

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting – January 2, 2020

PENSION BOARD MEETING:

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

Minutes of the December 2019 Board Meeting was read. **MOTION** by Randy Zellner and seconded by Tim Bevan to accept the December 2019 minutes as written. Minutes approved 6 to 0.

OLD PENSION BUSINESS:

None.

NEW PENSION BUSINESS:

Linda Weber went over the different scenarios for monthly pension payments if the board decides to close the pension fund and pay out members with less than 20 years of service. The board asked if the current pension members would be included in the increase in funds and Linda didn't believe the study took that additional payment into consideration but she wasn't sure. She was going to check and find out.

Discussion continued about the possible contract with Grand Junction Fire. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan – Contingent on signing a contract for services with Grand Junction Fire, anyone with 15 or more years of service will be eligible for Central Orchard Mesa Fire Pension. Motion was tabled for further discussion next month.

Being no other pension board business Randy Patterson closed the meeting at 7:29 PM.

FIRE BOARD MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 7:29 PM by President Randy Patterson with board members Ron Raschke, Randy Zellner and Tim Bevan in attendance. Dave Larsen was absent with an excused absence. A Quorum was established. Others present were Chief Dave Gitchell, Assistant Chief Murray Theissen and Administrative Assistant Linda Weber.

Minutes for December 2019 were read. **MOTION** by Randy Zellner and seconded by Tim Bevan to accept the December 2019 minutes. Motion carried 4 to 0.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Linda Weber gave the treasurers report. The department received slightly more than was projected for the year 2019 only by \$651.00. Estimates were pretty close to actual revenue projections in tax revenue. Transportation revenue was 59% more than projected. Projected \$20,000 and brought in \$31,888.93. This next year there may be a delay in some revenue due to the changeover of the billing agency. Total Expenses for the year were \$166,281.73 due to a large grant purchase of SCBA's and bottles, I-Pads and the purchase of a replacement ambulance. The department ended the year with \$348,548.64 in the bank.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to approve Resolution 2020-001 to designate Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District, 3253 B ½ Road, as the board meeting place, at 7:00 PM the 1st Thursday of each month. Also, the 24 hour notice of meeting to be posted at the Fire Station, 3253 B ½ Road. Motion carried 4 + 0.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS: Linda Weber asked each board member present if they had any personal financial (monetary or gift) gain in dealing with the fire department. All four members present acknowledged they did not have any conflicts.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to approve the filing for an Exemption from Audit for the year 2019. Motion carried 4 + 0.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

CALLS: Calls for December – 4 calls total. 3 medical with transport. 1 Fire call – steam from the Orchard Mesa Greenhouse. 160 total calls for 2019. Three calls this year. One structure fire, not in our district. Red Cross was called for assistance to the family.

IT – New I-Pads are in and will be working with Verizon to get service to the I-Pads as well as change over the service for phone and internet at the station.

Building – Haven't received the water bill for last month yet but the water has been turned off until it can get repaired. The line is broke between the meter and the building (or in the slab of the building). With several thousands of gallons being billed it should be showing up somewhere but it isn't.

Vehicles – Replaced the batteries in the ambulance today. There is a constant draw all the time but it has a battery charger that should keep it up. There may be something wrong with the charger or plug.

Personnel – Asst. Chief Murray Theissen reported loosing new members who just completed the EMT class. Apparently Clifton and Palisade brought applications to the class. Their

departments also have a Pay Per Call program. One of our people has ended up going to Palisade. Of the nine people we have put through EMT class we have one left.

AJDOURMENT:

Randy Patterson adjourned the meeting at 8:05 PM.
Next meeting scheduled for February 6, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Weber: Administrative Assistant

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Attest: Ron Raschke, Secretary

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting – March 5, 2020

PENSION BOARD MEETING:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Randy Patterson. In attendance were Randy Zellner, Dave Larsen, Tim Bevan, Murray Theissen and John Sigle. A quorum was established. Others in attendance were Chief Dave Gitchell and Administrative Assistant Linda Weber.

Minutes of the February 2020 Board Meeting was read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to accept the February 2020 minutes as written. Minutes approved 6 to 0.

OLD PENSION BUSINESS:

Linda Weber reported she couldn't start the new \$300 pension benefit in March. FPPA needed a signed copy of the February minutes. She will turn in the minutes this week and hope that the new benefit can start in April.

