

FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, July 14, 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.*
John Sorich, *BSB Commissioner #4*
George Stone, *Terra Verde Volunteer Fire Dept.*

Guests Present:

Rick Hansen, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*
Ted P. Bury, *Big Butte VFD*
Brian Cullen, *Floral Park VFD*
Gary Mattern, *Race Track VFD*
Jim Ross, *Little Basin Creek VFC*

III. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA

None.

IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 9, 2015, MEETING

Bud Eveland requested that the minutes be sent to him prior to the Fire Council meetings, which are the 2nd Thursday of each month. Chairman Foley said that he would send them out to him.

Bud Eveland made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2015, meeting. John Sorich seconded the motion; the motion passed.

V. UPDATES

A. Department Updates

Career - Chad Silk reported that it has been business as usual with fire prevention talks and tours at the schools. There are good pictures on our Facebook page of some of the guys who went to the Montessori School the other day and did hands-on Stop, Drop, & Roll. Chad also reported that they went to the Webster Garfield School recently; there were over 60 to 100 kids. They brought the ladder truck and other

trucks down and Race Track was there also with their smoke trailer. They continue to do the monthly car seat clinic and the monthly training.

Chris Mjelde added that Chief Miller presented four (4) sessions of Firefighting 101 type training with the police department the last couple of days. The presentation suggested ways of how law enforcement personnel can help us respond to a fire and what to do or what not to do for their safety, i.e., to not break windows and doors, etc.

Volunteer - Darren Herman reported that Race Track had two (2) fire calls, Little Basin Creek reported 66 hours of firefighter training and other department duties for the month of June including six (6) fire calls for the month of June. Boulevard for their end of year reporting logged 1,020 hours of training from July 2014 through June 30, 2015. Over the last year, Boulevard had 83 fire calls. Bud Eveland reported two funeral details (one for Melrose and one for Terre Verde). Rucker did the 3rd of July with Big Butte and Centerville for the Big M. They had an after-action review on Thursday before the Fire Council and Career Firefighter Scott Seccomb attended. Rucker had three (3) responses in June and four (4) in July so far.

B. Jeff Miller Update – 2015/2016 Budget & Fireworks Ban

Fireworks Ban

Chairman Foley discussed the fireworks ban. Chief Miller was not able to attend the meeting; but, two years ago there was a fire at Buxton on the 3rd of July, and Chief Miller requested an emergency ban at the time. This year, Chief Miller requested the ban earlier. Chairman Foley did not vote for the ban this year. He suggested coming up with a plan ahead of time next year. Bud Eveland said they discussed doing a pre-plan next May or June. Commissioner Sorich commented that people still blatantly set off fireworks against the ban. The firework stand owners pleaded with the Council. Discussion included the grass fires that they had due to fireworks.

Budget

Commissioner Foley passed out the preliminary budget as of July 1st that included the current budget numbers. Items budgeted in the 2488 Fund were discussed. Chairman Foley mentioned that the plan is not final and the figures could change. He also reported that Chief Miller put in a request in the budget for 26 SCBAs. That request was turned down by the Chief Executive. The reasoning was because of the large ticket items - the two large fire truck requests. The Chief Executive strongly suggested and advised (he knows that there is money in the 2488 budget) to look there. Chairman Foley said that Chief Miller would be putting in a request for SCBAs, and he scaled the number back to 20 SCBAs. Each one is approximately \$7,852. That request will be coming to the Fire Advisory Committee.

Chairman Foley further discussed the 2488 Fund, which included a request of the Fire Advisory to decide what the reserve amount in the fund should be. This subject was discussed at length. It was agreed that \$30,000 should continue to be kept in reserve as that was the agreed upon amount years ago.

Chad Silk confirmed the information that Chairman Foley shared from Chief Miller. The SCBA request for the 2015/2016 budget year would be for the career department. The idea of a rotation plan for SCBA's was, again, discussed.

C. Turnout/SCBA Inventory

Chairman Foley reported that he still has not received some of the information he requested for the turnout/SCBA Inventory request. He still needs information from Big Butte, Centerville, and Terre Verde.

Chris Mjelde suggested that before a request for equipment be made by the various departments that the committee should consider making sure each department has submitted their inventories. Ted Bury said that he would get the information to Chairman Foley, and so did George Stone from Terra Verde. Chris commented that a current inventory would help as far as efficiency when requests are being made because we wouldn't know how many turnouts, etc., they actually have without the inventory list.

D. Meeting with County Attorney Joyce

At the last meeting, discussion included a fire response plan. Chairman Foley briefly reviewed what was discussed at the last meeting. John Morgan, Chairman Foley, and Chief Miller requested the County Attorney's opinion on the authority of the volunteer fire departments. Commissioner Morgan said they shared with County Attorney Joyce the structure of the departments as they function currently. She will need to research this topic further. An attorney general's opinion from the past was shared with her. She had not responded as of this meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to find a way for all the departments to work together.

