



MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE EVERGREEN FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT JANUARY 12, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Evergreen Fire Protection District was held on January 12, 2016 at the Administration/Training Building, 1802 Bergen Parkway, Evergreen, Colorado.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER Director Kling called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.

TIME OF REMEMBRANCE AND REFLECTION: The pledge of allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed.

ATTENDANCE

DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE: George Kling, Mike Gregory, John Anderson, Dave Christensen
Director deDisse arrived with the meeting in progress at 5:45 pm.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Anthony Shepperdson, Susan Stearns, Bill Cronk, Doug Saba, John Putt, Bob Walter, Frank Dearborn, Connell O'Brien, Mason Duncan, Danae Early, Jenny Jesmer, Dave Montesi, Greg Grotke, Terry Wehnes, Matt Fennell, Rob Dorney, Barb Scripps, Mark Davidson, Dr. Mosby, Jim Gorman, Bill Manning, Linda McConnell, Mike Weege, and Carol Hucker.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

- December 8, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes: Accepted as presented.

PRESENTATIONS:

- Financial Health Report: Chief Weege made a presentation about the 2015 Community Task Force meetings. (The written report is attached at the end of the minutes). The impact of lost property tax revenue and EMS revenue, the changes in EMS services that are coming as a result of the Affordable Care Act. After the presentation was completed Director Kling offered the task force the floor for comments or questions. The actual operating mill levy at present for Evergreen is 9.117. The projected increase in mill at this time would increase the EFPD annual property taxes for a median home value of \$407,000 from \$247 to \$372. Director Christensen asked for clarification on how the numbers were determined. Chief Weege explained the basis for the analysis of the data and the multiple versions that were run in preparation and that this does not include plans for replacement of station 1. The anticipated sale of additional properties to offset the cost of Station 1 will not generate the funds necessary for this and a bond will have to be considered for this project. The Construction committee has met and is looking at several options for funding, alternate locations, etc. Director Christensen asked the board for their impressions of the process. Ms. Stearns commented that she liked the idea of a sales tax and that this was an oversight in statute, and that she understands the position of not separating the fire and EMS services. She felt it would be effective to use sales tax if available rather than place increased burden on property owners. Mr. Gorman expressed that after the option of sales tax was presented he felt that was a good option to pursue. Ms. Scripps expressed that she felt a health services district would provide greater flexibility and could provide better community health care. Director deDisse expressed that an increased mill levy and an increase in sales tax was not something that the local business owners that he has spoken with were in favor of. He feels confident that the current legislative session in Colorado will approve an amendment that will allow Fire/EMS combination services to participate in sales tax which we are currently restricted from utilizing. He feels that tourism is minimal in Evergreen and that increased sales tax may be impactful for the community. He expressed that he felt dividing the service into two districts is not a good option at this time. Mr. Davidson expressed that he feels the health service district has some intriguing aspects and some positives but agrees with Chief Weege that it is not the best option. His understanding is that a 2 cent sales tax would completely fund a health services

district and that the \$3 million it would raise would not be necessary in conjunction with an increased mill. He feels that rushing into a health district is not needed and that we should not be one of the first starting this path. If the statute is changed and we are able to go for a 1cent sales tax to raise \$1.5 million and therefore cut the mill levy in half. Director deDisse expressed that splitting the services has too many variables to consider. Ms. Scripps asked the board to look at the health benefits that could be provided are not inconsequential and that if EMS and fire remain together then the district needs to consider the bigger picture of how to provide effective community health. Chief Weege explained that we are anticipating the funding mechanism being in place once the statute is revised we will be able to provide these expanded community health needs. Director Kling pointed out that the preferred venue would be to keep our management system the same instead of duplicating the levels to separate the services based on being able to utilize sales tax by statute. He feels the unknowns in the next few years with regard to requirements on health service providers are still to be determined and that his opinion is it will not have a significant impact on our revenue and it will de-value the billable services. Dr. Moseby asked about health services district from the back of the room and Mr. Walter responded that the oldest in Colorado is the Thompson Valley Health Services district which was started in the 1980's. Director deDisse responded that Highlands Rescue is also a separate health services district closer to Evergreen. Director Kling said that if we went to a mill levy and EMS is able to collect more revenue in the coming years that are anticipated then we have the option of certifying the mill levy each year at a lesser rate than what was requested. The preference would be to not have to keep going back to the voters to request additional funding. Director Christensen expressed that he feels we are able to through a mill levy be able to make the necessary funding corrections. Director Kling feels it is valuable to wait and see what some of the impacts of Affordable Care will be and then make the adjustment instead of reacting now with not enough knowledge. Mr. Gorman asked if it is possible to have a fee for those who live in the district that is different than for services for nonresidents. Director Kling explained that we do charge a different rate for extrication from a vehicle accident for residents vs. nonresidents. Chief Weege explained that it is not legal to charge a different rate for medical services themselves. Director Kling also explained that in about 7 years we will have paid off our current bonds and asked if the community would be interested in keeping that in place or if that was too far in the future to consider as an option. Ms. Scripps expressed that with the mill levy you would be able to begin the process of saving toward the replacement of station 1 but that seven years is a long time to consider. Director deDisse pointed out that we have been reacting to health care overall for several years. A question from the back of the room was asked about how a health services district is initiated. Chief Weege explained that a scope of purpose must be written and taken to the county commissioners and then district court for approval. Director deDisse pointed out that it would need financial support before it could be taken to a public vote. He expressed confidence that the statute will be changed allowing Fire/EMS to change their funding. Director Kling pointed out that we have John Putt and Bob Walter doing the research and educating the board. Ms. Scripps expressed that people will generally pay for the things that are valuable to them and emergency medical and fire services are very important. Director Christensen noted that we are the source for data on emergency services and fire response and it would be easy for the district to expand their services to meet future community health needs. Ms. Scripps expressed that she appreciated the opportunity to learn more about the district and community health and how we can do better in the district to stay on top of the changes and she will continue to listen to what we are doing moving forward. Director Anderson expressed that we could know by the end of the legislative session what direction we can take with community medicine and that then we will have the conversation about the cost of providing those services if we are financially able to provide expanded services. He appreciates the thoughts and concerns of the task force. The district needs to take the lead on continuing to educate the community. Director Kling expressed that in looking at the budget we have to consider reducing our level of service and we have to either fund the premium service we have been providing or we have to reduce the services. Mr. Davidson said that he felt the task force was asked to weigh in on the options and what he feels the task force is saying is that doing nothing or reducing services is not an option and that we expect first class services. That for this year's election the board's job is to pick a number and go for a mill levy then if legislative changes occur down the road you can make other changes. We