NEW PENSION BUSINESS:

Everyone on the board expressed their sympathy at the passing of Ron Raschke. Chief Gitchell reminded everyone of the funeral on March 6th at the Veterans Cemetery.

Linda Weber reviewed the latest FPPA financial reports. Direct expenses for 2019 were \$1,171.00. These expenses were for actuarial and audit costs. The department contributed \$38,397.00 last year and according to the study we only needed \$23,306.00. We are ahead by \$15,091.00. With the increase in benefit starting this year it is yet to be determined how this will affect the contribution status. Earnings for last year were 14.76%.

Being no other pension board business Randy Patterson closed the meeting at 7:05 PM.

FIRE BOARD MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by President Randy Patterson with board members Randy Zellner, Dave Larsen and Tim Bevan in attendance. A Quorum was established. Others present were Chief Dave Gitchell, Assistant Chief Murray Theissen and Administrative Assistant Linda Weber.

Minutes for February 2020 were read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to accept the February 2020 minutes. Motion carried 4 to 0.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Linda Weber gave the treasurers report. She went over the expenses for the month.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim Bevan said he has talked with Ute Water and they can come out and detect where the water leak may be. It is suspected to be somewhere in the concrete flooring about 1 foot from the north wall. Tim believes they will be able to help locate the leak. He will contact Ute Water again to schedule a test.

Chief Gitchell gave an update on the progress with the City of Grand Junction and contract negotiations. Apparently, there was a mis-communication with the City and nothing as progressed in the last month. Chief Watkins has told Chief Gitchell that he has a meeting with his people on March 6th and this topic will be on the agenda.

Randy Zellner asked what our problems were in not being able to handle our calls within the district. Chief Gitchell and Asst. Chief Murray Theissen explained the multiple problems of obtaining and retaining volunteers, volunteers working during the day, nobody able to respond and the changes coming from the new medical director on patient care.

NEW BUSINESS:

Linda Weber reminded the board that they had 60 days to appoint a new board member to replace Ron Raschke. She also asked the board to appoint a new secretary to replace that position on the board. Tim Bevan nominated Randy Zellner. Being no other nominations a **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and Seconded by Randy Patterson was made to appoint Randy Zellner as the new secretary for the board. Motion carried 4+0.

Chief Gitchell suggested asking John Sigle if he would be interested in joining the board and a board member. Chief Gitchell or Murray will approach John and ask him if he is interested.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to approve Resolution 2020-003 to apply for exemption from audit for the year 2020. Motion approved 4+0.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to adopt the new ambulance rates for year 2020 as calculated in accordance with the Mesa County EMS Resolution and the CPI formula. Motion approved 4+0.

MOTION by Randy Zellner and seconded by Dave Larsen to approve Resolution 2020-004 cancelling the election for 2020 as no additional applicants were received. Motion approved 4+0.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

CALLS: 14 calls for the month of February. Two transports by Clifton. Clifton was on 4 calls, one cancelled and one was Ron Raschke. 12 medical calls, 2 transported by law enforcement and five by us. One alarm was cancelled, one transport by private party. One fire call, after hours ag burn where a post caught on fire. One of our volunteers went over and put it out.

Recruitment and Retention: Had one new application but he is probably just a stepping stone volunteer. We have backed off of applicants for now until we hear from the City of Grand Junction on a possible response contract.

Membership: Ten total. Eight regular and two probationary.

Meeting Notice: Next month meeting may be cancelled if there is no pressing business. Linda Weber will notify the board if we need a meeting.

AJDOURMENT:

Randy Patterson adjourned the meeting at 8:01PM.
Next meeting possibly scheduled for April 2, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Weber: Administrative Assistant

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT


Attest: _____

Randy ~~Zellner, Secretary~~
PATTERSON, CHAIRMAN

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting – June 4, 2020

PENSION BOARD MEETING:

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Randy Patterson. In attendance were Dave Larsen, Tim Bevan, Murray Theissen and John Sigle. A quorum was established. Others in attendance were Chief Dave Gitchell and Administrative Assistant Linda Weber. Randy Zellner was absent with an excused absence.

Minutes of the March 2020 Board Meeting was read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to accept the March 2020 minutes as written. Minutes approved 5 to 0.

OLD PENSION BUSINESS:

None

NEW PENSION BUSINESS:

None

Being no other pension board business Randy Patterson closed the meeting at 7:05 PM.

