

Regular Meeting of the Hygiene Fire Protection District Board of Directors, 12/10/2008.
Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm by President Ken Wood.

Tim Cunningham, Mel Stone, Bill Nelson and Jim Wall were present. Scott Keener, Marlin Godfrey, Derek Westmoreland, and Chief J.J. Hoffman were visitors.

There were no minutes from last month as there was no meeting.

Old Business

Action Items from prior meetings

Ken reported that the five year plan needs to be completed as soon as possible. The budget has been mailed in. Bill Nelson reported that there have been several requests on the webmail, and there seem to be many in agreement.

Chief Hoffman handed out copies of a tentative five year plan. Chief Hoffman reported there was a meeting held where he solicited ideas, both from those in attendance and the webmail. The result is the tentative plan. Most of the people suggest we need a new engine, a capital outlay of about \$400,000. Based on our current budget, an engine of that cost would be spread out over two or three years. Other suggestions included a little bit of everything. The "Fit Five" was also discussed. It is a device that is thrown into a fire and when it goes off, it deprives the fire of oxygen. Apparently, insurance companies are offering to re-imburse for the use of the device as it greatly reduces smoke and fire damage. Also mentioned was a medical car. We have purchased such a vehicle from Boulder Rural and it is already in residence in the fire station. It is in the process of being outfitted with all the necessary medical gear to make it viable. The remainder of the proposed budget will be presented in its final form and the board will decide on the priorities from the list.

Ken mentioned that since the engine is clearly the largest of the expenditures, we will have to decide on a number of smaller pieces. He also wondered why, with all the equipment we now have, why we need a new engine. Marlin mentioned that by the time the new engine would be in service, our current 2802 will be about 14 years old. So, it's all about routine replacement of equipment to keep the firefighting capabilities of the district current.

The plan will have to be adjusted many times throughout the five year period. There was also some talk about how The District would fare if Cemex were to leave. A mill levy increase was mentioned during the formulation of the plan. The gathering wondered where the money was going to come from if property values continue to decline, taking tax revenue down with them. We've also lost some property to Longmont annexations, so we will have to be very judicious with the expenditures in the five year plan. Also mentioned was a possible purchase of a small piece of land west of the current fire station so The District could move the live fire training center to a piece of land owned by The District so we are not at the mercy of a landlord. It was also mentioned that we could build another station on the site.

Ken has spoken with a person at Boulder County regarding the possible closure of the cement plant when and if it finally closes. The person Ken spoke with didn't mention the land becoming open space, but did mention that the District would still receive revenue if a developer purchases the land. The bottom line is that we should keep a close eye on Cemex to learn their future plans.

A mill levy increase is something that could not be considered unless there is a concrete reason to do so. Simply saying we need more money is not a good reason.

Ken will consolidate the list and bring it to the board.

Committee Reports

Marlin formed a one man committee to ask the department what should be done with the old white tanker and the parade truck. Most of the department members were in agreement that it is time to get rid of the old tanker, and the department was non-committal on the parade truck. The board recognizes that the old tanker should go. No decision was made tonight, but the board but the general consensus is that it should be parked at Ritchie Brothers and sold. Since the parade truck belongs to the department and not the district. The district decided to sell the old tanker, but we will keep it until we determine if a third tanker will help the ISO rating.

Tim reported that the old tanker is leaking diesel fuel from the front of the engine. Discussion on that issue was tabled until later in the meeting.

New Business

a. Correspondence for the board

Ken received the final property valuation notice. The number is \$66,963,540. That is total valuation for the district and if we multiply our mill levy by that number, it will give us a total of about \$268,000 to work with next year.

The budget information has been printed and was presented to the board in final form. Discussion ensued and the certification of tax levies will have to be signed.

Ken asked for a motion to adopt the budget. Tim moved to adopt the 2009 budget, Mel Stone seconded. The board voted unanimously to pass the resolution. The 2009 budget is adopted.

Ken received a letter from the State DOLA stating that they have not received a notice of board of canvassers certificate of election results. Ken didn't have a record of it, but contacted Steve Brinkman, our DEO for the election. Steve had already sent it in to the State, but it had not been received by DOLA. Steve e-mailed a copy to DOLA.

Ken also received a document from Boulder County confirming the board's contact information for the coming year.

The Boulder County Clerk and Recorder sent us a thank you letter for letting them use the fire house for the past election.

b. Firefighter Ratings (applications for new members)

There were none because the department does not have any recognized standards. There has been a meeting of the committee, but we've received no word of any action taken.

c. Other New Business

Bill Nelson mentioned that as the department's training officer, he is planning a mock disaster drill for next year. The details are yet to be worked out, but he will keep us posted.

Discussions were held regarding LEU. The board agreed to pay LEU \$600 for 2009.

Officer's Reports

President – None

Secretary - None

Treasurer - None

I. Bills Paid

All bills were paid, a full listing is available by contacting Mel Stone, District Treasurer

II. New Bills

No new bills were reported.

a. Fire Chief

Chief Hoffman reported that he is working on a new ISO rating. Tim has ordered the new ISO standards book from ISO. As soon as it arrives, he and Chief Hoffman will investigate what is needed to reduce The District ISO rating. We realize that, no matter what we do, the rating will only go to a certain point. There is the possibility of reducing the risk further by installing hydrants and/or cisterns where possible and feasible. This seems like a viable approach, given the fact that The District exists to benefit the taxpayers.

Discussions were held regarding the ISO rating. It was mentioned that, depending on the ISO rating desired, the five year plan may change.

There was discussion regarding tires, and the future planning of tire purchases.

Regarding the budget, we are still ordering some items that were approved in the 2007 budget but not spent until 2008. Therefore, there may be some rollover into 2009.

We have been paying our medical trainer every month to provide the training on the night of the department's monthly meeting. Chief Hoffman wants to carry that training into 2009 and the board agreed.

There were further discussion regarding the five year plan, and more will be coming in future months. Chief Hoffman will put together a team to discuss, after Ken correlates the information.

The new med car is going to be used for medical purposes and calls only. It is not to respond (at least not the first out the door) to structure fires, accidents, etc. It should be primarily used for medical calls.

Chief Hoffman proposed that if we open use of the live fire training center to other departments, they must have the proper insurance forms, and someone onsite should be certified to operate the center. Also, the scheduled day must be attended by an official of the Hygiene Fire Department and/or Hygiene Fire Protection District. Costs were also discussed. Chief Hoffman's desire is that all be permitted to train there, pursuant to the above specifications (and any others that may be initiated) with minimal or no cost. It was suggested that we go through the first year and see how much usage the center has and whether we receive any donations. Chief Hoffman modeled the training center's rules and regulations on the Boulder Center. Our fixed costs for the center are about \$2500/year, for trash and the portable bathroom facility. It was decided that we will publicize the existence of the center and then mention the donation theory. We will try that for a year and then re-evaluate the program in 2010.

Review of Meeting –

No new items

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.