

Evergreen Fire District Board of Trustees Regular Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Regular Board Meeting of March 6, 2017

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Jack calls the meeting to order at 4:11 pm

Trustees in attendance:

*Jack Fallon
Shawn Baker
John Foust
Dave Adams*

Trustees Absent:

Dave Edwards

EFD Staff in attendance:

*Craig Williams
Ben Covington
James Boyce
Jacob Pitcher
Will Allen*

RECOGNIZE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At this time, public may comment on any public matter that is not on the Agenda of the Meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the District.

FINANCIALS:

1. Discuss and Approve January Financials
Dave Adams makes motion to approve January Financials as presented. Motion does not have a second. Motion does not pass.

January financials are tabled until April meeting when check register for January can be looked at in a clearer way and will be included with February financials.

PAST ITEMS/UPDATES:

1. Approve Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2017
Shawn makes motion to approve February 6 meeting minutes. Dave Adams seconds the motion. Motion passes unanimously.

2. Apparatus Update

Craig begins by telling the Board that Mike Flint from General Fire was at the fire station earlier and has taken possession of 831. All equipment has been moved to 832 and we are hoping to not have any issues with 832. Craig expresses confidence in our relationships with other departments for mutual aid and doesn't foresee any major problems. Craig reiterates what is going to be done to 831 which is to include all electrical circuitry, air system and air brakes. He also reiterated to General Fire that he does not want the apparatus back until it is fixed. The process has taken 6 months or more but General Fire, ultimately, has honored their responsibility. Shawn inquires if General Fire will do seam lighting or if that is something we will do when we have the apparatus back. Craig states that he did not want to blur General Fire's obligations which are being done for free with what RES could do (for a cost) once the apparatus was back in our possession. General Fire has said that it will take 1 to 2 months for completion but will be a "pleasant surprise" if that is so. John Foust inquires if the generator was removed before GF took the apparatus. Craig reiterates that the only reason the generator was used was to power the halogen seam lighting. He states that the seam lighting is old and requires a generator and will be replaced with LED seam lighting which requires very little draw (12V) and is brighter light. Overall cost of project with RES is in the ballpark of \$6,000 to \$8,000. When the apparatus was purchased it was in mind that extrication would be done from the back of it with pneumatic hose reels. That never went into fruition and never worked out and has basically been a useless piece of equipment. By taking that piece of equipment out of the apparatus a lot of storage space will be gained.

John Foust's opinion is that the apparatus being completely fixed will still be questionable due to the age of it. He states that the Board needs to get on a program where a new apparatus is able to be purchased every so many years. He states that 831 being 15 years old is "mind boggling". Craig states that the apparatus is indeed approaching the end of its service life. Craig states that 885 and 836 are in reserve status and "are retained on there to show the public that it is still in service but that is going away very quickly. It is not safe." John asks about the time frame left on ISO. Craig states it's good for 10 years but can be inspected anytime during that period. He states it took 14 years to get the last ISO inspection. John states that even if we did get 1 new engine that still wouldn't do us any good in regards to ISO and that even if we did get 1 new engine that still wouldn't do us any good in regards to ISO. He is in favor of having some type of yearly service plan. Craig states that one had been started a few years ago and that that is his goal but recognizes the difficulties. Craig recognizes the need for new equipment but also acknowledges that we are "burning through personnel" as well. Craig states that a levy could take care of both if done correctly.

3. Levy Update

Craig states that there are 2 separate and distinct issues that he doesn't want the Board to get mixed up or combined; 1) staffing issue and 2) CIP/apparatus and equipment issue. Craig's focus is to make sure that the Board has a good understanding of where we are at with equipment and what our needs are and then