FIRE BOARD MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 7:05 PM by President Randy Patterson with board members Dave Larsen and Tim Bevan in attendance. A Quorum was established. Others present were Chief Dave Gitchell, Assistant Chief Murray Theissen, John Sigle and Administrative Assistant Linda Weber. Randy Zellner was absent with an excused absence.

Minutes for March 2020 were read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to accept the March 2020 minutes. Motion carried 3 to 0.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to nominate and accept John Sigle to fill the vacant board position of Ron Raschke. John Sigle accepted the position. Motion carried 3 to 0.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Linda Weber gave the treasurers report. She went over the expenses for the last two months.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Dave Larsen to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 4 + 0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim Bevan reported on the 5-14-2020 meeting between this department and representatives from the City of Grand Junction Fire Department. The meeting went well and, in the end, progress was made with Chief Watkins planning on talking with the Grand Junction City Manager.

Chief Watkins asked for a formal letter from Central Orchard Mesa Fire requesting response coverage for the District. Linda Weber prepared a formal letter; the board approved the letter and Randy Patterson signed the letter on behalf of the District. It was suggested that Tim Bevan, Chief Gitchell and Linda Weber continue with talks and negotiations with the City of Grand Junction.

Linda Weber will send the signed letter on June 5th.

NEW BUSINESS:

OATHS OF OFFICE: Dave Larsen administered the Oath of Office to the newly elected board members; Randy Patterson, Tim Bevan.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and Seconded by Randy Patterson to retain all current officer positions on the board. Motion carried 4+0.

Randy Patterson – Chairman of the Board
Tim Bevan – Vice Chairman of the Board
Dave Larsen – Treasurer of the Board
Randy Zellner – Secretary of the Board

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Calls: 69 calls for the year. 17% down as of May.

County Chiefs: Meeting mostly by remote phone calls. Finally, did meet in person this last Thursday.

Vehicles: Will be licensing the ambulances this Monday. Will be licensing both of them. The ASA assigned by Mesa County will need to be changed if the proposal with Grand Junction Fire goes through. The Mesa County Commissioners will need to approve.

Needed to replace the batteries in Ambulance 51.

Recruitment and Retention: One new probationary member – Mike McGuire's daughter. There are two other applications and another that called today but will hold off on interviews until the decision with Grand Junction Fire is complete.

OTHER COMMENT:

Dave Larsen said we should do something special for all the members if the volunteers are no longer responding. It was discussed to have a BBQ and awards for service, wife/spouse appreciation also. Linda Weber will work on this.

AJDOURMENT:

Randy Patterson adjourned the meeting at 7:42 PM.

Next meeting scheduled for July 2, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Weber: Administrative Assistant

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Attest:

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting – September 10, 2020

PENSION BOARD MEETING:

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

Minutes of the June 2020 Board Meeting was read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to accept the June 2020 minutes as written. Minutes approved 5 to 0.

OLD PENSION BUSINESS:

None

NEW PENSION BUSINESS:

Linda Weber read the requirements for Pension Board members from Section 11 of the FPPA Employer Guide “All members of the District Board; the Treasurer of the Board; and two individuals elected from fire department members, retired fire department members, or retired fire department members returned to active service pursuant to section 31-30-1132 C.R.S.”

MOTION made by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to accept Dave Gitchell as a new member of the Pension Board. Motion carried.

Linda Weber reported the 2nd Quarter Pension Fund Report. Total return on assets for 2nd quarter 2020 is 7.82%. Year to date it is -1.87%. Plan contributions for the year are at \$34,458 with a deficit of \$2,337.00. This should be addressed and corrected as soon as the State of Colorado allows for a request for state matching funds. They have extended the request period to October due to Covid-19 problems. The ending fund balance for six months dated 6/30/2020 is \$138,358.25.

Being no other pension board business Randy Patterson closed the meeting at 7:11 PM.

FIRE BOARD MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 7:11 PM by President Randy Patterson with board members Randy Zellner, John Sigle and Tim Bevan in attendance. A Quorum was established. Others present were Chief Dave Gitchell, Assistant Chief Murray Theissen and Administrative Assistant Linda Weber. Dave Larsen was absent with an excused absence.

