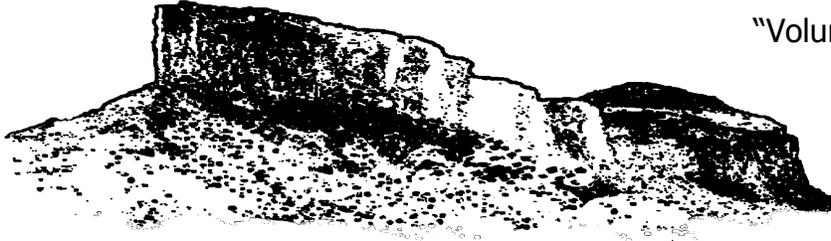


GATEWAY - UNAWEEP FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



"Volunteers Serving Our Neighbors"

43700 Hwy 141

PO Box 126

Gateway, CO 81522

www.gufd.org

Board Meeting Minutes October 12, 2015

Meeting called to order at 5:01pm.

Members Present: Fred Bolton, Lisa Eakle, John Fuller

Public Present: N/A

Minutes were approved as submitted.

No bills and/or appropriations.

No hearings.

New Business

Preliminary Budget Draft 2016

Preliminary budget is required to be presented by October 15. Board is not allowed to present budget with deficit.

Proceeded through Chief Barnett's budget outline line by line.

Revenue: Anticipated income cannot be entered into budget. However, with significant history of Dynamite shoot revenue Board is going to try to have recognized.

Taxes should be more than what's listed (actual amount vs Tabor). County will recalculate amount for property taxes by 12/10.

Expenses:

Radio systems – we are required to pay for power and it appears to reduce income; should check/watch actual costs from Nucla & Isabela next year

Facility maintenance – GUFD has not asked enough of Mesa County by way of maintenance funds; most certainly should explore further

Cell phone – amount listed is from AT&T for one year of service for government use
Sat phone covered in 2016 under grant.

Firefighting – as a board definition of expenses this would cover

Ambulance billing – Chief would like to begin billing for ambulance being called out and not just for transport

Budget documents prepared by Chief Barnett are very detailed and most certainly appropriate – and needed – for planning. However, considering the time crunch with deadline 10/15 Fred proposed to submit Budget in last year’s format so that we may meet the deadline.

Chief suggested that we really need, at some point, spend some significant time to update budget to the detailed format – start working through times and planning to appropriately run the department.

Fred agreed, but again to meet the deadline that is absolute we need to work through existing budget format.

Transferred figures from Chief’s report to last year budget format. Fred asked if Board ready to go to file.

Lisa motion to accept preliminary draft budget.

John second.

All in favor – motion carried.

Reports

Treasury Report:

(via email in Jeannie’s absence)

Department - \$7,179.69 & District - \$6,291.98

Chairman’s Report

Conversation last year with HIH representative Tia Cudahy, Rudy Sharp-Managing Director of Gateway Canyons Resort with Fred where Tia and Rudy expressed not being pleased with level of service then provided lead to the current Service Agreement.

A meeting was held today with Rudy Sharp & Tia Cudahy as agreed in last year’s conversation to review Agreement and service being provided. Both are very pleased and most definitely see a difference in service and in way department is being run.

Fred shared his belief that moving forward department would not do well as current personnel model was set on flawed data showing 70-75 calls per year with 30-35 transports per year.

Current data year to date as of last Friday (10/9/15) was 97 calls – which is a 30% increase in call volume. If it continues on this path through to end of year it would most likely reflect a 40% increase in volume.

Fred expressed to Tia and Rudy this is an unrealistic expectation for current personnel model.

Fred suggested contacting Mesa County for actual number of calls in 2013 and 2014 in this area, regardless of who answered the call. If the 2013 and 2014 numbers reflect the 2015 level of volume, HIH would agree to contribute additional money.

Chief Barnett will contact Mesa County and get 2013/2014 data and design a new model. When ready to address, Fred would like both Chief Barnett and Lt Dormaier to be present in conversation

with HHH and Rudy Sharp. In this process, Fred would also like to consider and evaluate a more long-term plan avoiding the necessity to revisit year after year. The hope is to sit down by the end of this year to have a more viable model that will work long term.

Fred would also like to increase mill levy and address de-Brucing the Tabor Act and will speak with attorney addressing both of these.

By way of explanation – the Tabor Act is a constitutional amendment restricting expenditures to not exceed certain percentage of revenue growth. “de-Brucing” is a process bypassing the Tabor Act restrictions.

Additionally, Rudy collected data on PIF and PUD. As of today (10/12/15) the Resort has submitted approximately \$200,000 to Mesa County through the PIF and PUD funds. It was decided to enlist the services of John Williams to work with County to address the PIF and PUD funds.

If it is determined funds are to be released, the budget will need to be notified and re-evaluated in January.

Fire Chief Report

As a follow up to Chief Barnett’s email, Fred asked Chief Barnett to specifically define his intent for his contract. If his intent is to resign, the Board must legally post job next week. If intent is not to resign, Board will not post job and he will continue in role as Fire Chief. Fred redirected to Chief and asked his intention.

Chief responded by saying two of Fire Chief most important roles is 1) ensure we can take care of firefighters and their safety; and 2) provide care and service to citizens.

In his opinion, Chief does not feel we can effectively do either. He feels more time needs to be spent developing/planning budget and needs of department. Chief feels we need a collaborative effort to be on the same page and then follow through/execute. James asks to put energy into ensuring these items can be met. If so, then he intends to stay. If not, then he cannot stay.

Fred assured Chief that he, and speaking for Board, greatly appreciate James’ efforts in creating a comprehensive budget – that it is the wish of the Board to have a detailed budget and plan to further the development of the department. If we need to have longer board meetings and redesign personnel model, then we will. Fred reiterated Board is dedicated to further developing the fire department and EMT services.

Fred again asked Chief Barnett if it is his intent to give notice. Chief responded no, that he wants to be part of changing and growing to a more efficient and safe department. He added that a seasoned fire chief could possibly do better but he is willing to work through and asks that Board be patient as he struggles through trial and error.

Lisa voice her agreement she would like to see Chief stay, knowing we can’t make promises for expenditures but can ensure best efforts are made.

Unfinished Business

Bremmer letter

Follow up on the meeting held August 18: Mr. Bremmer attending meeting asking to address issues with Chief Barnett. This meeting resulted in Fred asking Mr. Bremmer to address these issues in a letter to the Board. The purpose in submitting written concerns is to ensure concerns are in complainants own words and expressed from that viewpoint and not misinterpreted.

With that being said, Mr. Bremmer has submitted a letter to the Board outlining his concerns. Please review letter and do not share so it won't be topic of general conversation. Fred has promised Mr. Bremmer Board would receive written response by November meeting.

For transparency, Fred has asked this letter become a matter of public record and that it does not need to be considered in Executive Session. Lisa voiced her concern that if letter becomes a part of minutes they will not see Board's response. Fred's concern is if dealt with in Executive Session there would be more accusations of wrong-doing and cover-up. Mr. Bremmer's letter will be made available along with the Board's response simultaneously.

Fred has asked the Board to read the letter and then respond to Fred. Thought is to reply to Mr. Bremmer and give him the opportunity to attend the November meeting. If Board needs to meet to discuss and compile a response, then meeting must be posted and open to the public.

Motion to Adjourn by John
Lisa Second
Adjournment at 9:00pm