re-evaluate as we go forward. Director Christensen expressed that he felt having two districts would be problematic. Director deDisse responded that if there were two districts the health services would be leasing ambulances and physical space from the district and they would respond in conjunction. Director Kling said if that was the community will then that would be what would happen but the variables are still unknown. If we pass a mill levy, based on EMS funding continuing to decline or disappear, and revenue doesn't continue to decline there are too many unknowns at this time. Chief Weege noted that 5 states have already passed legislation to allow increased percentage of Medicare/ Medicaid to be paid to providers as a means of funding the unfunded mandates for these services. Changes are coming and in the meantime we need to be prepared for the more immediate needs of funding these revenue shortfalls. The Board will be presented a resolution in August for a Tabor Election in November so for now the board will continue to review the information and in February give Chief Weege direction so that he is able to begin education for the public about the needs of the district. Chief Weege thanked the task force members for their participation and attendance. Director Kling closed the public discussion by inviting the task force members to remain for the balance of the meeting or that they may leave at this time if they prefer.

- November 2015 Financial Report: Chief Weege presented the report and explained that due to a software issue the graphs are not included in the packet. Property tax revenue is slightly behind and ownership tax is slightly higher on page 2. Auto sales are up in 2015. Dispatch service revenue will go up beyond what was projected as final bills for 2015 are being sent out now. State matching funds for the FPPA were received. Mandated insurance write-offs are higher than anticipated. Medicaid write-offs are very high for 2015 at \$118,000 for the year. Otherwise tracking as expected. Director deDisse made a motion to accept and place on file the November 2015 Financial Report; seconded by Director Gregory; motion carried. Director Christensen was out of the room when the vote took place.

DIVISION REPORTS:

Administration / HR / IT:

- We have selected a new website contract service for support, Neon Rain Interactive.
- We are working on quotes to build out the firefighter residence at Station 2. Gym equipment will move to a garage bay on the maintenance structure.

Communications:

- Vanessa Johns has resigned to accept a position at Clear Creek. Trent Searcy has announced his resignation at the start of February to move out of state. Drew Pyburn resigned from part time but will carry his knowledge of dispatch back to the fire ground. Interviews have begun.
- Active Shooter Response Plan complete and there are 2 days of training at the end of January with Clear Creek Sheriff's office.
- SOG 447.5 revised such that mutual aid requests will be denied if an EFR officer does not call within 5 minutes of the request.
- December Calls: 2323 = 237 calls; 3411 = 286 calls; 911 = 103 calls

Fire Operations:

- Two structure fires so far this year.
- New ladders being replaced with 28 foot instead of 35 foot so they are easier for a single firefighter to throw on a structure.
- Auto-aid with Foothills and Clear Creek and getting DE station specific on the north side.
- Polar plunge was a success with nearly 300 jumpers, long time in the water for the firefighters.
- Assistance to Firefighters Grant for replacement SCBA.
- Academy has started EMR after passing their written FF1 exams.

