

## **FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, September 8, 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.*  
Chad Silk, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
John Sorich, *BSB Commissioner #4*  
George Stone, *Terra Verde Volunteer Fire Dept.*

#### **Guests Present:**

Jerry Brothers, *Home Atherton VFD*  
Ted P. Bury, *Big Butte VFD*  
Chief Jeff Miller, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*

#### **Members Excused:**

John P. Morgan, *BSB Commissioner #3*

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

None.

### **IV. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE July 14, 2015, MEETING**

George Stone made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2015, meeting. John Sorich seconded the motion; the motion passed.

### **V. UPDATES**

#### **A. Department Updates**

##### **Volunteer**

Bud Eveland reported that Rocker VFD will be installing a dry hydrant system up in Browns Gulch on Randy Brothers' and Gene Brothers' property this week.

Darren Herman shared Boulevard VFD's report that they went on 35 fire calls and had 20 hours of training for the months of July and August. Boulevard also pressure tested their 5" hose. There were no other volunteer fire department updates.

## Career

Chad Silk reported that they did some training with the airport, but that he did not have any other information to report other than their normal training and daily activities.

## **B. Jeff Miller, Director of Fire Services**

### Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal Position

Chief Miller updated the committee on the position that was posted for the Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal. Fire Marshal John Lasky plans on retiring at the end of the year; and, because the Fire Marshal position is so specialized, Chief Miller approached Chief Executive Matt Vincent, the budget director, and the human resources director with the idea of posting the position and starting the selection process early. He is hoping to fill the position a couple of months prior to John leaving so the new person could shadow John Lasky and learn some of the position. It is going to be a steep learning curve for whomever takes this job. Chief Miller doesn't think it will be possible to hire for the position early. The position was posted internally from August 4-18, 2015. Four (4) internal candidates applied. The Fire Commission is scheduled to meet on September 17, 2015, to develop a process for the selection for this position.

### Approvals to Purchase Apparatus

Chief Miller thanked the committee and commissioners on the Fire Advisory Committee for supporting the request and standing behind them. He reported that we have the budget authority to purchase two (2) new apparatus. The process to go to bid for one of the apparatus has been in place since last year because they thought they would be able to purchase one last year. An apparatus committee within the career department developed the specifications and we were pretty much ready to go when the budget was approved. There will be a bid opening on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. Chief Miller spoke with Big Butte VFD Fire Chief Ted Bury and they are working on their design specifications for their new apparatus. They are getting close to having those reviewed, and a request for bid opening will be in the near future.

### Smoke Alarms

The Red Cross received some funding to purchase some smoke alarms. Their community-based program included the BSB Fire Department helping to install the smoke alarms. It went very well. Chief Miller has been exploring different funding routes to initiate another smoke alarm program. In the past, it was very successful

and the fire department installed many thousands of smoke alarms in a five-year period. They are currently going on many calls where they do not have any smoke alarms or there are non-working smoke alarms.

### **Other Business**

Bud Eveland called upon Ted Bury to give the committee an update on his new truck. Big Butte VFD Fire Chief Ted Bury reported that they are looking at getting a tender/pumper and hoping for at least a 1500/2000 gallon pumper. They are working really close with Big Sky Fire Apparatus out of Lewistown, Montana, and he is going to talk to Mike Flint.

Ted Bury also reported that the electrical work in the new garage is about two thirds done, and they have a bathroom roughed in with the wood material. Through Brown's Plumbing and Heating, they are bringing in their fifth (5<sup>th</sup>) year plumbing apprentices to their garage and having a class to rough in the plumbing. Big Butte VFD is going to pursue donations from NorthWestern Energy, Walmart, and the Town Pump Corporation to finish the bathroom. They would like a commercial washer and dryer to clean their turnouts at the station instead of members bringing them home and contaminating their family homes.

John Sorich asked if the BSB Fire Department is in need of a generator at the South Station, referring to the newspaper article in the paper that the garage door could not open during the recent power outage. Chief Miller stated that there is a huge need for one. It has been requested in the budget before. Chief Miller said that the BSB Fire Department has an old ONAN generator that they took out of service at Station 1, and it should be able to handle the load at Station No. 2 with some minimal cost. Chief Miller has tried to get some electricians to look at it, but they have not responded. He thinks that they are not interested in it because it is an old, used generator. It wouldn't handle the load uptown, but Mike Lingenfelter has done a bunch of work on it. A pad would need to be poured before it could be installed.

### **C. Fire Response Plan**

Chairman Foley shared copies of a rough draft of a fire response plan that the Fire Advisory Subcommittee of Pat Doherty, Bud Eveland, Darren Herman, Chris Mjelde, Chad Silk, and George Stone put together during a meeting in August. George Stone summarized their discussions. They took the proposal to the Fire Council and it was shutdown.

Chris Mjelde explained the First Alarm Dispatching Proposal that they put together in detail. He also gathered information from our sister cities of how they respond to first alarms. In summary, they kept the districts the same, they discussed that the plan would give the officers/incident commanders more responsibility and control rather than the dispatchers, and the goal is to improve safety and efficiency by only

dispatching the resources needed (either manpower and/or fire apparatus) on First Alarm.

The volunteer subcommittee members shared the concerns from volunteers that attended the Fire Council meeting. The Committee members discussed these concerns at length.

Chairman Foley told the subcommittee that they did a good job on the first draft of the proposal. He asked the Committee if they wanted to move forward with sending the draft proposal to Chief Miller for his review and suggestions.

George Stone asked Chief Miller to apprise everyone on the email he sent regarding the Supreme Court's decision in the Bull Lake Fire District lawsuit. Jeff reported that he met with County Attorney Eileen Joyce and her interpretation of the ruling of the Bull Lake Fire District was that the Supreme Court decision re-affirmed the role of volunteer fire districts'/departments' (including Butte-Silver Bow) authority as autonomous bodies with the Board of Trustees. Eileen's interpretation is that the Trustees' rights and the volunteer fire departments' rights remain, but that the Director of Fire Services still has the right to make, add, or set policy decisions.

Chairman Foley asked if the Committee wanted to make a motion to forward the proposal to Jeff or discuss it again at next month's meeting.

Commissioner John Sorich made a motion to pass the proposal on to the Director of Fire Services. Chad Silk seconded the motion.

Again, lengthy discussion continued with compromise and reaching middle ground being the key to the proposal being accepted. This proposal is just regarding First Alarm calls and the majority of the calls are false alarms. It was agreed that this is a work in progress, and that everyone will get more feedback and send additional recommendations on to Chief Miller and be sure to copy everyone on the Committee.

Chairman Foley called for a vote on Commissioner Sorich's motion. All of the Committee voted in favor of forwarding the proposal to the Director of Fire Services.

#### **D. Fire & Equipment & Training Fund Requests**

Commissioner Foley emailed the Fire Equipment and Training Request form and information to everyone; the due date is October 7, 2015. The forms need to be turned into Shelly Jones. A representative from every department must attend the October 13, 2015, meeting if they submit a request.

**E. Meeting with County Attorney Joyce**

Discussed above.

**VI. REVIEW/DISCUSSION**

**A. Fire Response Plan**

Discussed above.

**VII. OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

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

None.

**IX. NEXT MEETING DATE – OCTOBER 13, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.**

**X. ADJOURNED - The meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.**

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