Minutes for June 2020 were read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to accept the March 2020 minutes. Motion carried 4 to 0.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Linda Weber gave the treasurers report. Three months of bills paid and income from Mesa County and transport revenue.

Have received most all our tax revenue in for the year. Still seeing transport revenue come in but not as fast as she would like. There is \$22,000 of outstanding invoices out there for transport.

Bills are fairly normal.

\$640.00 for the Chip reader for the MSA packs.

Our legal fees will be high with the negotiations with Grand Junction continuing but not as bad, so far, as I thought it might be.

The other unexpected expenses are for the awards dinner.

Linda Weber transferred \$37,500 from checking to the money market account on 7/13/2020.

The Certificate of Deposit was auto renewed on 6/7/2020. The new interest rate is .05%. Linda Weber suggested, after the City of Grand Junction negotiations, that the Board look into placing remaining funds into a federally approved account in which a better rate of return would be expected.

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

2021 Preliminary Budget

Linda Weber presented the preliminary budget for 2021.

Mesa County Assessor's office won't have the preliminary assessed valuations until 10/10/2020. This preliminary budget is going off of last year's tax revenue numbers for this preliminary budget. Linda doesn't project a big change in revenue for this next year.

The actual budget categories will drastically change as we move forward with the City of Grand Junction contract in 2021. For now, this will get us legally compliant with notifications to the residents of the district. We can do our "public meeting" announcement and have the "public comment" meeting at our next scheduled board meeting.

MOTION by Randy Zellner and seconded by Tim Bevan to accept the 2021 Preliminary Budget. Motion approved 4 to 0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Linda Weber informed the board of the timeline of events that attorney Emily Powell had developed and we had forwarded to Chief Watkins. So far, the City of Grand Junction is on target with that timeline.

Linda Weber passed out an email from Fire Chief Watkins from Grand Junction Fire on the progress to date. The Fire Chief and City Manager proposed the agreement to the Grand Junction City Council on 8/31/2020. The council voted 6 to 1 to proceed with the negotiations. The council is concerned with the Gallagher Amendment and the effects it has on revenue in future years as well the pension fund and if it is solvent, what effects it may have in the future for the City of Grand Junction.

Chief Gitchell talked about the ASA resolution. Several entities are involved in the writing of this agreement and it has hit a stall. It may change the way Grand Junction Fire is responsible for EMS service and it may not.

The board ask how we are on responding to calls. Chief Gitchell reported that we will only have two EMT's available to respond and one hardly every responds. This will leave us with one EMT on protocol. We will have to call for mutual aid if the call deems necessary for EMS. The rest of the volunteers are BLS certified and can transport unless it is necessary to have medication or more advanced care. Tim Bevan said we just have to wait and let it play out and we should participate in good faith with the City. The City of Grand Junction will take the time they need to move forward.

NEW BUSINESS:

Tim Bevan said he felt Linda Weber was doing more work than normal with the City of Grand Junction and driving around more with no board meetings and would like to see the board give her a bonus. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Zellner to give Linda Weber and additional \$1000. Motion passed 4 to 0.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

10 volunteers with 9 active and 1 on probation. 110 calls for the year. On track for the same amount of calls as 2019.

Murry Theissen reported that the one person that left wasn't making trainings or calls.

AJDOURMENT:

Randy Patterson adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.
Next meeting scheduled for August 1, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Weber: Administrative Assistant

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Attest:

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board Meeting – November 5, 2020

PENSION BOARD MEETING:

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

Minutes of the September 2020 Board Meeting was read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Dave Larson to accept the September 2020 minutes as written. Minutes approved 5 to 0.

OLD PENSION BUSINESS:

None

NEW PENSION BUSINESS:

None.

Being no other pension board business Randy Patterson closed the meeting at 7:02 PM.

FIRE BOARD MEETING:

Meeting called to order at 7:02 PM by President Randy Patterson with board members Dave Larsen and Tim Bevan in attendance. A Quorum was established. Others present were Chief Dave Gitchell, Assistant Chief Murray Theissen, EMS Coordinator Dave Fetherston and Administrative Assistant Linda Weber. Randy Patterson and John Sigle were absent with an excused absence.

Minutes for September 2020 were read. **MOTION** by Tim Bevan and seconded by Dave Larsen to accept the September 2020 minutes. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Special Report from Chief Gitchell

Chief Gitchell read his letter of resignation as chief, effective November 5, 2020 and his resignation from the department as of December 31, 2020 at 2400 hours. See letter attached.

