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|  | **Nederland Fire Protection District** |

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**February 5th, 2020**

* **Roll Call:** Henry Zurbrugg Chairman present

Ray Willis Treasurer present

Joe Evans Secretary present

Nicholas Brodsky Director present

Beth Davis Director present via phone

* **Others present:**

Rick Dirr NFPD Chief present

* **Meeting called to order @ 1901**
* **Motion to approve Agenda:**

AgendaApproved 5-0-0

* **Patrick Richardson has signed up for Public Comment**

*“I am here tonight to explain in person why I have decided to run for the Nederland Fire Board of Directors. I realize that in past meetings my name has come up and I have been labeled in various ways. I don’t think I am the only tax payer, and member of the community to experience this.*

*I find it interesting that when there are issues within the department, the Chief can always find someone to blame. A true leader will evaluate how they have played a role in creating or allowing the issues to exist. Change and improvement will not and cannot happen until the leader truly owns the problems at hand. I don’t blame the Chief entirely for his lack of ownership, I blame the Board for a lack of oversight. It appears that your first concern is for the Fire Chief, and not the community. That is why I am running for the Board.*

*It is evident by your behavior and statements from past board meetings that you may not really understand your responsibilities. So, I have found a few examples of what Fire District Boards’ elsewhere are responsible for, and none of them say, “Cater to the Chief’s every whim”. In fact, I’ll read a few to you.*

* *The District Board of Directors is charged with providing strategic leadership, policy direction, and fiscal oversight.*
* *The members of the Board have the ultimate responsibility to ensure the lawful and efficient operation of the district. It is the responsibility of the Board to ratify all annual budgets and expenditures, and to ratify all salaries, wages, and benefits. The Board of Directors set the official policy of the district.*
* *Board members are responsible for overseeing the formulation and evaluation of policies, establishing service levels, and approving expenditures for equipment, apparatus, and station construction.*
* *The Fire District Board of Directors are committed to providing excellence in legislative leadership and the highest quality of service to our constituents.*

*I am here because this Board does not require the Chief to produce and adhere to a legitimate line item budget, nor does he have to justify his monthly purchases. I am here because there are no true operating guidelines, training standards, or for that matter, legitimate vehicle maintenance programs. I wish I had more time to continue. I would like to thank you for your time and attention. If I am not elected to the Board, I hope that in the future, you aspire to a higher standard of service to your community, and the volunteers that serve it.*

**President of the Board Henry Zurbrugg’s reply:**

*“Regarding the Fiscal Responsibility of the Board, I believe that the current Board has a pretty good handle and understanding of finances, budget, and oversight of expenditures. As executives who make decisions, at some point the people who work under you wont like the decision you make. At the end of the day, when things go wrong, you are solely responsible for those decisions.*

* **Review of January 8th meeting minutes**
  + In response to Iain Irwin-Powell’s opening public comment:
    - *“Given that the President of the Board has been explicitly told there are massive systemic failures*”.
  + President of the Board Henry Zurbrugg believes this wording to be unfair due to the following:
    - * *“I had 1 conversation with a member on or about the holidays, and at some point, you have to decide if a person is simply venting or are there real issues. During my conversation with this member, I noted there were some things that Peaked my attention. As a result, I had a conversation with the Board to re-do the membership survey. It is both the Board, and the Chief’s interest to find out what the membership really thinks”.*
  + President Zurbrugg pointed out the use of the words, *“Rigorous Training*”, to be a little harsh, and could possibly hinder membership from participating.

* **Motion to Approve January 8th Meeting Minutes:**
  + Approved 5-0-0
* **Treasurers Report**

Savings $227,877.51

Checking $23,688.53

Capital Reserves $24,667.10

Total Funds $276,233.14

Total Reserves $262,094.17

Accounts Receivable $0

Paid not Expensed $0

Expensed but not Paid $19,282.47

Total Unreserved Funds (-$5,143.50)