to satisfy any comments or questions. He refers to a spreadsheet that he had sent out regarding the age and mileage of department apparatus. He states that he is almost finished but is currently trying to find that information for a 1975 Dodge and a 1987 Ford. Craig wants to show to the public that the Board and EFD have been frugal and cost conscientious in purchases and while we are grateful but have been very limited. EFD has purchased only 2 apparatus brand new in the history of this District. Craig's approach to the public is to guide them along with good, solid data which will show anyone looking at it that EFD is in need of help. Craig reiterates that he recognizes that a lot of residents of Evergreen do not have employment benefits or a pension. However, it is imperative that they understand that EFD is losing quality, core personnel in the process. He states that he does not want the equipment/apparatus issue on top of a 'poor us' approach. He wants the equipment to be a stand-alone and separate issue in this including the turnouts and SCBA which are CIP items which, in the past, has been gotten with grants and was pretty much gotten when we got the new station. This in turns means that most will "expire" at the same time. Craig states that he would like to get into a progressive history of purchasing 5 to 8 sets at a time every other year. If we don't we are going to find ourselves in trouble. He reiterates the need to not cut the SCBA/turnout budget again going forward. That budget had been cut from \$20,000 to \$10,000. Craig states that our newest piece of equipment was acquired on a grant and while we will continue to look for grant opportunities, to plan CIP on a good wild land season and acquisition of grants is very poor planning. We have to have a guaranteed source of revenue.

Craig tells that Board that what he would like to focus on is finding out what the CIP should look like from the Board's perspective. He states that generally \$20,000 to \$30,000 can be put towards it on average but it's not really going to get us anywhere and that the track EFD is currently on is 1 used apparatus per decade. Shawn tells Craig that he (Craig) needs to "pencil it out" for the Board with everything included; wild land trucks, ambulances and etc. Craig states that he can do that but that every piece of apparatus is variable of use and cost.

Craig moves onto discussion of staffing and personnel. He states that he and Jack would like to further explore the possibility of county benefits. It would be considerably less expensive for us. Craig states that in the event that county benefits are not available to EFD then we know what we have to pencil in for benefits and wages that aren't county associated. Craig states that he is using GPIA county benefits as his example as they do receive county. Craig states that he has been told "no" but not officially because it has not been said by a commissioner. Shawn states that if this is a political issue rather than an administrative issue the Trustees need to get involved. Craig states that the Fire Department had tried quite some time ago but was told no. Shawn suggests to Craig that because the Board members are elected Trustees that they may be able to "push things in a way that you can't". Jack tells the Board that, in this case, Craig "is utilizing a document from the late 40's early 50's that indicates that Evergreen may have been a County fire department that evolved into a fire district which would be a sub set of a county. (Shawn states 'which we still clearly are.') GPA was a department of the County and for whatever reason the employee

status of it at the time was allowed to be grandfathered in, is the only thing I can guess. Whereas, the Fire Department did not have employees at the time even though the County funds were collected and used to pay for apparatus; I am not clear that they were paid to be employees. There may not have been any employees even though equipment and materials were paid from a County entity that eventually became a public entity. Shawn inquires about the hand written minutes whether they were ours or the County's. Craig states that they are ours and he is currently trying to get in contact with the 3 living people who could clarify the situation for us. Jack states that it will likely come down to legal interpretation and the County Attorney will protect The County rather than The District. Craig states that he has heard it said that because we are "high risk" they will not want us to be a part of their pool. His argument would be that is what work comp is for because an on-the-job injury is a completely different funding mechanism. Craig states that, overall, adding 25 people to the pool should actually make it less expensive. Shawn reiterates that EFD is serving county residents. Craig states that researching this further is his next goal and that, if necessary, we may have to be looking for our own attorney since the County Attorney would represent The County. Craig states to the Board that he has been working independently with people known to him at the airport that can help him locate the meeting minutes of when, where and why that was grandfathered. Dave Adams asks Craig if there is a time line on when he will have levy proposal. Craig states that first he wants to get the equipment draft done on top of figuring out if we can get County benefits. He says the only thing that is really stalling us from presenting anything on staffing or personnel cost is that "I don't want to end up with a bunch of columns like we did last time because it was too confusing." He states that if he was confused looking at it as the Chief then he can only imagine what it would be like for a lay person. Shawn has asked for the 'columns' presentation for Trustees and not for the public. Craig states that he will do that but that Trustees were confused by it as well. Shawn's concern is to get conversation started because the window for getting the levy out is coming. Dave Adams states that he just doesn't want to see us in a time crunch where the levy can't happen. Dave points out that we have minutes from the October meeting and it is now March and that the Board cannot keep putting things off. Shawn states that as long a draft is in progress it can change as many times as needed but to have something in progress is needed immediately. Craig states to the Board that when the draft is dispersed he really needs everyone's input. He tells them that last time we pushed out a lot of information but did not get a lot of input from the Board. He states he heard from a minority of Board members on the numbers data and did not feel like there was a clear unification on what we were doing. John Foust asks Craig is we would go to 2 meetings per month and Craig states he would have a meeting every week in order to hammer out all that needs to be done. He states he would really like to have a workshop for a couple of hours and really have a good discussion amongst Board members. John Foust states that he prefers the discussion instead of emails and etc. Shawn states that he agrees with having a discussion but that he likes receiving the emails and updates in preparation for the Board meeting. Craig states he doesn't mind taking

