

MINUTES

THE CITY-COUNTY OF BUTTE-SILVER BOW FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JUNE 6, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M. – BUSINESS CENTER – ROOM 201 (ACROSS FROM FIRE ST 1)

1. CALL TO ORDER

- A motion to call the Meeting to order at 5:32 P.M. by John Sorich and Chad Silk second the motion. All were in favor of the motion; John Sorich started the meeting.

2. Roll call via Sign-in Sheet:

- **Member Present:**

Dan Callahan, BSB Commissioner
Jerry Brothers, Home Atherton VFD
Lee Sullivan, BSB Career Fire Dept
John Sorich, BSB Commissioner, Chairperson

Chad Silk, BSB Career Fire Dept.
Chis Mjelde, BSB Career Fire Dept.

- **Member Absent:**

George Stone, Terra Verde VFD
Joel Worth, Boulevard VFD
Justine Fortune, BSB Commissioner

- **Guest Present:**

Riley Hash, BSB Career Fire Dept.

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Chris Mjelde to approve the Minutes for May 2, 2023, meeting. Lee Sullivan seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.
 - The May 2, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment on any Item on the Agenda

- None

5. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- June 5, 2023 (FY2023 Report) balance in the TIFID Fund is \$174,968.73.

OLD BUSINESS

6. VFD IT Committee – Install Date

- Jerry B: So far, I have not received any information from dispatch, I have called and left messages with McPherson and St. Pierre. Now, McPherson is gone, and I have not heard who his replacement is. My next step is to ask Zach to get ahold of somebody. But, until we get an okay that we can up it in dispatch there is nothing we can do, we can't get the frequency to have them sent in. The word I received from a couple of the dispatchers is

when I sent in the stuff to get it done. McPherson said no one has even asked about this and threw it away. So, I have got to have someone higher than me to get ahold of them and see what we are going to do. Both vendors keep calling me. We had that meeting with IamResponding and the one who sent me all the information to get was eDispatch.

- John: So, the one who knows most about it is Zach.
- Jerry B: I forgot he wasn't coming to the meeting.
- Chad: Lee or Riley.
- Lee: I can get ahold of Brian Sullivan who has been running the CAD, he is the Project Manager for it, going through trying to fix the bugs and everything else. eDispatch is the first one you want to do with?
- Jerry B: They wanted to try it all, but those two are all set up, they sent me information I needed, and I sent it up the dispatch, but I can get it again.
- Lee: If we can get that and Brian or any IT people, we need to get ahold of to get set up there as well. Then the Undersheriff will probably be the one who signs off on it, until they fill McPherson's spot, not sure.
- Jerry B: Like I said I have left voice mails and emails and neither one has got back to me. But I think St. Pierre was on vacation during that time a couple of weeks ago.

7. Review on Fire Department meeting from April 20, 2023

- Jerry B: That was the Chief's meeting, as far as the volunteers, I had a chief and a trustee there and they didn't think it went very well.
- John: Refresh my memory of what you were meeting on.
- Jerry B: The one question that we were really asking is why are we changing all our responses, is it liability, exactly what is it? We don't understand why things are being changed, we thought it was pretty good with 2 fire trucks going from the city and as many volunteers as we could get. We don't know why that is being changed.
- Chad: So, the reason this came about is because of the CAD system and utilizing the CAD system for a proper response.
- Jerry B: There are a lot of problems there, for instance when Engine 2 was out at the shop, nobody called dispatch and said that was out of service, so they are still dispatching it, and nobody knew it was out of service. There have been several times when...
- Chad: So, how does that affect you?
- Jerry B: You're saying we can only take what is dispatched.
- Chad: Yes,
- Jerry B: Well, if your Engine 2 is out and they call for it?
- Chad: That is common sense Jerry, you think we are just not going to go?
- Jerry B: Do you see what people are looking at?
- Chad: If your engine is out of service and everyone knows it, bring your tender.
- Jerry B: Positively, you were saying take only what is dispatched.
- Chad: Yes, if you must, whatever is first dispatched, if you can't Jerry, then you figure it out.
- Jerry B: Chad, do you hear what I am saying? If you guys have an Engine that is out for over a week, dispatch should know that, and the CAD system should say they can't be sent.
- Chad: But how does that affect you? That is nothing you need to worry about.