* Comparison of report line items between 2019 and 2018
* **Chief’s Report**
* 28 calls YTD
* Grass fire under the snow at the Hessie Trailhead. Possibly a day or more old.
* NFPD has been informed by the Fire District’s Attorney that there was an error in the Public Call for Nominations, regarding the seats. Fact being that all 3 seats are for a 3-year term, and none for a 2-year term. Correction has been published on the Mountain Ear.
* Chief Dirr had a meeting with the Nederland DDA. They want Documentation of how we spent the $20K. Informed them that this is a Cost Share of Operational & Capitol Expenses.
* Administrator Harrison has been working hard for 30 plus hours of shift time fulfilling the CORA request by Vario Law, for copies of receipts.
* NFPD Website has been updated
* Some members have been working on updating the NFPD Google Calendar
* Add to the Mountain Ear for the need of Volunteers
  + Received 2 new applications
* 2019 call stats have been given to the Mountain Ear for publishing
* Patrick Richardson has formally turned in his resignation from NFPD
* Rik Henrikson has been coordinating options with Safe Build regarding Fire Codes
* Chief Dirr had a conference call with CPAW (Community Planning Assistance for Wildfire) They want NFPD to be the Primary Signer on the M.O.U.
* By May 19th, the Town of Nederland will have seated a new Board of Trustees, CPAW wants an Elected Officials Presentation, as well as a Potential Capacity Building Workshop.
* Discussed the Big Springs Alternate Egress Route with CPAW
  + Chief Dirr is trying to get the Town of Nederland to hire an Official Land Use Lawyer because they may have a different interpretation of the law and Easement of Access rights.
* NFPD’s Insurance company has provided Free Access to Fire/Rescue 1, which is an On-Line Training Curriculum They also provide a Driver/Operator course at a reduced rate
* Shift Captains Charlie Schmidtmann & Dan Vinnola are signed up for Fire Instructor 1 and Live Burn Instructor
* Boulder County has announced very significant Radio updates for both VHF and 800mhz.
* Captain Ryan Roberts has been working hard at closing out the 2015 AFG Grant. The 2019 State Minerals grant for the new Brush Truck should also be closed out.
* 2019 VFA Grant was closed out
* Chief Dirr met the State Grant Admin, and asked about sending the new Brush Truck out on Fires Dispatches, and his comment was, “We don’t fund trucks to make money”.
* 2020 EMS Grant:
  + NFPD’s Life Pak 12’s are at their End of Life Cycle. Chief Dirr spoke with the account rep, and was told that they just issued a Destruction of all accessories, meaning a limited time & availability to order Batteries.
    - Chief Dirr plans to submit a Grant to Replace both of NFPD’s Life Pak 12’s.
* Chief Dirr was approached by TFPD about doing a Regional Grant for Communications Equipment. Says that Gilpin is moving towards 800mhz and that they have to do a regional grant with a lot of Partners. Chief Dirr is asking for 20 Mobile Units for Apparatus, and 20 Pak Sets.
* NFPD has been asked to be the Regional AFG Grant Submitter for the Lucas Chest Compressor.
* Chief Dirr has pulled NFPD’s S.O.P’s, which were originally modeled after Boulder Rural Fire’s S.O.P’s, and he has contacted several other fire departments for their S.O.P’s for comparison.
  + Chief Dirr agrees that there is room for changes/improvements.
* NFPD recently responded to a Mutual Aid request, and discovered the need to “Tune UP” our Mutual Aid Policies., and determine just how much resources can we afford to deplete from our own district.
* Chief Dirr has an order in to replace the High Bay lights at Station 1 with L.E.D’s. Station 2 is next.
* Having various operating system/technical issues with the Admin Computer. Dan Vinnola has been trying to figure it out.
* Charlie installed a VHF Radio in 5620
* Still working on a Water Level Sensor on the New Brush Truck.
* **Old/Continuous Business**
  + Captain Charlie Schmidtmann attended a National Academy Supervisors School.
  + Chief Dirr attended a Lucas Presentation put on by AMR
  + Chief Dirr has a meeting with Boulder County Housing regarding the Through access Driveway between Calvary Chapel and the new Housing Project
* **New Business:**
  + **E-mail sent to the Board of Directors Regarding Membership Concerns;**
    - Proposals to address some of the concerns of the NFPD Members**:**
      * *A process for implementing SOP’s & SOG’s*
      * *A process for Formalizing Training that is useful, enhances safety, and is coherent*
      * *A process for insuring vehicle readiness*
      * *An application for scheduling volunteer time that one of our members has written to increase call response.*
* **Member of the Audience Question:**
  + When did NFPD adopt the S.O.P’s based off of Boulder Rural, and have they been updated since?
    - **Chief Dirr’s Answer**
      * The Personnel manual was adopted functionally when we hired the Career Staff, in 2008. Our set of Policies are from 1996, and have not been updated since. We have updated the Apparatus Response Guidelines**,** but as far as Specific Standard S.O.P’s, these have not changed.
* **Patrick Richardson points out:**
  + NFPA 1911 = Standard for Inspection Maintenance
  + NFPA 1071 = Standard for Emergency Vehicle Technicians
  + NFPA 1915 = Standard for Fire Apparatus Preventative Maintenance Program
* **Note that comments and opinions went back & forth extensively**
* President of the Board Henry Zurbrugg would like to form a sub-groupcomprised of volunteers, officers, board members, and the Chief. He would like to set a timeline by the end of March, so that at the April Board meeting, there is a plan, and a direction for progress
* **Motion to Approve the Extended Warranty for the Command Vehicle:**
  + Approved 5-0-0
* **Motion to Apply for EMS Grant:**
  + Approved 5-0-0
* **Motion to Allow Chief Dirr to Sign the Memorandum between the Fire District and “Wildfire International Planning’:**
  + Approved 5-0-0
* **Announcements:**
* The Board would like to recognize, as of February 9th, 2020, is Chief Dirr’s 20th anniversary of being the Fire Chief of the Nederland Fire Protection District.

*Meeting adjourned at 2109 hrs.*

***Next Meeting is March 4th, 2020 @ 1900hrs.***