



DEER MOUNTAIN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 15, 2020 @ 1800 HOURS

CALL TO ORDER: Patrick called meeting to order

PRAYER: Patrick led prayer

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Patrick led Pledge of Allegiance

CHANGES TO AGENDA: Patrick made a **motion** to change Vice Chairman's report, mill levy and Gallagher act beneath the new business. **Second- Joe. Discussion-**none. **Vote-**unanimous.

MINUTES:

Approve minutes: June 17, 2020 board meeting/special meeting

Patrick made a **motion** to approve minutes. **Second-**Sharon. **Discussion-**none. **Vote-**unanimous

TREASURER'S REPORT:

June 2020 Bills report	382,295.49
June 1 st beginning checkbook balance	
Month deposits	25,387.34
Income plus beginning balance	407,682.83
Total expenses to date	34,534.68
Total checking account funds	373,150.15
Emergency reserves	50,429.82
Capital improvements	19,839.27
Engine debit account	3,686.42
Total funds 6/30/2020	447,105.66
July 1-15 th 2020 bills report	363,325.63
Beginning checkbook June 1, 2020	
Total month income	1,432.24
Total income plus beginning balance	364,757.87
Total expenses to date	35,257.29
Checkbook balance to date	329,500.28

Treasurer's report- (attachment 1) **Sherry** made a **motion** to accept the Treasurer's report. **Second- Patrick. Discussion-** none. **Vote-**unanimous

Bills Report- (attachment 2) **Sherry** made a **motion** to accept the Bills report. **Second- Joe. Discussion-**none. **Vote-**unanimous.

Spending- Sherry listed the theft costs that have occurred, which totaled over \$10,000.00. January, February and March, a large amount of money was spent to fix trucks to go out to wildland. Air compressor and hose missing, air conditioner not working. Coffee pots (3) missing from trucks, support tires replaced within 1 year, Med 2 needs new front tires and alignment, 2 laptops have gone missing, firefighter boot missing keys need to be replaced, lock box in building A have to be redone, 4 trickle chargers had to be purchased, new batteries had to be purchased on truck, firefighters helmet light stolen from locker.

Rachel asked if these expenses were paid in June?

Sherry stated that these were things that went missing between the time **Joe** resigned and **JR** took over.

MREs had to be purchased, due to Covid, Rescue 471 needs lights that are no longer made, a wildland radio which costs \$3,000 owned by **Joe** Watts, had to be fixed.

The wildfires that the firefighters went on brought in \$22,781. We charge the state 10% per person we send out. Overhead does not make us money. We have sent people to wildland training, which we pay for. This percentage does not cover total expenses for training and hotel. We must have the money in the bank to pay the wildland firefighters. **Sherry** wants **Joe** and **JR** to find a happy medium for expenses. One person we sent out put us in the hole \$40.

Joe asked how much we put aside for overhead. **JR** responded \$75,000. **Joe** does not like that there are overhead people that we train and cover during wildland, that make money, but don't contribute to the station. **Joe** and **JR** will get together to figure out how to fix this issue.

Rachel asked if the board is trying to deny paying these overhead people. **Joe** stated that the board just needs to make a motion.

Joe asked **JR** what is going on with the theft. **Jon** asked if the overhead people are covered if they get hurt on the job. **Joe** stated that they go on our workman's comp.

Joe is upset that there is theft that is occurring, as well as the public's response to the fire department. He stated that the lack of respect is not acceptable. He stated that some of the problems may have occurred due to his own actions.

Patrick stated that the new boards intentions are to do things a little different than previous administrations. We are going to do our best to change what is going on. **Joe** stated that this is not the board's money. It is the communities' money. **Joe** stated that the board will come down hard on **JR** if these issues are not fixed. **Sherry** stated that there are not supposed to people at the station after 6 pm, the cage needs to be locked, and the rules need to be enforced. **Carl** brought up the cameras. **Sherry** stated that they were all moved, so that the perpetrators could not be seen. **Carl** believes that a tool log needs to be created. **Sherry** stated that there is no point to going out on wildland if we are just repaying things from theft.

Rachel asked why we are replacing personal equipment. If personal equipment is brought in, the person is responsible for their own equipment. DMFPD should not be held liable for replacing broken or missing personal equipment. (Side note for clarification- The radio was broken during DMFPD use)

Sharon announced that she would like to thank the Custer County Public Library for their very generous donation of copies for the Gallagher presentation for the community. The entire board thanks Custer County Public Library

PUBLIC INPUT: 3 minutes/ No disrupting pursuant to CRS 18-9-108 & DMFPD Bylaws. Input only. If issue is not on this agenda, it may be placed on next meeting's agenda.

