

Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District Monthly Fire Board Meeting
October 11, 2023 7: 00 PM - Meeting held at station 2 Community Room.

Directors Present

Bette Blinde
David Bliss
Bryan Maddox
Paul McGraw

Visitors

Brenda Bliss
Dan Bond
Bob Busch
Karen Busch
Andy Collins
Hugh Collins
Tasha Collins
Paula Collins
John Kitchens
Sandra Lundt
Ron Lonneman
Allison McGraw
Becky McGraw
Curtis Samples
Sue Schneider
Jan Simmons
Laura Stahl

David Bliss called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm & then asked all in attendance to join him in saying the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, David asked everyone present to join him in observing a few moments of silent thought, prayer for residents, permanent and part time, who are experiencing health issues.

Bette moved to accept the September meeting minutes. Bryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

David asked Bette to read the treasurer's report. Bette made comments about the budget and the reports they needed to be filed. Bryan moved to accept the treasurer's report as read, Paul seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

David stated that the meeting was being audio and visually recorded in compliance with the SDA regulations for doing so. David then asked Paul if he would be willing to record the minutes of the meeting, and Paul accepted.

David invited Curtis Samples to make comments, share his viewpoint about the fire department. Curtis stated that he has a lot of pride in part of the fire department and is disheartened to witness the present animosity regarding the building and its use.

David then made some comments. "The fire board is for the fire fighters, and the fire fighters are here for you." (the community) "The department will be at your door at two o'clock in the morning for a medical incident or heaven forbid a fire."

Unfinished Business

Insurance review. Paul had nothing to report on the insurance. Bette suggested we should ask our insurance agent to attend one of our meetings, to give us more information on our policies, and answer any questions. The current policies are due for renewal in November.

Streamline Update. Bryan reported the new website is ready for launch, but a date has not yet been set. All board members will be trained in the use of the new website. David stated that the new website will eventually allow community members to view the community calendar as well as schedule building usage in the community room.

Aerial Ball Placement. Andy Collins reported that the areas for aerial ball placement have been appropriately marked. However, PVREA has not found the opportunity to install them as of 10-11-2023.

Secretary Nomination. Bette moved to table the secretary nomination until the November meeting due to the fact we need a fifth board member to break a potential deadlock. Bryan seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

2024 Budget. Bette presented the details of the proposed 2024 budget. The comparison sheet is included in the minutes. Included in the proposed 2024 budget is \$15K for first responders. First responders would be reimbursed in the amount of \$20.00 to \$25.00 per call to offset their expenses for gasoline, and use of privately owned vehicles. This amount would be equal to the amounts paid to Glacier View and Red Feather Lakes Fire Departments. The 2024 budget is open to public comment/questions at the November board meeting at 6:30 PM, prior to the regular board meeting at 7:00 PM. The finalized 2024 budget will be voted on by the fire board at the December meeting. The proposed 2024 budget will be posted at all four fire stations for public review.

Community Wildfire Defense Grant Status. Bette reported that the proposal is being updated on Thursday, October 12, 2024. Bette and Hugh will attend that meeting. The finalized proposal is due October 31, 2024.

Lower Poudre Canyon Association. No action taken. LPCA business tabled until the November meeting. Bryan reported the remodel/renovation on the community building is progressing slowly.

New Business

Fire Board Vacancy. David noted that Pat Conway has resigned from the PCFPD board. Bette made a motion that the fire board accept his resignation. Bryan seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

Lease Agreement with OPC. David suggested that OPC and the Fire Board meet to iron out differences. Paul made some comments addressing the dysfunction that currently exists amongst the present members of the fire board. Paul made a motion to "Table any discussion between fire board and OPC for one year on the sub-lease agreement. All systems presently in place will remain in place. The administration of the community room will remain with the current Building