Fire Prevention:

- King Soopers remodel began on January 4th. Please use caution in the parking lot and at the rear of the building. Tours will be available for the firefighters to cover the changes when complete. Repeater system will be installed to make radio coverage more effective inside the building due to the construction of the structure.
- At the EVFD meeting in February Dan will be checking fire extinguishers and Frank will check Knox keys.

- Donation that was made in 2015 to Prevention for new computer tablets and they are in use now.
- New construction of senior housing near Bergen Village, and new commercial businesses.

Emergency Medical Services:

- State Grant applications being prepared for cots. Approximately \$22,000 each with loading mechanism. A simple cot is about \$8,000.
- A grant for EMS week for a health opportunity being prepared.
- Black Hawk conference notifications soon.
- Chief Weege thanked EMS for their help on the recent structure fires with rehab, par boards, rotations, picking up hose, and other tasks. Nice having the extra hands on scene.

Maintenance Division:

- The new tender has been to McCandless for repair of a failed module and a remote throttle issue caused during repair. Programming changes needed for the pump.
- Failed control board in the admin building HVAC system has been replaced.

Safety / Community Education:

- Fire Forum will be held in May in conjunction with National Wildfire Preparedness Day
- AFG grant being submitted for SCBA and approx. 240 bottles to be consistent with surrounding districts. There will be a matching grant required if the grant request is approved.
- Another grant has been submitted for additional extractors to clean bunker gear.
- A grant has been submitted for water rescue equipment also.

Strategic Planning Implementation:

- No presentations

Regionalization Update:

- The funding model was tentatively agreed to and work on the IGA continues.

JANUARY BOARD MEETING TOPICS:

Topic	Initiated	Scheduled/ Completed	Recommendations / Actions
Energy Audit	April-14	Mar-16	Update on-going project
Revise Chiefs Review Process	Jun-15	Mar-16	
Budget Committee	Feb-15	Apr-16	To meet quarterly for review of Financial report and provide update to board
Financial Health	Nov-15	May-16	

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Budget Committee: Director DeDisse and Director Christensen – to meet between the March and April meetings to review the budget.

Personnel Committee: Director Kling and Director Anderson

401a Pension Board: Director Gregory and Director Christensen – The 401a meeting was held on January 12, 2016 and the district board will need to request the forfeiture funds from 2015 to be applied to the 2016 plan expenses. It was determined that this should be an item of new business for the February district board meeting and at that time the total amount of the forfeiture will be available for the request to be made.

Construction Committee: Director Gregory and Director deDisse

911 Regionalization IGA Committee Review: Director Kling and Director Anderson

KUDOS: a tweet was received complimenting Inspector Dan Hrouda for his work in the district.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Resolution 2016-0001: Designation Location to Post Notice – Director deDisse made a motion to approve the resolution; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried.
- Resolution 2016-0002: Calling for the 2016 Regular District Election and Appointing a Designated Election Official – Director deDisse made a motion to approve the resolution noting that Carol Hucker will serve as the DEO; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried.

- 2016 Board Meeting Dates: discussion of moving the Volunteer Pension board meetings back by one month as shown in Version 2 of the Meeting Dates document for the purpose of getting the necessary reports from the FPPA before each meeting. Director deDisse made a motion to approve Version 2 of the 2016 District Board Meeting Dates; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried. The Meeting dates will be posted at the locations and filed with the counties.
- Stanley Park Cistern Easement Agreement: Director deDisse made a motion to approve the Cistern Easement Agreement; seconded by Director Christensen; discussion by Director Kling that it will be helpful to delineate what requires the board to participate in such as this but in this instance for public record it is important to have a formal motion in place; motion carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Director Anderson: Wished everyone a happy healthy New Year and thanked the task force for their participation.

Director Gregory: Thanked the task force and expressed that the Christmas with the Firefighters is the highlight of his holiday season. Thank you Frank.

Director deDisse: Reiterate what Chief said about EMS and the fire department. On the structure fires the EMS crew is really appreciated for their work and the bond with the firefighters.

Director Christensen: Delighted to see the task force conclusion that was reached. It's great to have these conversations about what to do moving forward

Director Kling: It is not fun to deal with funding at such a tight level, but the citizens own this and he is proud to serve. With the greatness of the community we will find a funding solution. He called a five minute recess.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Director Kling made a motion to enter executive session under Colorado Statute CRS 24-6-402(4)(b) for the purpose of conferencing with the district's attorney for legal advice on specific questions of EMS operations guidance and debt service funding inquiry. Motion seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried. The executive session commenced at 7:42 pm with the five directors, Chief Weege, Bob Walter and Linda Glesne in attendance. Director deDisse made a motion to adjourn the executive session and return to public meeting; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried. The meeting returned to public session at 8:53 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Director deDisse made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by Director Christensen; motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

NEXT MEETING DATES:

Regular District Board Meeting Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 5:30 pm in Training Rooms A & B

Respectively Submitted,
 Carol Hucker
 Recording Secretary