Mr. Dennis Sibila made a complaint against **JR** Niblett. The complaint stated that on June 19th, **JR** entered Mr. Sibila's land without his permission and then proceeded to ignore him trying to get his attention while driving an ATV. Mr. Sibila finally stopped his ATV in the path of the support truck hindering the response of an emergency vehicle. Mr. Sibila then proceeded to claim that **JR** became both verbally and physically violent. Mr. Sibila stated that he had to block the door for fear of his safety. This altercation was brought to the attention of both Deputy Sanger and Dan Slater. A letter was sent to Mr. Sibila explaining the law for blocking emergency response vehicles, and stated that **JR** was responding to a request made by the HOA (Ross Springs Ranch) that Mr. Sibila lives in. The response crew was never on private land, and had every legal right to respond for fire mitigation. Mr. Sibila then sent a letter threatening legal recourse.

Patrick would like to begin the process of healing the past issues that we have had that result in legal litigation. **Patrick** requested that **JR** and Mr. Sibila apologize to each other and shake hands. Both Mr. Sibila and **JR** agreed to bump elbows (shake hands) and put the matter to rest.

In the future, it is requested that any disputes with the fire department be brought to the attention of either **JR** Niblett as Chief, any Board member, or **Rachel** Vinson who is head of the Oversight Committee.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

New volunteer/EMS applications- EMT: Benjamin Goff passed background check.

July 4th turnout- We had a good turnout. We served about 40 burgers. **Patrick** would like to see more of the board and fire department crew turn out to mingle for a better public image. Jerry gave a tour of the station. **JR** was cooking. We would like to welcome the community to visit the fire department and get to know those that serve. Ginger was thanked for helping out.

Generator- The generator was wired up and good to go, it was turned on, it transferred as it was supposed to, and then oil was everywhere. **Sherry** stated that they are not getting any money. **Patrick** stated that it is under warranty. Currently we have no generator. **Joe** asked if the one next door could be traded out while the generator was being fixed, as we are not a Red Cross station right now, it can be utilized for the time being.

Email board positions- some of the emails that were legally the boards, required passwords. They were requested to be given back by previous board members. We are unable to get them back therefore, new emails need to be created for some of the board members. **Patrick** will replace the Chairman's, Insurance, and Communications. Sharon created a Vice chair. We need to use district emails as opposed to personal emails.

IDs personnel- Patrick would like to print more IDs for the new people on the department at \$7.50 each. **Patrick** made a motion to spend up to \$100 for new IDs. **Second- Sharon.**
Discussion-none. **Vote-** unanimous, **Sherry** abstained.

VICE CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Mill levy: Important information provided via PowerPoint presented by **Sharon.** Available on Facebook.

Hard copies available upon request.

Gallagher act: Important information provided via PowerPoint presented by **Sharon.** Available on Facebook.

Hard copies available upon request.

Understanding the Gallagher act is available on Building Better Colorado website.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

Radio repairs- Joe stated that the radio sent out was his. They got onto the fire, and it stopped receiving. He could not receive from task force. He stated he is not going to mention names, but someone played with it and tried to get into it and screwed it up. So the district has sent it off. He stated it is up to the district as to whether or not to pay to have it fixed. It has already been sent in at a cost of \$80. An estimate will be given prior to work being done. **Patrick** would like to put a cap on the amount the board is willing to pay. **Patrick** made a motion to not spend more than \$500 on the radio. **Second- Sharon.** **Discussion- Patrick** said that if it costs more than that, we will have to revisit. **Sharon** clarified: a cap is being set, but if it comes in higher we will have to discuss again. **Joe** states that the reason we need the radio is because we don't have that many BKs. If the tender goes out, they take one. The other engine has to have three, and the fighters have three. If you take four people then we are down a radio. **Joe** uses his radio so that everyone has communications on the fire line. **JR** stated that one problem that may occur is that if it cannot be flashed again, the cost will be close to \$800. **Rachel** (Oversight Committee) stated that from now on, if a firefighter wants to use their own equipment, they need to use it at their own risk. **Vote-** unanimous, **Joe** abstained.

Barrel burn- Due to the current climate, there should be no burning. The answering service keeps allowing burning even though we have put out the statement of no burning.

State website- We have been getting positive feedback from the community. The agendas and board minutes are under their assigned tabs, organized by year.

INSURANCE

Insurance- Carl has nothing yet for insurance.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Oversight committee- Rachel stated that we are still here, and would like more members. She has not had any contact or questions from anyone. She would like people to contact her for questions regarding the fire department and board so that things do not escalate. Many

questions can be answered by simply contacting her. She would also like the board to contact her with any community concerns so that she may be the mediator. This would help with community outreach.

Station updates- This past Monday night was the first Building Committee meeting. There is an agenda. Many things were discussed. For the people that did not show up, they were assigned positions. **Patrick** is optimistic that with public support and contributions, we will be moving forward with the stations. Any donations of material and time would be greatly appreciated.

