

**FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, June 9, 2015, 5:00 p.m.**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**II. ROLL CALL:**

**Members Present:**

Dan Foley, Chair, *BSB Commissioner #9*  
Patrick Doherty, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
Bud Eveland, *Rocker Volunteer Fire Dept.*  
Darren Herman, *Race Track VFD*  
Chris Mjelde, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
John P. Morgan, *BSB Commissioner #3*  
Chad Silk, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
George Stone, *Terra Verde Volunteer Fire Dept.*

**Guests Present:**

Jeff Miller, *BSB Fire Chief*  
Brant Bristol, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
Jerod Gonzalez, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
Rick Ryan, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
Kurt Sheehan, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*

**Members Excused:**

John Sorich, *BSB Commissioner #4*

**III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 12, 2015, MEETING**

Pat Doherty made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2015, meeting. Chad Silk seconded the motion; the motion passed.

**V. UPDATES**

**A. Department Updates**

Darren Herman reported Boulevard had 3 fire calls and 8 hours of training last month, Race Track had one 1 fire call and 8 hours of training as well. Bud Eveland reported that Little Basin Creek VFD had 89 total hours of training, firefighting, and other department duties for May. Rocker's report is sent to Jeff and they have had 189 total hours of training for the year; they performed water tender shuttle operations with Big Butte VFD; they had a community BBQ, and a membership drive. George Stone reported 10 man hours of training at Terra Verde.

Chad Silk reported that they are performing their weekly training, the monthly car seat clinics and tours. There was nothing out of the ordinary.

## **B. Jeff Miller Update – 2015/2016 Budget**

Chief Miller reported that he included SCBAs in the regular budget for the upcoming fiscal 2015/2016 Budget year. It has not been confirmed, but he believes the chief executive is not going to include this in the budget that is presented to the Council; so, this will probably be requested from the TIFID fund.

Chief Miller also reported that the recommendation for the apparatus was discussed with George Stone from Terra Verde VFD and Tom Morrill from Rocker VFD. Chief Miller visited with them about the recommendation and the possibility of moving one of the interface pumpers up to Big Butte. That is not going to be an option. Chief Miller made a recommendation to Chief Executive Matt Vincent and Budget and Finance Director Danette Gleason to purchase one engine for the career department and a scaled down request for Big Butte to a tender. His decision was based on some of the discussions that came up in these meetings. A tender could most definitely be used at this end of town; we don't have a tender on the north side of town. He cited the example that the last three times that we used Big Butte in the career district, we didn't use any equipment off of their truck except for a few SCBAs on Granite Street. They called them for manpower.

Chief Miller referred to a meeting that he and Commissioner Morgan attended with the Budget Committee of the Council of Commissioners on Monday, June 8, 2015. Chief Miller deferred to Commissioner Morgan for his comments. Commissioner Morgan and Chief Miller shared some of the questions asked and some of the comments made by the Budget Committee and the information that was shared with them. Chief Miller believed it was the right thing to do to share the Committee's ratings of the apparatus to the Commissioners showing the transparency of the whole process.

## **C. Turnout/SCBA Inventory**

Chairman Foley reported that he still has only received about half (1/2) of the information he requested for the turnout/SCBA Inventory request. He still needs information from Big Butte, Centerville, Home Atherton and Terre Verde. George Stone said that he would get Terre Verde's information to Dan by next month.

## **VI. REVIEW/DISCUSSION**

### **A. Fire Response Plan**

Chairman Foley began the discussion by reading Butte-Silver Bow's Ordinance Section 2.16.710. Extensive discussion included that this ordinance is not being followed, the reasons why it is not being followed, the first arriving ranking officer, incident command, who should be the ranking officer at the scene, volunteer departments willing to turn the scene over to the career battalion chief or captain and volunteer departments that are not willing to do that, training, lack of training, trust, experience and training of the career department, the

Chief Miller stated that there is a territorial issue that has been going on for years that has never been adequately addressed. We have to come to an understanding and do things differently. We cannot operate as separate entities. We could do so much more and be so much more effective if we came to an understanding. Credentialing is an issue. We do not want to hurt or kill one of our own. It is a very serious, dangerous business; it is not a hobby or a game. We all take it seriously. Things have changed so much, we can't do things the same anymore.

The question is how we get to a unified approach. Some comments made were: take the departments that agree (which most volunteer departments agree to this approach); it is a minority that do not. If half agree to move forward, that will be better than it used to be. Could we do a trial with the volunteer departments that want to try consolidation? What does the term consolidation mean for this process? Chief Miller prepared a proposal quite a few years ago (2005) that did not get approved. In this proposal, through a bond issue, it was proposed that 1) Big Butte and Centerville combine and have a new station built in the Missoula Gulch area on property that BSB owned; (2) combine Race Track, Home Atherton, and Floral Park and build a new station in the NCAT area with a training facility and new equipment for each station would be purchased. Territorial disputes resulted in this not being approved. The governing body has to take a look at how it is working, and they may be the entity that would have the authority to make these changes.

During the Budget Committee meeting, it was mentioned that Butte-Silver Bow has the same amount of fire trucks as the City of Spokane. We have more engines than we need, but we are short on minis and brush trucks. Chief Miller reported that there is currently litigation in Lincoln County where a district judge ruled in Lincoln County that the county commissioners have the final say in how all business is done in the county. It is before the Supreme Court now. Discussion continued on what needs to be done to make changes in Butte-Silver Bow, which included petitions, mills in the city versus rural, changes to the rural response plan.

Battalion Chief Rick Ryan shared information based on his knowledge and experiences from both sides (volunteer and career) over the last 35 years. He shared

that the fire districts are bound by state law; and, the people in the district have the final say. BSB has more equipment than Billings.

After over an hour of discussion, it was decided that Chairman Dan Foley, Commissioner John Morgan, and Chief Jeff Miller would set up a meeting with County Attorney Eileen Joyce to see who has the authority to make changes.

**VII. ACTIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS**

**A. Approval of New Volunteer Member – Darren Herman**

Chairman Foley announced that Guy Quam resigned from the Fire Advisory Committee (Committee) and that Darren Herman has offered to fill his position on the Committee. The Council of Commissioners has already approved the appointment, but Chairman Foley asked the Committee for a formal motion from this Committee to approve the appointment. Bud Eveland made the motion and George Stone seconded the motion. All members were in favor of the appointment.

**VIII. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**IX. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY FIRE ADVISORY MATTER NOT ON THE AGENDA**

None.

**X. NEXT MEETING DATE – July 14, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.**

**XI. ADJOURNED - The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.**

cc: Chief Executive Matt Vincent  
Dan Foley, Chairman, Fire Advisory  
Chief Jeff Miller, Director Fire Services