

FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, March 5, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Chairman Dan P. Olsen.

Members Present:

Jerry Brothers, *Home Atherton VFD*
Patrick Doherty, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*
Michael Hoyt, *Little Basin Creek VFC*
Chris Mjelde, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*
Dan Olsen, *BSB Commissioner #5*
Chad Silk, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*
George Stone, *Terra Verde VFD*

Guests Present:

Jeff Miller, *BSB Fire Chief*
Chuck Janhunnen, *BSB Captain*
Jerod Gonzalez, *BSB Captain*
Derek Harvey, *BSB Firefighter*

Members Absent: Dan Callahan, *BSB Commissioner #12*

- Reading and Approval of Minutes
 - George Stone requested a correction be made to the minutes. The tenders that need to be added to the Rural Response Plan should be Big Butte VFD's tender in addition to Home Atherton; Terra Verde's tender is already included in the plan.
 - George Stone moved to approve the minutes with these changes; Chris Mjelde seconded the motion.
 - The February 5, 2019, Minutes were unanimously approved.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

None.

III. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

No Secretary/Treasurer at this time.

Fire Chief Jeff Miller reported that as of today's date, the TIFID balance is \$142,443.71. Of that, keep in mind the \$30,000 reserve; and, because of the error with the purchase of the reconditioned bottles, not all of the bottles were ordered. That purchase will be roughly \$12,000 that has not been spent.

IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- None

V. OLD BUSINESS

- **Review Department Needs**

- A request has been made of the Fire Advisory Committee from Ed Fisher, Chief, Boulevard VFD. The request is for one (1) Ready Rack PPE Extractor and racks for drying to wash volunteer fire department turnout gear, and they are requesting a shower for firefighters to shower before they go home after a fire. These items would be installed in the new addition at the Boulevard fire station. The quote is for \$12,493.00.
 - The question was asked if this should be put in as an emergency or wait until everybody's bids are in. Discussion continued.
 - This request has been tabled for further discussion after the purchase of the SCBA bottles have been completed.
 - It was suggested that this request should be submitted in the Fall.

- **Formalize the New Planned SCBA Replacement**

- Discussions continued regarding the replacement of SCBA bottles. Jerry Brothers received quotes from Heiman and Worthington Industries. The quotes were for 15-year (\$468.00) and 30-year bottles (\$580.00). More research needs to be done. Jerry Brothers, Mike Hoyt, and Chuck Janhunnen will investigate this information further. They will present a spreadsheet with all the costs and information at the next meeting.
- Chief Miller suggested that everything that is presented at the meetings should be submitted to Shelly for the minutes so that everyone is working from the same document. This will eliminate some confusion like what happened last time. Jerry will get a copy of everything to Shelly.
- The committee went over the number of bottles that are still needed that have not been purchased. It was determined that a total of 90 bottles still need to be purchased. The plan is to get everyone to use the same bottles. All this information will be on the spreadsheet.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

- Chairman Olsen reported that he does not have an update regarding Jefferson County's request.
 - Discussion included the possible reasons they are seeking to set a fee for the residents that live near Waterloo and Pipestone; it is for their ambulance service. Chief Miller shared the fire district changes that were with the Wise River fire district; Jefferson County's request would not be a change of the fire district. Butte-Silver Bow would still respond to all emergencies. Butte-Silver Bow responds to many calls in Jefferson county to include Elk Park.
- Chairman Olsen said that he spoke with Public Work's Director Mark Neary about the road to the Little Basin Creek VFC station. Because Mark is an operator, Dan would like him to go out to Little Basin Creek and look at the road.

- Chief Miller updated everyone on the communications issues in Butte-Silver Bow. As everyone knows, the VHF radios do not work in BSB – tactically, for life safety, and day-to-day communications. The BSB 9-1-1 Committee has had a lot of meetings on this subject. After many field trips and research, it has been determined that an 800 MHz radio system is the answer for the urban area. Motorola set up a test trunked site, and it has been up and running. Chief Miller and Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Brian Doherty did side-by-side testing of the 800 MHz and VHF radios. They had great success from buildings to Dispatch. The volunteer firefighters also tested the radios for two weeks. The volunteers found that the radios did not work in a dead zone near Miles Crossing. Chief Miller will give the radios to firefighters to do a more comprehensive tests over the next couple of weeks.

Phase II will be to test an 800 MHz conventional non-trunked Codan system that Dunne Communications will be setting up. Radios will be provided, and side-by-side testing will be done with this system as well. Codan does not deal with radios. Chief Miller is very interested in how this system performs. Then the decision will be made which way to go.

Chief Miller also reported that the BSB budget office has requested all the departments five- (5) year capital outlay plans that are due tomorrow. On this date, Sheriff Lester, Dan Dennehy, Mike McKillips, Dave McPherson, and Chief Miller have agreed to combine all their capital improvement requests into one to upgrade the communication system for a new radio system and for computer aided dispatch for the 2019/2020 capital improvement budget. They are going to meet with Chief Executive Palmer, Danette Gleason and BSB Commissioner Chairman John Morgan. Chief Miller asked that everyone share this information

Chief Miller shared the history of Montana Interoperability and how they built out a trunked radio system. This system is overseen by the state of Montana. There has never been any legislation or provisions made for upgrades and new build outs to this system. There is currently some legislation that would put a \$.90 surcharge on all phones/cell phones that, if approved, would give the State operating capital to upgrade and build out the system. 9-1-1 Committee members met with Mike Feldman, a retired highway patrolman that has been hired by the colonel of the highway patrol to be the technical person for communications, and with a representative from Motorola. They are going to look for funding from many sources.

Butte-Silver Bow has not made any contributions from the general fund since about 1989/1990. All the upgrades have been funded through FEMA grants, etc.

Our communications are dangerous. The priority would be to buy dual band radios so that you would use the 800 MHz system, but you would have the ability to switch to VHF or colored channels. It would be the best of both worlds.

- It was mentioned that George Goody, Melrose VFD Chief, would like to be contacted for all emergency calls in his area. This will have to be discussed further.
- It was also mentioned that Mike Doto commented that BSB has not put in for any 9-1-1 grants from the State in a long time.

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE – TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 2019, AT 5:30 p.m.

VIII. ADJOURNED

George Stone made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Pat Doherty seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

CC: Chief Executive Dave Palmer
Dan Olsen, Chairman, Fire Advisory
Chief Jeff Miller, Director Fire Services
Chuck Janhunen, Captain BSB Fire Department
Sheriff Ed Lester, BSB Law Enforcement
Dave McPherson, 9-1-1 Dispatch Supervisor