

MESA COUNTY FIRE AUTHORITY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 23, 2024

At 7:00 PM Murray Thiessen called the meeting to order. Randy Zellner, Chuck Nelson and Eric Brown (by phone) were present for the board. Wayne DeGesualdo had an excused absence.

Also present were public members Rich Phillips, Rick and Linda Weber, Chief Charlesworth and three members of the department.

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Murray Thiessen said an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes

Murray Thiessen asked if everyone had a chance to read the minutes from last Board Meeting. Randy Zellner 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- Chief Charlesworth reported the tank on Kannah Creek is about $\frac{3}{4}$ full. Jeremy has been filling the tanks as part of his tender training. While in route to the tank on Reeder Mesa, he had a blow out on the inside rear dual, while returning to the station the other inside rear dual also went flat. The tires are the originals from 2002, more than 10 years old, and the cost to replace the tires was \$5,000. Chief said he would now schedule Sorter Construction to complete and finalize the pullout areas around the two tanks. Rich Phillips asked about moving the fence at the Kannah Creek location and Chief said he has talked with Wayne DeGesualdo about that.

Handbook Update- Chief said he is still going through the Central Orchard Mesa handbook to see if there is anything he wants to incorporate in to it.

County Meeting – Both Chief Charlesworth and Cortney Griffith remarked that they had received generic emails from Andy Martsolf and the email said everything was handled properly. Both felt it had nothing to do with what they were complaining about. Courtney had replied suggesting the County Attorney reach out to all providers in the county for feedback.

Chuck Nelson also had a conversation with a previous employee of Grand Junction Fire who also agreed with the problems with Chris Rowland and Dr. Burkett.

Chief Charlesworth reported that an Assistant Medical Director may be in the works. He hopes that it will eventually become a second Medical Director like what is in Teller County. That way each provider service can decide which medical director to use. It is working well with Teller County and could possibly work here.

EMTS Funding Program FY 2023 – The reimbursement for the Stryker Cot system has been submitted this last week by Stacy Cox and we should see the funds soon.

EMTS Funding Program FY 2024 – Had to wait to submit the reimbursement for the Ambulance until all exterior markings were applied. Chief Charlesworth said it was completed and Stacy can now apply for reimbursement.

Exempt from Audit - Stacy will check with the accountant and report at the next meeting on the discrepancy from 2022 – 2023 audit.

SDA Conference - No board members were interested in attending the SDA Conference.

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. We are at 62% 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, we are still deciding on whether to keep Station 52 and that will have an effect on the cost of utilities. We did move \$150,000 from the money market at Alpine Bank to pay for the ambulance but that dollar amount will be reimbursed and hopefully we will again put that back into the money market account. There will also be additional outlays for the tank installation costs but these costs are already approved and planned. Randy Zellner made a motion to approve the treasurers 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 with Mesa County for the building and grounds, it is a 10-year lease but either party can notify of cancellation with a 30 day notice. He is currently thinking of keeping the building until the end of summer and then releasing it. Or, keeping the building and shutting off the water and not using the heating system.

For the other comments on protocol status, see below in Chief's Report.

Chiefs Report

Fire Marshall Contract – Chief has a contract to be signed by the board for Frank Cavalier to become our Fire Marshall. These duties include building inspections. This is a state certified position and required knowledge of the current fire codes. He gets paid by the building inspections.

As stated earlier, we have started to fill the remote tanks. Had a problem with two tires on the tanker and needed to replace all the tires on that vehicle. It cost \$5,000. All the tires on the

vehicles need to be checked. Some are past 10 years, the industry standard, but look good. Some others need replaced. We need to get Sorter Construction to do finish the pull on/off areas. I know it has been pre-approved but wanted to let you know this will be done.

The new ambulance went in for graphics on the 18th and was done the next day. Total cost from Buds Signs was \$3200.00. I did get an estimate from Your Sign Company (formerly Superior Sign), that came in at \$5500.00. M&L Signs never got back to me.

We have started moving the inventory from the old bus (#52) to the new one (#51). When we are done, we will contact the state and schedule an inspection and get it in service. Courtney and Val have been doing the transfer of equipment.

Val is doing a great job and is gaining confidence in her skills. We have no new protocolled providers; we still have 5 in the process. I have been placed back on as an EMT under supervised calls and will be doing the process for now, I'll see how it goes.

We have once new member that has his EMT class done, needs to take his EMT test. He is 19 and very enthusiastic. With the new member we are at 22 members. We have one member on protocol, 6 on probation to get on protocol and 4 that could be getting on. It's hard to get rides while on probation because Grand Junction Fire is training their own people. Fruita is about the only place to get any ride time in.

I will be contacting the company building the tender soon to see where they are in the build. I believe it's still on schedule and should be here in September.

I repaired the tank on rescue 51 and will be putting it back in and will have it back in service by the next meeting.

Lands End Hill Climb is August 3rd and 4th. We have a list out for volunteers for the event. I will be working on the first day and Courtney will be working the second day. Saturday is covered for EMT by Frank Cavelier and Sunday will have an EMT also. There will be 5 others with a crew of 6. We will not be doing any high angle or rope rescue for this event. We do not have anyone qualified to do rope rescue. Chuck Nelson asked when the department was going to get paid for the event and how the money would be disbursed. Chief will report at next meeting.

The windshield in Tender #51 had to be replaced. We have a \$1000 deductible so he just had the department pay for it at a cost of \$399.

Eric Brown asked about the tires on the other vehicles. Chief said he had a tire guy come out and the tires on the engine are out-of-date but in good condition. He said the big tires don't really fall under the 5-year rule, more like a 10-year replacement. Usually go by the condition of the tires. The steer tires are the more important ones. Haven't checked them and I need to check them for the budget for 2025.

Chief said he had a good trip back with the new ambulance and it drives well.

Other Matters before the Board:

None

Public Comment:

Rich Phillips is concerned that closing Station #52 will cause the insurance rates of those within a 5-mile radius to increase. The year we took over that building a notice was sent out to all the residents in that area that they could possibly lower their insurance rates. The department will need to notify the people if you are going to do this.

Chief said if we leave the station open and can't respond withing the designated time frame, then we will be liable for the discrepancy.

Rick Weber was very concerned about the tires. When he was a firefighter, they never let the equipment get out of date because "they look good". It would be a shame if you are going to an emergency call, whether it be fire or EMS, and we lost a life of a loved one because the tires blew or went flat and they were out of date. If they are out of date, they need to be replaced. Eric Brown asked if the vehicles are getting DOT inspections and are they not checking the tires? Chief said they are getting DOT inspections and yes, we need to be checking them all and he will get that done. The board said we need them preplaced if they are out-of-date.

Randy Zellner asked if there were any vehicles we aren't using. Chief said yes, and he is working on figuring out which vehicles and equipment we no longer need.

Adjournment of meeting

Randy Zellner made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Chuck Nelson seconded the motion. All in favor, no opposed, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 9M.

Next Board Meeting is August 27, 2024 about 7:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Weber, Assistant to the Assistant Secretary

Mesa County Fire Authority



ATTEST



ATTEST