Chief Gitchell also read a letter from Kim Gitchell serving notice as to her resignation effective January 1, 2021. See letter attached.

The Board expressed their deep appreciation for all both Dave and Kim had done for the department. Tim said from his heart he felt that both Dave and Kim have done the best job to their best ability and the department has prospered under their care. Randy Patterson and Dave Larsen agreed. Dave Larsen said he understands their feelings and has had the same experience they have in dealing with volunteers. Dave Larsen said he considers it a loss to the

district that both of you are going to be gone. Both Murray Theissen and Dave Fetherston expressed their appreciation for all their hard work.

MOTION by Dave Larsen and seconded by Tim Bevan to accept these letters into the record. Motion carried 3 to 0.

At this point Dave Gitchell left the meeting.

Randy Patterson said we will need to acknowledge Chief Gitchell sometime in the future for all of his service as well as Kim and all she has done.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Linda Weber gave the treasurers report. Two months of bills paid and income from tax revenue and transport revenue.

Bills are fairly normal. Spent additional monies on the awards banquet held at Rick and Linda Weber's house. It was a really great time.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to approve the Treasurer's Report. Motion carried 3 to 0.

2021 Final Budget

Linda Weber presented the final budget for 2021.

Several changes were made based on Grand Junction Fire announcing they would no longer be able to continue contract negotiations until sometime in late 2022.

Tim Bevan explained that he and Linda Weber met with Chief Balke of Clifton Fire and Chief Lurvey of Lands End to discuss coverage options until the department moved forward with another plan.

Tim and Linda also met with Murray Theissen and Dave Fetherston to ask what the members wanted to see in the future. Several ideas came from this meeting and the 2021 budget reflected these changes. Further discussion on this topic is in new business.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to accept the 2021 Final Budget. Motion approved 3 to 0.

OLD BUSINESS:

Tim Bevan explained in more detail that the City of Grand Junction Fire didn't feel they could continue to negotiate in good faith for a contract for services. Chief Watkins, from City of Grand Junction Fire, felt the Grand Junction City Council would not approve the plan until the three new Grand Junction Fire stations were built. The council was also worried about the effects of the Gallagher Amendment on our tax revenue collecting abilities.

Since this decision, the Gallagher Amendment has been voted revoked and is no longer a factor in revenue tax rates. As it stands now, our current rate will remain the same and will no longer decrease every two years as projected. Our projected revenue should stabilize in the next few years as long as property values remain the same or increase.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to appoint Murray Theissen as interim fire chief. Motion passed 3 to 0.

The board thanked Murray for taking on this position. Dave Larsen asked if he would be using the Command vehicle. Murray said he would be parking it at his house for now to plug it in and then would make some changes in usage later. They would like to add a light bar to the vehicle so that it could help with scene conditions.

Dave Larsen asked if they thought they would restructure with captains. Dave explained that in 1959 they had an east and west half of the district and then a chief over the entire district with Captains in charge of each half. Dave Fetherston said he didn't want people to have to meet the qualifications of a captain. That it was easier to be a lieutenant and the job seems to be getting done as a lieutenant.

Dave Larsen explained that they used to have an A team who made entry and a B team who was geared up and ready. It was important to maintain incident command and follow protocol as that saves lives. Murray and Dave Fetherston said that process won't change. We retain command until we release to another department or person with more experience or rank.

New Interim Chief Murray Theissen talked about his plan to backfill with an assistant and some additional command staff.

Dave Larsen said he was always very proud that we never got anyone hurt. First in importance is that no one ever gets hurt.

Dave Larsen asked about the East Valley Authority and where it stands. Dave Fetherston had talked briefly to Assistant Chief Joe White of Clifton about the possibilities. Tim Bevan thought we needed to give the process with East Valley a chance and see what it can do for the people of our district. Linda Weber said they like to see a board member and the fire chief at the meetings.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Dave Larsen to allow Interim Chief Theissen to attend the East Valley meetings as representative of Central Orchard Mesa Fire. Motion passed 3 to 0.

Tim Bevan said we need to let go of some of the money we collect and use the money for different programs this next year.

Dave Larsen said to just let us know what you need. We want the district to be ready and dependable. Years ago, we never had enough money to do anything but now we do.