- Jerry B: So, we only have to worry about ourselves, and having you guys come down and say you took the pumper when we told you to take the tender.
- Chad: Multiply times you have said let's worry about ourselves, here is the deal, if your engine is out of service, you take your tender. If it is a problem, we will figure it out. And don't tell me you're okay with 2 engines going into your district, it was said at that meeting, that we should have stopped you guys, when you sent 2 in, and no one said anything about that.
- Jerry B: I have said all the time here, it is fantastic that you guys are sending 2 trucks into my district.
- Chad: Not everyone is cool with it.
- Jerry B: I am.
- Chad: Why didn't you say it?
- Jerry B: I can say it, I want 2 of you guys to come to my district because I never know if I have 1, 2 or 3 coming.
- Chad: It was very clear at that meeting, that there are people who wanted to stop for 2 engines from the city to come to their department, which is totally unacceptable.
- Jerry B: I am going to have to go back over that, are you talking about the Chief's meeting?
- Chad: On April 20th, yes.
- Jerry B: The only one that I heard really ***** about too many trucks going by was Walkerville, because you were driving by their place to go.
- Chad: Yes, and I will go over that in a minute to. It was said at that meeting, I don't know if Dan remembers, that we should have stopped you guys, meaning the career department, when you guys started sending 2 paid engines into our districts. No one said anything.
- Jerry B: I probably didn't hear it then.
- Chad: Then Race Track said, back when our engine went out of service, we initially requested that 2 engines from the career department to go into our district.
- Jerry B: All I can go by is what I have said in these meetings here. I think it is fantastic when the 2 trucks are coming. We will probably meet about the Passmore Canyon fire. Another example is Jefferson County calling, and they need an ambulance and Rescue 1 self-dispatching.
- Chad: Do you know if Station 1 received a call?
- Jerry B: When the page comes over dispatch, it says A-1 please respond to I-15 at 245.
- Chad: It doesn't announce that people have called Station 1, to request the Rescue, do you?
- Riley: I can attest to that third party, A-1 has a standing policy if they have a motor vehicle accident and on the interstate with an unknown fire response. They ask for a fire response because the ambulance has no benefit of being there if they can't access the patient. They have a standing policy if they don't have Jefferson County Fire, that they have some sort of Fire coming. So, a lot of times they will call uptown and say hey, we have a call, we don't want to get there and stare at a patient trapped in a vehicle, so will you guys start a response because we don't know, because Jefferson County can't respond.

- Jerry B: I thought one of the biggest problems that we were having with mutual aid was when you guys take off out to Jefferson, you guys must call an overtime in, because they would be gone so long.
- Lee: I don't remember calling for overtime.
- Chad: You know what Jerry we should because the mutual aid in Jefferson County is not mutual. We get called up there so much that me as a B/C you would fault me for not, and then you would fault me for doing it if I did. If I called out for overtime because we were going to Jefferson County to cover them, to help them when they are not responding and I called to protect the city, you would get mad at me if there was a fire in your district and there was only 4 of us. Do you think the homeowner would be mad if they didn't have a proper response from the career department because there were only 4 in town, and we were somewhere else outside of our district?
- Jerry B: My understanding of mutual aid, first, Zach threw out all mutual aid am I correct?
- Chad: What do you mean threw it out?
- Jerry B: There is no mutual aid, everything is cancelled.
- John: All agreements?
- Jerry B: All agreements.
- Chad: That is a state law.
- Jerry B: That is what we keep saying and he is saying mutual aid is over.
- Chad: He is talking about they need to ask for what they want, what resources they want and that is what we send out of our county, not what you want to send.
- Lee: Are you talking about mutual aid agreements in Silver Bow County?
- Jerry B: In Silver Bow County and out.
- Lee: Between Home Atherton and Floral Park your agreements?
- Jerry B: No, Zach said all mutual aid is over.
- Chad: Within the city, having you own response plan within the response plan that the Chief of the Department can't even keep track of, that is over. That is why there is a response plan.
- Jerry B: All others are still in?
- Chad: Yes, it is different Jerry! You need to understand.
- John: Let's do this maybe as a Fire Advisory Committee, let's request from Zach what the actual policy is. How about we do that. Then we will have it in the minutes of the meeting, then we know.
- Jerry B: We 100% don't know.
- Chad: I tried to tell you.
- John: Let's request it from Zach and then we will know.
- Chad: Sure.
- John: Getting back to the Chief's meeting, Jerry, the Chief's meeting didn't go well, I wasn't there, because no one knew why the changes?
- Jerry B: That was number 1 thing we want to find out, is mutual aid according to state law you can't screw with mutual aid. There are several other things, but why don't we wait until Zach is here and we can go over it.
- John: That sounds good. Mutual aid within Butte Silver Bow like between Race Track and Home Atherton there is really no written agreements, just kind of like a gentlemen's agreement, correct?

