talley's house.

Overall plan is to get A-51 fixed, then E-52, then B-52 and followed by T-51.

### Old Ambulance 51 (97 Ford)

-offer of \$3,000 cash if we want to sell it.

**MOTION:** Motion by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to sell the old ambulance 51 for \$3000 or to whom ever brings that or more money in first. Motion passed.

## **Equipment**

Gas Monitors are and have now been Bump tested/calibrated. SCBA: Part of our deal with our vendor ROI was for them to take our old MSA SCBA's. This is good since we don't want to store them anyway. Will try and keep the newer bottles that we just purchased 2 years ago.

**Station:**

- Cameras are installed and working
- New lights installed

**EMS:**

-New Lifepak 15 is in service and everyone has been trained on it. It is in service on Ambulance 51.

**Other Information:**

Dewey Harris (used to be on the department) his son (Ed) is in a wheel chair and wanted a T-shirt and hat with "Harris" on the back. They are working on getting that done.

The new SOP will have the new Pay Per Call program in it.

Mesa County Chiefs didn't have their meeting in December but would still like to honor Dave and Kim in the future.

**Dave Fetherston:**

A grant for a new LifePak 15 is being written with Linda Weber and will be submitted in a few days. The old Zoll is on Ambulance 51 and working well.

Had 4 BLS transports and 3 ALS with a medic on board. One mutual aid transport.

**LINDA WEBER:**

Linda reported that she picked up multiple boxes of old business reports from Dave Larsen's house. She took them to her 80 year old friend, Betty Hancock, and this lady sorted, scanned and even ironed the receipts for us and they are all organized and on a zip drive. Linda would like the board to do something special for her.

**MOTION:** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Darrell Charlesworth to pay Betty Hancock \$1000 for her time. Motion carried. **UPDATE:** Linda Weber suggested later that we change that amount to \$500.

**AJDOURMENT:**

Randy Patterson adjourned the meeting at 7:58 PM.  
Next meeting scheduled for March 4th, 2021

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Weber: Administrative Assistant

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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Attest:

February 4, 2021

Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District

Board of Directors

3253 B ½ Road

Grand Junction, CO 81503

Dear Board Members:

This letter is to inform the Board of Directors of COMFPD that I am resigning/retiring from the Fire Department. I am willing stay on to assist with the transition to a new fire chief, but in a reduced role. I feel that with a new paid fire chief in place this is the best time for me to step away from this great organization and focus on other interests.

It is not feasible to try and list everything that I have been given by COMFD. The education, experiences, opportunities to meet and help the people of this area, and the amazing working relationships and friendships I have made are all things I could not have foreseen when I first entered this fire station 16 plus years ago.

I would like to thank all the men and women I have been lucky enough to serve with. I am also grateful for the Board of COMFD for trusting in me to be a member, Officer, and Fire Chief.

I wish everyone here the very best in the future with this organization.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Murray Thiessen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Murray Thiessen

Former interim Fire Chief

Central Orchard Mesa Fire Department