Interim Chief Theissen said he would like to start the \$30 per day pay program to have someone monitor the radio for calls and send a response either from our people or immediately call for mutual aid. This is a good short-term program and a more definite plan will be suggested at a later date. Interim Chief Theissen will be writing a policy for this program soon.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to implement and \$30 per day payment program to monitor the radio, acknowledge the call and assess for immediate response. Motion passed 3 to 0.

Tim Bevan brought up the idea of paying for a fire chief. Since the pension board will be discussing the closing of the pension plan to new members, the department will need to compensate a fire chief, and possibly the EMS coordinator, for this position. Lands End Fire started this program paying a fire chief \$1000 a month and it has worked out well. It is a great incentive for prospective new members (or current members) who want to have something like this on their resume. It will entice new members to join with the chance of future advancement. This plan has been implemented into the 2021 budget if it becomes part of the new fire chief's plan.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

Interim Chief Theissen and Dave Fetherston briefly discussed some immediate needs for vehicle and equipment repair and replacement.

Both ambulances need new defibrillators. Within three months they will no longer be certified or serviceable. There will be some grant opportunities in 2021 but that takes a while. Tim Bevan said if we need one this year, we should buy one. One is already budgeted for next year just incase we don't get a grant in time.

Both Ambulance 51 and 52 need repair work. Airbags on 51 need fixed or replaced with springs. 52 needs a carburetor checkup. Both will be addressed and reported on next month.

Tim Bevan said to go and get whatever needs to be fixed done. Dave Larsen said they need to be dependable.

Interim Chief Thiessen and Dave Fetherston talked about Engine 51 and how it is not running. It may be that we need to see if it's even worth repairing or just replace it with something that carries more than two people.

Brush 52 and Tender 52 need welding. Possibly Bishop Welding can take care of this. Brush 52 is a good piece of equipment. It needs fixed.

Tim Bevan said on Tanker 51 we should look into possibly getting rid of it. We also need to get rid of the ambulance that was replaced that is still at Dave Gitchell's house.

Any vehicles and equipment we are not using or going to use needs to be given away to any other department than can use it or sell it but get rid of it.

Chief Theissen said we need a few more sets of bunker gear. Linda said she had allocated money in the 2021 budget for that. Tim Bevan said we shouldn't wait for a grant. If we have the money and need the equipment, we should buy it.

Dave Fetherston said there will be a big change going forward and they are going to take it up a notch and make it better.

OTHER COMMENTS:

Tim Bevan suggested we try and sell any of our old stuff and give that money to the volunteers for their use for food and drinks after a call. Many times they go on a long call and are really hungry afterward and still have to come back to the station and do several hours of

work to finish. It would be nice if they had a way to purchase food for his purpose. Dave Larsen wanted to know what is happening with the Volunteer Department account. Linda said she didn't think it had a lot of money in it but would check.

Interim Chief Theissen will look into a program for this and report back at a later date.

MOTION by Tim Bevan and seconded by Randy Patterson to give all the volunteers and Linda Weber \$100 as a thank you for this year before the Christmas holiday. Motion passed 3 to 0.

MOTION by Randy Patterson and seconded by Tim Bevan to pay Linda Weber \$1000 as reimbursement for venue space for the awards banquet celebration. Motion carried 3 to 0.

Randy Patterson said he wanted to thank everyone for everything they have been working on and on behalf of the board we are so glad you could pull this off.

AJDOURMENT:

Randy Patterson adjourned the meeting at 8:45 PM.
Next meeting scheduled for December 3, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Weber: Administrative Assistant

CENTRAL ORCHARD MESA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



Attest: _____

Dave Gitchell: Letter of Resignation: November 5, 2020

To the Board of Directors of the Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District,

This letter is to serve as a notice of my resignation as chief officer of, Central Orchard Mesa Volunteer Fire Department and subsequent retirement from the fire service.

My resignation will be effective immediately date November 5, 2020 at 19:00 hrs. at which time I will step down in the duties District Fire Chief, but will continued as a line fire fighter till 24:00 hrs. December 31st 2020 at which time I will retire from the fire service.

I did not join the fire service for fortune or fame, I only wanted to make a difference and help those in their time of need. I have tried to fight the good fight and there have been a lot of battles! I have met a lot of people and made a lot of friends, but evidently, I have made a couple of enemies along the way!