- Jerry B: We have done it for the last 30 years.
- John: It is just a gentlemen's agreement versus a written agreement. Diane, would you put that on the agenda.
- Diane: Yes.
- Jerry B: Dan you were there, is there anything you might want to bring up?
- Dan C: I was there to listen.
- Chad: We all knew that meeting was not going to go well, so to come out of it and say we did think it went well. I could have told you that before we went there.
- Jerry B: I don't think the answers that we really wanted got answered, but we will wait until Zach comes.
- Chad: I can tell you the answer of why the response plan got changed. You can wait for Zach or not. It is the new CAD system, we can wait, no problem. Just because something was done 20 or 30 years ago, it doesn't mean that it was right, it doesn't mean it can't change.
- Jerry B: Is there any documentation that this is going to be better?
- Chad: Like what Jerry?
- Jerry B: I think things went really smooth for the last years or 20 years.
- Chad: Of course, you do, you got to do anything you wanted.
- Jerry B: I will wait until Zach is here.

8. Fire Council response back on having Station 1 Headquarter for Hose, SCBA, and PPE

- Chad: I think we are good on that, we talked about it being a good idea. Then, after the Fire Council talked about it, I don't think we will be able to agree to it, yet, anyways, until people start needing gear and wanting/needing the Chief to start buying them gear. Right now, it is the least of our worries, I think we can take it off the agenda. Some departments have gear now.
- Chris: I would like to see it coordinated gear headquarters at some point personally, just because it is the same thing as SCBA bottles and hose, it will be an expensive problem someday. Maybe we can sit on it for a while.
- Chad: Yes.
- John: Ok, we will take this off the agenda?
- Chad & Chris: Yes.
- Chad: If someone needs gear, bring it at the Fire Advisory, we will try and figure something out.
- Jerry B: If someone needs gear, bring it to the Fire Council and then everyone can see if they have it.
- Chad: Sure.
- Jerry B: I mean we can do it here too.
- Chad: Eventually you will run out of gear, you can take care of it now.

9. Revisit 2023 Equipment & Training Fund Held Requests

- John: We were holding on to pagers and radio and a plan?
- Chad: The Chief wanted to let everyone know that he just purchased 4 new radio's, Kenwood's for the volunteers. He will decide or discuss where the radios will go, probably when he comes here at the next meeting. He did want us to do a radio plan or accountability plan when everyone was told no on pagers and radios and for us to get

radios in the truck. He wanted to hold off across the board with Volunteer and Career to make this as fair as he could. When those four radio's come in, with the recommendations from the Master Plan Group that is going to come in that could recommend something with accountability because we have nothing yet. Maybe then we can revisit the ducktail of assigning radios and checking for accountability. The four radios are on order, and I don't know when they will be here.

- Dan C: Is that part of the request from the TIFID money?
- Chad: Yes.
- Dan C: So, he agreed on 4.
- Jerry B: We put in for 15 and he went to 4.
- Chad: The reason he went to 4, was based off the last 2 years of TIFID request. Big Butte didn't ask for any last year and asked for 3 this year. Boulevard got all of theirs through the grant. Centerville didn't ask for any last year and asked for 5 this year. Floral Park asked for 0 and 0. Home Atherton was 12 and 3. So some of the departments didn't think it was a priority last year, but all of a sudden, became a priority this year. So, this year he got 4 and will be divided up to the departments who didn't ask for any radios last year but asked for them this year as well as Home Atherton and Race Track, I assume.
- Jerry B: The reason a lot of them didn't ask for them last year, we told them we weren't getting them.
- Dan C: I think part of the reason why is because they were told from the beginning that the old radios would be compatible.
- Chad: It was said on the April 20th meeting that someone had 11 radios and now they only have 2, now they have 13 radios, even though VHF still works. We went over that at the last training we had, VHF still works. The Chief decided on 4, he can explain it better when he gets here, at the next meeting. Those are the radios he didn't put on hold for the volunteers. George Stone recommended or suggested that he liked Kenwood's better because now he has 2 Kenwood's and 2 Motorola's and likes how Kenwood's are set up.
- Lee: The new radios are already outdated by IPA standards; they have increased the rating on them so. That is something to think about as well to figure out what the new standards are, and we just got them. I am sure Kenwood's are in the same boat upgrading their stuff too, they will probably keep getting more and more expensive and make it harder and harder for us to buy.
- Chris: What piece has changed?
- Lee: I am not sure, something inside.
- Chad: Probably different piece or color of wiring.
- Lee: Probably, Motorola built the whole system around the State, that is why everyone goes to Motorola and that is why it is the most expensive, to get every single feature that is available. Kenwood can still operate if you just don't get all the features. They are updating as many dispatch centers as possible, that will probably be Motorola to the next Gen 911 that is coming just on that side and all the stuff that is coming, we are already running behind. It will be really expensive in the next 5-10 years.
- Dan C: So, I guess one question is, is anyone at the legislature see this coming. All these agencies will be struggling to keep up with the times. Is the State willing to...