VI. REVIEW/DISCUSSION

A. Fire Response Plan

Per the Fire Council's direction at the last Fire Council meeting, Bud Eveland was asked to make a motion to vote upon following the current ordinance for the response plan as it is written now for "x" amount of time and to record and document until we are ready to discuss this again.

Bud made a motion to follow the ordinance and not give it a specific amount of time, and that we vote on it exactly as it is, and document things that are and are not working right.

Discussion followed for quite some time on how the plan works now and why it would not work if we followed the plan as it is written now. Topics of the discussion included: lack of manpower in the volunteer districts during the day; who should be in charge (most agreed the career battalion chief or the career captain has the most experience); what the dispatch procedures are; the one for one; how would mutual aid be affected; dispatch procedures counteract the one-to-one; currently the calls are two for one; rural versus urban response; every call is a totally different response; drafting an ordinance on how it works now; we have to come up with legal boundaries - legal authority; fighting fire is not a hobby - it is a dangerous situation (people can get killed, properties get destroyed).

Bud Eveland called upon Gary Mattern who stated that compromises have to be made. Gary has gone to Station No. 1 and requested that he wants the career fire department to respond with two engines because during the daytime hours most of his 30 volunteers work most of the time during the day. He stated that twelve trucks respond to a grass fire, but only three (3) trucks respond to a structure fire. If his house is burning, he wants to see fire trucks everywhere. Gary suggested that the guys sit down and talk logically as taxpayers. He wants to know that a fire truck is on the scene within 5 minutes of a fire and that more than one or two guys are climbing off the trucks. We do this for rural, but not urban. Gary stated that we need to swallow pride, put our prides aside, and also stated: "What is better for the taxpayers, what is better for the people in the city, what is going to provide the best possible service. We are here to provide a service to our city and fire district. He would rather see two career fire trucks coming in case he doesn't have enough guys. Trucks should not run clear across town when there are departments in the middle of the city."

Commissioner John Sorich suggested having a smaller committee to come up with a plan. Chairman Foley mentioned that we have been talking about this for a couple of months now. He has asked the committee to come back with actual things written, and no one has done that yet. He believes the reason is that the committee members may agree at the meetings, but when they go back to the council or their departments it's not going to happen. How a plan can be done was discussed further.

Ted Bury spoke before the committee and stated that: "we have to start using our head and that an ordinance is not going to dictate common sense." Another issue is that there are 10-11 dispatchers with 10 or 11 different ways to dispatch. As a chief now, he "does not want to see ever where there is not two career fire trucks not going to the Big Butte fire district, we need that plain and simple." Some nights they have nine people on the fire truck, some days in the middle of the afternoon it is just him. All the volunteers have to look out in front of your fire station and look at the word

volunteer and read in the dictionary what it means. That is why we have a career fire department; that is why we pay taxes. We need the career firemen to respond. It is working. As far as the incident command structure, he said: why would he, who has 28-1/2 years of public service, tell Rick Ryan what to do on a fire. It is just not going to happen; this is back to that common sense. He would defer to the three young men here; that is their job. He is there to try to help them, supplement them. The incident command structure works well; he doesn't know of anyone who has any issues with that.

George Stone recommended having a county-wide response plan. The Rural Response Plan was discussed. George shared that on active fires they wanted at least 17 people on hand and at least 10,000 gallons of water outside the hydrant district. Ultimately, ISO was a consideration. Chad said that there is a real thing called 2nd, 3rd, and 4th alarms. When the officer in charge realizes he needs more rigs, he will call more trucks.

After different scenarios were discussed, Chairman Foley asked if it was possible for the three (3) volunteer committee members and the three (3) career committee members to each come up with their version of a response plan and then the six (6) members could get together and meet in August. They would then bring a consolidated plan to the meeting in September for review and the committee would present a plan to Chief Jeff Miller. It (the current plan) may be working with just a few mavericks that may not want to go along with it. Chairman Foley reminded the committee of the \$6 million budget for fire services. The response plan would be for both urban and rural.

After all was said and done, the motion on the floor was dropped by Bud Eveland. It died for a lack of a second.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MATTER NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ted Bury reported that everything is going well with the construction of the new garage at Big Butte. All the cement work is done. They are working with the Job Corps to do some landscaping. They are working with NorthWestern Energy also. They are hoping to get approved for a new tender. Chairman Foley thanked Big Butte for their compromise and consideration of the tender.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE – SEPTEMBER 8, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. – There will not be a full committee meeting on August 11, 2015.

X. ADJOURNED - The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

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