I have worked diligently for 19 + years to improve our relationship and image with our constituents and fellow fire departments not only locally but through out the state and the nation. I have worked to insure we were an extremely progressive and professional volunteer fire department. At one point I thought we were looking very successful at achieving this goal!

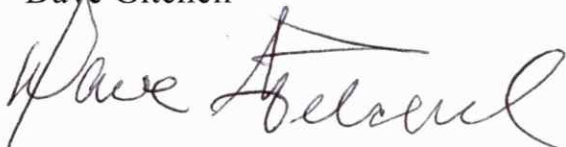
It is very sad to hear disparaging remarks and rumors about the district, the department, and on the personal level, Kim and I. These have been brought up to me, by my family members, by people who I have never met as well as people I have known since childhood.

This has been a slowly increasing developing problem over the last four to five years, and, I take ownership for letting it get to be the problem it is. The problem I believe is internal to the department, but I don't believe I have department support in dealing with it!

The fight has worn me out, and I am getting to old and tired don't want to fight no more. This has affected my health, and relationships with lifelong friends.

Thank you for the opportunity you gave me in life, it was a memorable experience.

Dave Gitchell

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dave Gitchell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "D".

October 31, 2020

To the Board of Directors of the Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District,

This letter is to serve as a notice of my resignation, and my exit interview from the Central Orchard Mesa Volunteer Fire Department.

My resignation will be effective January 1, 2021.

My career in fire service has been served exclusively with Central Orchard Mesa Volunteer Fire Department and I had intended on serving for 20 years as opposed to the nearly 19 I am leaving with.

I take with me many great memories and experiences. Dave and I have spent the majority of our vacations, and in some cases anniversaries, at various trainings, conferences and leadership events. We have sat on committees, taken part in work groups, taught and proctored many classes and breakout sessions and fostered relationships with Fire Chiefs and Command Staff at agencies throughout the State and within the Division of Fire Prevention and Control. I personally have managed or co managed over 6 fire academies and trained agencies statewide on the methods and purpose of the 36 hour basic firefighting program, which I authored. All of this was done *willingly* by us to build relationships with, and promote the Central Orchard Mesa Volunteer Fire Department and the work of it's volunteers.

The Central Orchard Mesa Fire Department and Fire Protection District were known as progressive and determined, and we were respected for the work we did and the methods we used to do it. I would have been happy and satisfied to leave the fire service on that note.

But that has changed. Dave and I have weathered and overcome many challenges during our career, but I have never experienced the level of defamation and character assassination that is currently taking place against the Central Orchard Mesa Fire Protection District, the Department, as well as Dave and myself. The fact that it is originating from an internal source hurts deep and the resulting damage this has done to the reputation of our Fire Protection District and our Fire Department is devastating.

I do not have the ability to change this trajectory. Trust me, I have tried. And I do not have the desire to watch what this District and Department have so diligently and carefully built with so many years of hard work, tough decisions and dedication be so deliberately and systematically ruined. Nor do I have the desire to continue to watch people who know what is going on stand idly by and allow it to continue.

The lies that are being said about the Fire Protection District as well as the ensuing fallout, will be up to you to confront and deal with. Or not.

As for me, I am a tough girl and believe my actions should speak louder than others words. To hear that my reputation as a State Certified Fire and Emergency Services Instructor has been put to question is, to say the least, humbling. I would like to say that the lies that are being said about me don't matter, and in truth they don't as long as the people who know me, my work ethic and my integrity stand by and with me. Unfortunately that is not the case. I have always based my decisions as a fire instructor on what was best for the District, Department and the members I serve and train with. When I have to explain that to the people who know me best, my effectiveness as a fire instructor at this Department is done.

It is a sad note to leave on. I harbor no ill will toward the members I have shared so much with. However, these lies have placed an incredible amount of stress on Dave and myself and compromised long standing friendships. I don't feel satisfied with a "job well done". I have moved through the five stages of grief over the loss of a career I have been so passionate about for so long. It has been a long hard process. But in fire service we use the risk versus benefit model for decision making, and the benefit to my leaving outweighs the risk of my staying.

Thank you for the opportunities this District and Department have given me and thank you for your service. And thank you Chief Larson for taking a chance on me. I believe I have gotten back as much as I have given.

You will remain in my thoughts and prayers.

Kimberley Gitchell

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "K. Gitchell", written in black ink.