- Lee: The State is willing to foot the bill for the initial stuff as far as towers, dispatch consoles, some software and even coming down the line with some salaries for dispatchers around the state things like that, but as far as equipment nothing yet.
- Dan C: So, when we invested in ours, we didn't get any of it back then?
- Lee: Probably not, it is kind of a new deal they have been working on. They are not fully funded yet for the consoles for dispatch. They are trying to get towers around the State, and they are a million dollars apiece, just for one tower. So, they are trying to find funds for that, it would be 3-5 years before it is fully implemented. The legislature slowed down on the radio side at this point.
- Dan C: So, what could we do to get in on the band wagon to get some funding to help us? At the initial start we paid for ourselves, but for upgrades and technology changes.
- Lee: From the State level, I am not sure. Hopefully we will get some funding for the dispatch center to hire people. It will be up to us to stay on top of grants, I am not sure, obviously Butte Silver Bow will not be on the top priority.
- John: Who are you working with Lee?
- Lee: 911 State Safety and Communications Board, it is an Advisory Committee basically, Mike Feldmen, who is a retired Highway Patrolman.
- John: Would local people be any help at all?
- Lee: Good question, I can ask.

10. Training Report & Call Volume Report

- Chad: Nothing on training, George and I had a discussion last Fire Advisory Meeting, because there was such poor participation in radios and rural water supply last time, I am pretty sure it was because of the April 20th meeting. I am being skeptical, but I think that is the reason. I told George that we can have someone from the Career Department, anyone can do the trainings, especially rural water supply, it is good to keep it going, it is good to make sure we are doing it. It was said at the April 20th meeting that we want to do the right thing for everyone, if the reason no one showed up for the training besides Terra Verde, Race Track and Walkerville is because they were mad at me, do we all want what is right for the community. There were other guys that showed up that didn't like how the meeting went as well and they still showed up. I asked George if there will be more participation if I am not there, because someone didn't like my opinion, I have three kids at home that are missing Daddy right now, no problem, on Exterior support stuff. If there is anything Interior training or anything like that, I will be there. I talked to George and Tom a little bit about it, now that the boxes have been moved, I will talk to those two and see what they want to do for Interior stuff and then we will go from there. Summers are tough for everyone. We will see if they want to skip the summer until August, or if they want to keep going. I will wait to hear from George when I talk to him next.
- John: Call Volume Report, did everyone get a chance to look at the call volumes? Big Butte steady at 2. Race Track steady at 6. Jerry, will you remind the other troops at Fire Council to report their call volumes?
- Jerry B: I am so amazed that Boulevard has not reported, they usually report the first week, but yes, I will.

11. Public Comment on any item not on the agenda

- Jerry B: I have something else to talk about, we really want to know the difference between setting up a water shuttle or setting up nursing, and we kind of must decide when the first truck is coming in, so we can prepare for it. For example, the one out on Passmore Canyon, the street off that, all three city trucks went right down Infront of the place, and they wanted us to stay up on the road and prepare for whatever we had to do. Nursing is great if you don't need a whole ton of water, but it requires a guy on the tender who is supplying the water and depending on how many trucks it is going through you need one man on the truck all the time. For instance, on that one, we went from Terra Verde's Tender, to one of the city trucks, to another city truck. That tied up Terra Verde one and two paid to do it. There is a totally different way of setting up a water shuttle. A water shuttle we are dropping tanks and there is an Engine there drafting supplying the other ones. I don't know what your guy's procedure is when you are coming up on a fire is.
- Chad: So, we all know the difference between nursing and a water shuttle. They didn't need the water shuttle; they got the fire knocked down. If someone was worried about or wondering why there were three trucks going in and two of the trucks being hooked up and why you sent water to one truck, and went to another truck, it is called a booster tank backup. We have water there; we are not going to not use it and wait for a water shuttle to go on. Then if they needed a third truck, those are 750 gallons port a tanks sitting there ready to go.
- Jerry B: You got one.
- Chad: No, the tank itself is essentially a port a tank. They are just giant red trucks that act as port-a-tanks. Once our tanks are empty, you fill them back up with your tender, we have water there all the time, while the tender shuttle happens, if it needs to happen and it didn't need to happen on that one. We can prepare for domes day or just knock it in the teeth right away and do a nursing operation.
- Jerry B: A water shuttle is dropping tanks, by our way of doing it.
- Chad: Jerry!
- Jerry B: That is what we have been practicing at your practices.
- Chad: Yes, but we didn't need to do it out there.
- Jerry B: What I am saying is we must decide what we are going to do before you get to the fire. Is it water shuttle or nursing. We don't care which one we do.
- Chad: Didn't you nurse.
- Jerry B: Yes, we nursed on that one.
- Lee: You just what us to clarify?
- Jerry B: Yes, what we are going to do, with all those trucks down there, someone should have dropped a driveway line if they were going to do a water shuttle.
- Chad: Jerry, this is what drives me nuts, if they thought they could get it with three trucks, without anyone else help and anyone else's water, we are going to do it. If they think they need to do a driveway lay for a water shuttle, they are going to do it. You know why because it is their job.
- Jerry B: This is what we talked about several times at our training and at the meetings. Is we got to position the first truck better. You can smile and laugh and all that.
- Chad: Do you remember the first meeting at the water shuttle, someone said, there has only got to be one that goes up into the driveway and only one truck there and that is it,