Carl states that Wyatt has been contacted with regard to station 3. Half of the cost of the original cost (2018) for permitting will be required to reinstate the permitting process. Wyatt is still adamant about moving the building. **Carl** reminded him that we were issued a variance by the courts. Wyatt does not like that the hill is too steep. Sean has to get the plan approved. **Carl** has been trying to contact Sean with no reply. The cost will be approximately \$250

STATION REPORTS: FIRE & EMS

Fire training hours and runs- 27 hours training, 10 calls-mostly unauthorized burns to include an outhouse. Bree asked if fines are being given out. **JR** confirmed they are issuing fines for violations. Currently there are a little over \$1,000.00 in pending fines. **Sharon** asked about possible problems collecting fines. For fire fines, liens can be issued against a homeowner's property for refusal of payment. Collections and jailtime are a possibility.

EMS training hours and runs- 66 hours training, 18 calls, with 35.5 total hours, 38 total calls this month. **JR** originally stated that there were only 6 hours of training. **Joe** believes that there is a problem with that number. Paid medical employees should have more than 6 hours of training in a one-month period. **JR** stated that Chole for instance is always reading for training. He will have daily training. Shawn and Chole train daily. **Joe** explained that since Chloe is still a trainee, any hours she works should be considered training. (**JR** later confirmed that the number was said incorrectly and there were 66 total hours). **Bree** is now a CPR trainer, once she does her first monitored training, she can train for the department. **Carl** pointed out that even though EMS may not be able to do hands on training, they should be doing some kind of computer training. **Joe** agreed that this should happen, and stated that in order for the EMS to keep their certifications, they are required to train. **Sherry** asked when Chloe will be able to perform unsupervised. **JR** replied that we should know this Friday. **Joe** states that there is a problem of not having EMTs at night. **JR** states that there is currently one. Shawn is in school so cannot respond every night. **Bree** commented that once she is cleared, she will be able to help run at night. Chole also responds at night when available. **Joe** pointed out that if we don't have EMTs we can't run. **JR** calls for mutual aid when no EMTs are available.

Wildland update- There have been 2 deployments of 7 days each. Because they were expected to go to Arizona, **Joe** called in the complaint of having no air conditioning in the truck. **JR** said that reimbursement is being negotiated between the 2 Ford dealerships regarding the AC. **Sherry** stated that the AC was under warranty and should have never been released without being fixed. It should have been caught when coming back. **Joe** stated that it needed to be charged with a couple of cans of Freon. **Patrick** stated that we cannot fix it because it is under warranty and this action may cause the warranty to be voided. **JR** would like to point out that

wildland has \$75,000 set aside that is just sitting there. It should not have been put there by the former budget person. He believes it's way over. **Sherry** stated that it was placed there because it was believed that this would be a multiple fire season, it is required to be in a coffer to pay wildland employees within the time frame required by law.

Jenn said that type II team has just been deployed to Beaker, so there is a possibility **Joe** will be deployed again. She stated there are others that are occurring. Utah is not allowing out of state resources. **JR** stated that this money needs to be redistributed. It should not just be sitting there, hoping that wildland goes out, unable to be used. We are paying insurance on overhead, but not receiving anything. **Joe** stated that our insurance is a blanket policy. **JR** would like to get together with **Joe** and **Sherry** crunch numbers.

Training report- JR will be starting up training again beginning this Saturday 9-12. The times will be on the website. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Carl asked about the fire marshal side. He asked if photos were being taken for proof. He was also wondering if there is a backup for the files.

Joe stated that previously the Sherriff would write the tickets, so he believes **JR** is taking the department in the right direction. **JR** needs to make a list of needs for writing tickets such as a camera. He then remembered that a pair of binoculars had been stolen from one of the trucks.

OLD OR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Plumbing- JR stated that we have to have a permit before we do the work. The pipe has to be put down, cut and capped before a plumber can do the connection.

NEW BUSINESS:

New board members/SDA training- most of the board has been through the SDA training. **Patrick** recommends every board member do the training. There is important information being provided. **Sharon** will provide instructions to get a sign on.

Fire chief- Patrick officially welcomed the fire chief and would like him to know that the board is there to support him as much as they can.

Recruit drive: Patrick would like to do a recruit drive with some of the citizens. He believes we may need to create a committee. He would like to make sure the public knows that there are opportunities available for fire and EMS.

Community center aux: Patrick is on the auxiliary. He would like to recommend at least 1 meeting per quarter.

Time has been set aside for the Gallagher act by **Sharon**. Available on Facebook.

Hard copies available upon request.

Understanding the Gallagher act information is available on the Building Better Colorado website.

Sharon thanked all those involved in the creation of this presentation.

Patrick thanked all those involved in the creation of the presentation

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Next regular board meeting- August 19, 2020 at 1800 (6:00 PM)

VOTE TO ADJOURN: Patrick made a motion to adjourn. **Second-** Sherry. **Vote-** unanimous.

(Supporting documentation to these minutes available upon request.)