Committee.” Bryan seconded the motion. David stated that “the fire board is in a dysfunctional state.” David further stated that the fire board has spent too much time on this issue, and we as a board need to focus our time and attention to being a fire board. Bryan and Bette had no comment, no discussion on the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Proposal HH. The PCFPD received a letter from Bob Overbeck, the Larimer County Tax Assessor, stating that the PCFPD would stand to lose \$50K in tax revenue if Proposition HH were to pass. Bette expressed her concerns that the PCFPD 2024 budget would be negatively impacted if Proposition HH were to pass. There are several unanswered questions regarding this ballot proposal. We as a board cannot address anything until the November ballot is tallied. Bette stated that “any proposition you can’t understand, you should not vote for it.” Chief Collins made some observations about the canyon’s tax base; in that we have very little commercial property. Sue Schneider made negative comments regarding proposition HH, and other ballot amendments in general. Bryan observed the “collateral damage” from Proposition HH would be catastrophic.

Fill Open Director Position. There were three people present at the meeting who have expressed interest in filling the vacant director position. John Kitchens, Dan Bond, and Bob Busch were asked to introduce themselves, and comment on their interest in joining the fire board. The present board members asked the candidates questions about their qualifications. Pat Conway’s resignation was accepted on October 11, 2023. It was further pointed out that the voting for a board candidate must be in a public meeting. David asked for discussion, and a vote. Paul read the vote totals from the May election, and voiced his opinion on each candidate. David asked for any other discussion, and a vote. Bryan expressed reservations about a public discussion of the candidates. Bette asked Bryan if he wanted an executive meeting for the board to decide on a candidate. Bryan indicated that he would like to have an executive session to further discuss the candidates. Bryan made a motion to table the vote until November to allow the present board members to get to know the three candidates better. Bette seconded the motion. The vote was 4-0 in favor of the motion. Bryan volunteered to contact the Department of Local Affairs (aka DOLA) and the Colorado Secretary of State to inform them of Pat Conway’s resignation.

Gravel for the Parking Lot. Bette has allocated money in the budget to purchase gravel. Ron Lonneman was asked about cost, he stated right now, he has one bid for approximately \$7,300.00. +- This number includes material and transportation. Ron said he would obtain other bids from Connell Resources in Ft Collins, and Corkle Construction in Walden. The last time anyone could remember gravel applied to the parking lot was in 2017. David stated preliminary conversations with the chapel, building committee, and UPCA indicated they would be willing to pay a portion of the overall costs. No exact figures were given by the aforementioned entities.

Firefighters Appreciation Dinner- possibly November 17 or 18 at Mishawaka – Chief Hugh will be in touch with everyone.

Additional Reports

Chief Collins reported that the department responded to 13 calls in September. Renewed FEPP contract with DFPC for tender 321.

Distributed 8 cases of signaling devices to mutual aid partners, LCES and CSU

Ordered booster hose for E 621

Put new new front tires on E621

Put new new front tires on E631

Put new new front tires on E641

Ordered 6 portable radios for the department; now being programmed by Larimer County.

Made space available at station 4 for Livermore's old type 1.

EMS report Amy Maddox was not present, however Bryan Maddox reported on her behalf that she is busy working to update everyone's hours for the National Registry for EMS members.

Station 1 A-OK

Station 2 A-OK

Station 3 A-OK Andy reported new tires for E631. Bunker gear is now safely stored in a discarded beer cooler. Thus far, it is proving to be mouse, spider, and packrat proof.

Station 4 Now has an empty bay to accommodate Livermore's old engine.

CLPFEG See attached report.
Building Committee Report See attached.

David candidly voiced his opinion that at this time the present board is dysfunctional. David further invited the community to “hold our feet to the fire” if a community member observes one or more board members contributing to the dysfunctionality. If there are concerns, they should be addressed to the fire board in writing submitted by email.

A community member made a very generous contribution to the department. The memo line was specifically marked “station 2.” Paul asked the question: if donations were marked in this fashion, do these monies specifically go only to that station or the general district fund. Bette informed the board that such donations went into the general fund; and would be shared by all the stations in the district, not just one.

Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bette seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul McGraw Acting Secretary