remember that someone brought that up. I said no it doesn't, it doesn't need to happen the way you think it needs to happen.

- Jerry B: Say you needed more water on that because they didn't know if it went into the house or not, there is no driveway lay so we got to hand jack a line down there.
- Chad: I know, that's fine, 2.5 off the back, but if we needed more water, and there was more tenders filling the trucks that were there, to keep full 750 gallons of water in each of the Career trucks, then you would have time to set up your water supply without these guys getting their ass kicked. The thing that drives us crazy and anyone in this room crazy, is someone who doesn't do my job, tells me how to do my job, wouldn't that bug you.
- Jerry B: And you are telling me how to do my job, with no information.
- Chad: What job?
- Jerry B: Water shuttle.
- Chad: You hook up to a tender.
- John: Wait a minute guys.
- Chad: I don't tell you how to fix a refrigerator, Jerry, that is your job.
- Jerry B: This is one of the questions we want to have answered, if someone could tell us what we are preparing for, not just to stage up on the deal, and sit there and watch it rain.
- Chad: So, did someone come and say hey I need to get your water off the tender?
- Jerry B: No.
- Chad: So, how did the tender get hooked up? Did you bring the hose?
- Jerry B: I sat there in my tender for two hours.
- Chad: Okay.
- Jerry B: Terra Verde was down, and they were nursing.
- Chad: And?
- Jerry B: A tender shuttle is rolling water period.
- Chad: Again, Jerry, I know what it is.
- Jerry B: Okay.
- Chad: So, you don't want to sit on the road for two hours?
- Jerry B: I have no problem there, but no one told us what we were doing.
- John: So, you're talking about more communications.
- Jerry B: Communications back and forth.
- Chad: Sure, yes, more communications.
- Jerry B: Hand jacking a line no big deal, what happened when we were down at Yale, and they had to drag it all the way across the park. No one thought, oh, we are going to need water for this.
- Chad: What do you mean?
- Jerry B: Hand jacking is not a very good way to put out hose.
- Chad: Jerry, sometimes we must do it, you know why, because we have 2 guys on an Engine, if we had 4-man Engine companies we wouldn't be having this conversation.
- Jerry B: Butte is not big enough for 4-man Engine companies, our budget.
- Chad: We are just going in circle here.
- Jerry B: I move we adjourn.
- Dan C: Before we adjourn, how is the ISO coming along?
- Chad: So, the Chief will have an update on that as well next meeting. They have been in contact.

- Dan C: Didn't we say we were going to skip July and August? ISO comes sometime in the Summer. So, they will be here and done before any information.
- Chad: We could have the Chief write the Fire Advisory Board on an update to see if we need to meet or if...
- Dan C: That is the only reason I think we may need to meet. Is it something we need to know, though email. Is everyone participating in the proper way? Are certain departments not responding?
- Chad: He hasn't mentioned anything.
- Dan C: We need everyone on their toes for this.
- Chad: Yes, maybe we can just have him give an update on ISO to the Fire Advisory Board, maybe that will answer some questions.
- Dan C: Has the Study started?
- Chad: No, not yet.
- John: Next meeting, I would like to discuss, what is the scope of this meeting, what should it be.

12. Dan Callahan made a motion to adjourn, Chad Silk seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:26 p.m. Next meeting is September 12, 2023. (NOTE: On 8/15/23 next meeting adjusted to August 29, 2023, per confirmed emails).

THE FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVISES THE BSB DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES