

Regular Meeting of the Hygiene Fire Protection District Board of Directors, October 14, 2009. Meeting called to order at 7:00pm by President Jim Wall. Bill Nelson, Tim Cunningham, and Ken Wood were present. Keith Parrinello, Marlin Godfrey, Derek Westmoreland, and Chief Bill Eliason were visitors.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

## **Old Business**

### **Action Items from prior meetings**

Jim wondered about the Cemex photos. Bill reported that the photo will be taken this Saturday and the newspapers from Lyons and Longmont will be in attendance. Ken will bring his camera. The reporters are supposed to arrive around 9:30 or 10:00am.

Bill cannot find the warranties for the trucks. Marlin mentioned that they might be in a box above the restrooms. Bill will look further.

The tarp is not installed on 2801. The tarp makers haven't had time to make them yet.

First National has not sent out the debit cards yet. Jim is not happy and may move the account to another bank.

Budget has been posted as required. Jim presented copies to the board for review. Discussions ensued and a current summary is posted. We'll probably have a surplus of about \$60,000 at the end of the year. Ken will post the required legal notice in the paper.

2831's foam pump has been repaired. A "Fitch" has been installed in the pump fuel tank. The device is designed to keep fuel fresh.

## **Committee Reports**

### **New Business**

#### **a. Correspondence for the board**

Bill has the license agreement for Cemex. They have already signed it and we just need to sign it for the upcoming year. Bill will sign in front of a notary and we can use the burn building for another year.

The hearing has happened at the Supreme Court. The hearing was September 24, and the courts decision has not been rendered. Bill related some of the judges' questions to the board.

Bill received a letter from Boulder County's Treasurer. Beginning next year, tax deposits will be made via direct deposit. Bill received paperwork from the county that we must sign and designate an account for the deposits.

Stoney mentioned to Bill that we should buy some plastic fire hats for the little kids. They are \$.51 each, and we used to give them away all the time. Tim made a motion that we buy 250 of the hats and 250 wristbands for the older kids (similar to the Livestrong bands). Motion passed by the board, Bill will order.

Ken received an e-mail from the State regarding an election process we have to undergo in 2010. There are many rules we must adhere to and processes we must read prior to the process. Ken will investigate the process and report next month.

Jim Wall presented a letter from Longmont Fire requesting information about departments that are doing exceptional work. They would appreciate hearing about it. Also, they are interested in information about exceptional training. Jim has contact information.

#### **b. Firefighter Ratings (applications for new members)**

None found

#### **c. Other New Business**

Bill mentioned that we have new members that need new vehicle lights. Bill presented many new choices, from single strobes to double rotators. The board voted to purchase four single strobes and three double rotator lights and the new members can choose.

Ken presented a couple of FPPA items. Our check for the matching funds must be \$34,384. Stoney will be writing the check and Jim will give him the number.

Ken also explained that each year we've been successful in getting matching funds, but the form that was due September 25, 2009 was not submitted. We finally received the form, but it needs to be signed by the Treasurer and the President and it must be notarized. Ken requested that the W-9 be attached and he has done that. It was decided that the forms will be notarized. For this issue, since Mel Stone is ill, Bill Nelson has been appointed temporary treasurer for the next week. The forms will be notarized and sent as required.

The department passed a by-law change at the last meeting that allows retired firefighters to remain as active firefighters. The FPPA ruling requires that, in order for that to be allowable, the board must pass a resolution saying that the district needs additional firefighters. Chief Eliason read the by-law change for the board, stating that the retired member must be re-voted into the department before being approved for the above. The resolution was brought to the district and voted on by the board members. The resolution reads as follows: It is hereby resolved by the Board of Directors of the Hygiene Fire Protection District that the district still needs firefighters, therefore a retired member is eligible to continue to serve if he/she is re-elected according to the fire department's rules following his/her retirement. The resolution was passed by the board.

Bill Nelson wondered if we were going to do another firefighter appreciation Christmas dinner. It will be held either the first, second or third Friday or Saturday night in December.

Ken reported that he received a certification of tax levies form that must be completed and signed by a board officer. Our mill rate is .0499 with gross valuation reported earlier, gives us tax revenue of \$281,878. Jim will sign the certification and it will be submitted. Ken also discussed the budget calendar and it was discussed, making sure the Board is meeting all the required deadlines. December 15 is the deadline for the certification of the tax levy form. December 31 is the deadline to ratify the budget.

#### **Officer's Reports**

**President –**

**Secretary -**

**Treasurer – Absent, no report**

## **I. Bills Paid**

## **II. New Bills**

### **a. Fire Chief –**

Chief Eliason reported that our medical trainer did not receive a check this month, so we should remember to pay her for two sessions next month.

Chief Eliason sent the original AMR contract to the board members and has received an amended contract. He does not like a statement that, in a code 3 (emergency) response, states that they will arrive within the “corporate district limits” within 15 minutes, 90% of the time. Chief Eliason would prefer that the wording be that “arrival on the scene” within 15 minutes, 90% of the time. He is going to address this wording with AMR as it does not really offer us any better service that we are presently getting from our current provider. This may delay the start of the service beyond the original November start.

J.J. Hoffman sent a plan for a CWPP (Community Wide Protection Plan) that Lyons is putting together, and he wants Hygiene to be part of the program. It will cost Hygiene substantially less than if we did it on our own, and the Chief recommends that we review it to determine if it will be of benefit to our district.

Chief Eliason mentioned that the firefighter who had an accident while responding emergent to a call, for whom Chief Eliason recommended discharge, was voted on by the department and was retained. Bill Nelson stated that it might be up to the board to administer discipline in another manner, perhaps more severe than the \$25 fine that was levied after the vote. Discussion ensued, and Chief Eliason believes that it is too little too late in this case. He will not support the actions of this particular firefighter, and is bothered that the firefighter has received many warnings and the department would have been better served had he been discharged. Discussions ensued regarding by-law changes and/or Board resolutions giving the Chief more power to discipline in other manners. Ken brought forth the legalities of the Board legislating the fire department’s activities. Ken wondered if the Board could officially request the affected firefighter to resign, or direct the department to re-visit the incident and the outcome of the vote. Marlin read from the by-laws of the department that the Chief has ultimate authority to ask a member to do most anything according to Article four, section four of the department by-laws. The chief has absolute authority to request a member to serve in any way the Chief sees fit. Tim mentioned that, in his opinion, that sentence, especially the part where it says that “the chief has the ultimate authority to request a member to do anything reasonable “for the good of the department”, it is his opinion that the chief has the authority to request, and if the firefighter chooses not to honor the request, a special or emergency meeting can be called to enforce the penalties that exist under other areas of the bylaws. Diane Wood, a district resident, arrived at the meeting late. Having heard the discussion, she stood in support of the Chief and the way that Marlin Godfrey had read the by-law.

### **Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 9:01pm