

# CRAIG RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 18, 2020

## **Call the Meeting to Order**

John Forgay called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. (Maneotis absent – excused)

## **Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence**

## **Approval of Agenda**

Rod Kowach made a motion to approve the Agenda. Chris Nichols seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

## **Approval of Minutes**

Alan Webber moved to approve the May 21, 2020 minutes as presented. Rod Kowach seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

## **Approval of Bills**

Nichols moved to approve the bills for June 18, 2020 as presented (Fire Department bills in the amount of \$25,207.21, Haz-Mat bills in the amount of \$0.00 and Pension bills of \$0.00) for a total of \$25,207.21. Kowach seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

## **Purchase Orders**

None

## **Budget Review**

Nichols – We have received 69% of revenue. Administrative expenses are at 35.8%, Operations 35.8%, Capital at 84.4%, for a total expenditure at 53.6%. Pension has not been funded yet. We have taken delivery of Engine 6.

## **New Business**

Memorial Regional Health Support Request – Dr. Jeff Womble, Amy Peck and Stayton Mosbey came to discuss the future of EMS. Amy Peck presented an information sheet from the meetings on the future of EMS in Moffat County. Many entities in Moffat County have been looking to the Fire Department as a good fit for EMS, but realize that it is not feasible. EMS would like to seek a mill levy, but they need \$60,000 - \$70,000 to hire someone to navigate the process. The hospital can not afford to fund this.

Jeff Womble – We are looking to establish an independent EMS district from Memorial Regional Health, the mill levy would not be for MRH. Something has to change. MRH can not continue, this seems to be the best option. If this were to happen, the assets, mainly ambulances, would be pushed to the new entity.

Nichols – Appreciate all of the meetings that have been put together. The process of education is critical. Your annual loss is our entire operating budget for the year. I do not think that the public knows or understands that. Our charter does not cover EMS.

Webber – It is in our best interest to make sure this goes through. If it is not done right, it will fail. It is important to not go bad.

Forgay – The big priority is education; we have been fiscally responsible for years. That is why we are in the position that we are in. Education is key so that the public knows the entire situation.

Kowach – Education to let everyone know the financial situation that everyone is in, and will be in with the powerplant closing. We do not want to put the fire district into a bad situation.

Nichols – According to my latest numbers from Chuck Cobb, Unit 1 alone is 22% of our budget. That does not include the future closing of units 2 and 3. The only reason we have money is because we only have one full time employee, and the firefighters are paid per call. Based on the fact that EMS needs its own designated funding source to be solvent and survive on its own; and realizing that an education campaign is important; Nichols made a motion that the Fire District will not be the fiscal agent of this campaign, but we will contribute the \$17,500 request by MRH to support a campaign to form an EMS District out of the 2021 budget contingent upon funding to also be included from the City, the County, and Memorial Regional Health. Kowach seconded. Motion approved (4:0)

Webber volunteered to help on the committee, Kowach suggested the EMS group look into the SDA as a resource. Dr. Womble said that they would take it to the city and the county from here.

### **Correspondence**

Forgay read a thank you letter from Allison Villard

Forgay read a thank you letter from Darbi Zimmerman

Forgay read a thank you letter from David Lopez Gutierrez

### **Reports from the Chief –**

Chief Hume – We had 30 calls in May. 10 EMS, 19 Fire and 1 HazMat. The rookie academy is studying ventilation this weekend. We have had positive feedback on the rookies. The fleet is in pretty good shape. Engine 6 is in service, having gone to its first fire on Saturday. Everything is in service. Brandon Homer is still working on a centering jig to drill out the bolt on the ladder. 4ht of July is a go, barring any unforeseen developments. We have had positive feedback from the community to have some sort of normalcy. The variances changed, allowing Tonya to put together a picnic. It won't be extravagant, but it is a time for us to come together. Please RSVP soon. Wildland season is in full swing. We are seeing interesting fire behavior already. We will be seeing some state funded air support, possibly earlier in a fire. The BLM resources are pretty slim this year. The Division of Fire Protection and Control has set up a four-person module in Steamboat, and they will be there year-round as a resource. We discovered last winter that that the bays shed snow in front of the primary entrance to the building, and are creating giant ice dams. This not only blocks the entrance, but also puts the gas meter in peril. Please look for some upcoming bids to create a covered area to protect both the gas meter and the door. The website is up to date. It is starting to make sense to outsource the page. There are a lot of resources out there, we are going to get information and pricing for a fresh web page. When Engine 6 was delivered, there were no microphones. When we received them, we realized that the radios didn't work. Troubleshooting done by Chief Hume, Lt. Mercer and Todd Wheeler determined that the radios were improperly installed. Believe that the radios took a surge during construction, and fried the radios. Radios went back to BK for repair, and we will front the repair. Lt Mercer is working with Front Range and Skeeter for warranty. BK and Todd Wheeler will help with reinstall and reprogramming. Pump testing has been completed. We had a couple

of issues. L1 failed the pump test. We are going to do a back flush and retest. E2 had a vacuum leak, and E4 has a mechanical governor that can't keep up. In the bills tonight is a bill for the fireworks. We will bill the City and the County for the fireworks. The City budgeted \$4,000 and the County budgeted \$3,000. We will bill appropriately. Wednesday the D.F.P.C. newest training officer was here. He took a tour of the facilities and learned about our training and operations. He was very impressed and said we were top-notch. They are hoping to be a bit more engaged with departments across the state.

**Board Member Reports**

Rod Kowach – You guys have had wildland, and structure fires. Be careful out there. Glad to see it's still green and not brown. Appreciate all that you do. Keep being safe.

Chris Nichols – Fireworks are easier than they used to be. Appreciate the work. Keep things going like you have. The Ambulance will not look like it does if it gets dumped on us. It would change our structure.

Tony Maneotis —

Alan Webber — Wildland season is coming up. Tonight's discussion with EMS, we want to see them manage it and make it run, but if not, I know you guys can make it work.

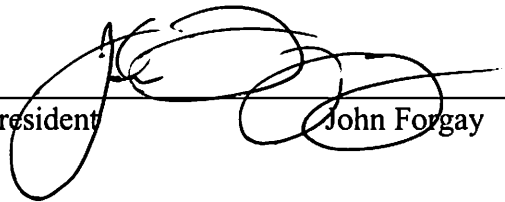
John Forgay — Thk you to the board members for participating in EMS meetings. It may be a hard sell. I feel better that it won't be presented negatively towards the Fire Department. Lots of information will have to go out to help the public understand the situation. We don't want the ambulance service, but the community needs one. Appreciate the work.


**Audience Comments**

None

**Adjournment**

Forgay entertained a motion to adjourn. Webber moved. Kowach seconded. Motion passed. (4:0) Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

  
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President John Forgay

  
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Secretary/Treasurer Chris Nichols