the time to put the update information together and sending the emails as long as the Board members are reading the emails. The goal is to send out the emails a week or 2 prior to meetings and give Trustees time to digest the information, formulate questions to generate productive conversation and in doing so it saves time during Board meetings. It's difficult when a Board member has a month-old question about something the Craig and/or the Board has already moved on from. Jack inquires as to why a portion of the October meeting minutes were included with their meeting packets but is not an agenda item. Craig explains to the Board that it is for discussion purposes only and pertains to the EMS mill levy transfer (which was already done) but that we have a question regarding the next transfer mentioned in the meeting minutes from October 2016. Ben states that there is no resolution for the CIP monies. Jack tells Craig that if he writes another resolution they will sign it. Ben states that in the October minutes a couple of motions were made and were passed but had no explanation to them and were too confusing to take to the County. Ben clarifies that the Resolution for transfer that is there for them to sign has already been done. The original signed copy is somewhere other than our office and Cheri wants a signed copy here at the fire department and that another whole new resolution regarding CIP still needs to be done. Shawn asks if there was a resolution for moving money from 7204 into 7250 to which the answer is no. The Board discusses motions and resolutions from October 2016 and decides that a resolution was signed and money moved without a motion having been voted for approval. This matter will be put on the agenda for next month with resolutions for 2017-01 EMS to District and 2017-02 District to CIP to follow.

NEW ITEMS/UPDATES:

RESOLUTIONS:

PROPOSALS:

1. Administrative Assistant 6 Month Evaluation/Wage Increase

Craig informs the Board that the Administrative Assistant, Cheri, has passed her 6 month probationary period and that he has had the opportunity to evaluate her performance. Craig states the Cheri was told that past practice is to be evaluated every 6 months and at that time there would be consideration for a raise. Craig states that based on very good performance of that evaluation he is recommending an increase of .50 per hour and that her current wage is \$12.00 per hour.

Shawn makes a motion to approve wage increase for Cheri effective 03-01-2017 from \$12.00 to \$12.50 per hour. Motion is seconded by Dave Adams. Motion passes unanimously.

CHIEF'S REPORT:

1. February Call Volume

Craig states that because there was so much information he had included it in the District Update that was emailed as well as the Run Volume for February attached to the meeting packets as well as other usual data.

Adjourn.

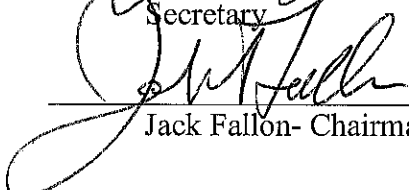
Dave Adams makes motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion is seconded by Shawn. Meeting adjourns at 5:28 pm.

The President of the Board of Trustees, as presiding officer of any meeting of the Board of Trustees, may close the meeting during the time the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy; and, then, if, and only if, the presiding officer determines that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. The right of individual privacy may be waived by the individual about whom the discussion pertains; and, in that event, the meeting must be open.

Submitted by: _____


Secretary

Signed by: _____


Jack Fallon- Chairman