

MINUTES

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

AUGUST 29, 2023 @ 5:30 P.M. – BUSINESS CENTER–ROOM 201 (ACROSS FROM FIRE ST 1)

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting was called to order at 5:31 P.M. by John Sorich.

2. Roll call via Sign-in Sheet:

- **Member Present:**

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

Chad Silk, BSB Career Fire Dept.
George Stone, Terra Verde VFD
Joel Worth, Boulevard VFD

- **Member Absent:**

Justine Fortune, BSB Commissioner
Chis Mjelde, BSB Career Fire Dept.

- **Guest Present:**

Zach Osborne, BSB Fire Chief
Riley Hash, BSB Career Fire Dept.
Matt Doble, BSB Career Fire Dept.

3. Reading and Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Joel Worth to approve the Minutes for June 6, 2023, meeting. Jerry Brothers seconded the motion. All were in favor of the motion.
 - The June 6, 2023, minutes were unanimously approved.

4. Public Comment on any Item on the Agenda

- None

5. Secretary/Treasurer's Report

- August 29, 2023 (FY2024 Report) balance in the TIFID Fund is \$156,602.55.
- Zach: That is after all TIFID requests whenever we did it last. All items have been ordered and paid for, right? Including the 4 Radios.
- Jerry B: Except for the Blow Hard Battery Home Atherton requested they were out of stock.
- George: And did Miller's call for a PO for Terra Verde's boots?
- Diane: No, do they require one?
- George: I don't think he does, but I thought that was the normal procedure.
- Diane: We can wait for the invoice to get the exact amount.
- George: Ok, I will pass that on.
- Diane: I can get him one if he needs one.

OLD BUSINESS

6. VFD IT Committee

- Jerry B: Still working on it, last week they had a big convention down in Florida. We met up at the Courthouse the other day about the pagers, radios, and different things. It was an informative meeting. Mr. Parish is going to take over and he gave us a timeline of about two months. Both Iamresponding and eDispatch got ahold of me and I should have that information this week, what we got to do. First, I must go to Boulevard and take everyone's names and phone numbers off SafeAlert and send it to them so they can set up the program. Lee, were you able to get approved to get it set up at Dispatch?
- Lee: We need to talk to Doug Conway or whoever is taking over.
- Zach: He will not officially start until October 1st.
- Lee: I received your email the other day about the frequencies and site idea of trunking stuff. I also called Jason Parish, he said he will look into that because he already has some of that set up and I forwarded to him the email you sent me. We will just keep going and have open discussions.
- Jerry B: I would say next month by the time of our next meeting we should pretty much be going with it.
- Lee: Have you talked to anyone at dispatch to get it going up there yet.
- Jerry B: No, I sent those email and nobody responded. I want to go up and sit at dispatch a little bit to see how things work and different things too. That is all I have, unless anyone has questions.
- George: SafeAlert didn't work yesterday.
- Jerry B: SafeAlert is not working very well, they feel it is a problem with either power supply or a tone generator. Instead of giving a short tone and then one long one, the long one is getting uplifted in the middle of it. Mr. Parish is making it a priority to look into. Zach, you were there do you have anything to say on that.
- Zach: It was a really good meeting, I think it took a lot of effort to have someone take on that job for us but, Jason is a smart dude, so I think he is the right person for the job. I learned a lot, some information about a piece or module that could be in the future but could have been possibly put in or bought in the original switch over from VHF to 800. Where the 800 radio and the VHF could still talk to each other, that has been a huge issue and a fight getting the number of radios for the volunteers. When that possibly could have been fixed in the first place by a \$2,000.00 part. Now, we have 12 more radios, when we possibly didn't have to do that. Jason is looking into that, so that is interesting. We will see where that goes. All of these I my mind are still band aids. I was talking to Lee today about it, but the end goal is to change everything to 800Mhz instead of keeping us at VHF paging and then go to 800 when we talk. But of course, when we did this Jason Parish wasn't here, I wasn't here, I don't know what their mindset or plan was, when they originally did that. I don't know why they stopped at that halfway point, probably because of money. That doesn't mean we shouldn't try to go to the end goal. SafeAlert is not working because of the bad tones through VHF. The paid Stations can't hear what is coming over their speakers because of the tones through VHF. So, the end goal is 800, how do we get there, I don't have a number yet, I don't know what that would entail, I don't know why we never looked into it when we first switched over. We keep band aiding things, which sometimes is what it takes to get to the end goal. I hope

everyone realizes what the plan is, because it is not a perfect system what we have right now, we can't hear, you can't hear. That is what I got out of the meeting, but it was a good meeting at least we have a plan going forward.

- George: What does that module do? When you broadcast on 800Mhz it feeds over to Fire 1 on VHF?
- Lee: Basically, yes, you can listen at least, I was unclear if it would go the other way.
- George: Anyone have an idea on the price of the module?
- Zach: He said a couple thousand dollars.
- George: I think we were kind of an afterthought.
- Zach: Just so it goes in the minutes and you guys are aware we are trying. I would love to see an end goal and a price tag so we could start working towards it.

NEW BUSINESS

7. Report on ISO and report on policy of Mutual Aid

- Zach: So, I wasn't at the last meeting. I believe you had questions for me about this.
- Diane: They wanted to know how ISO was progressing and understand your policy on Mutual Aid.
- Zach: ISO is coming in October, I sent out a packet, a list of to do packets to all the Volunteer Chiefs about three months ago now, on call reports, and training. I have received one. Big Butte has me theirs so far. So, I will be emailing each Chief here in the next couple of weeks to remind them they have basically five weeks left to get those done. A big part of ISO is our water flow in Butte and the Water Company kind of hired that out. They needed flow information as well, so it worked out pretty well. A business is doing that for Butte Silver Bow, so getting flow data, which is big for us. The last time we did ISO was in 2017. I wasn't sure if Big Butte's new Engine or Engine 4 was on that ISO test and they were, so we really don't have to do a whole lot with new vehicles besides New Engine 3 (Type III). In the next five weeks we will have a lot of work to do to get ready for Amanda to come. It is important for the Volunteers to get that data into me asap. My policy on Mutual Aid are we talking about Mutual Aid with Jefferson County?
- Lee: Both, it was internal and...
- Jerry B: Basically, I asked the question of when Jefferson County calls and needs an ambulance for a wreck on the Highway. Why is Rescue 1 automatically just taking off and going?
- Zach: I don't ever recall dispatch ever dispatching just A-1 and the Career guys going. Am I missing something?
- Jerry B: Just listening to the scanner and different things. They will dispatch A-1 and pretty soon Rescue 1 comes on saying that they are going.
- Zach: I am not saying it didn't happen. I have never heard any of the Career Dept. self-dispatching themselves on that. I am not sure we ever would, it is not really a convenience for us to leave the county, I don't like it, they don't like it.
- Jerry B: Chad said you guys have a Mutual agreement that when they go you will take off also.

- Chad: Mutual Aid says we will go if we deem it is necessary if there are enough resources to go. To get right to it, you are wondering why we will go, and Home Atherton or Floral Park can't.
- Jerry B: No, I am asking if all Mutual Aid is off the table. Why it is against us and for you?
- Chad: That is what I am saying, wondering why Floral or you can't, and we can go to Whitehall, is basically getting right to it. If mutual aid is requested by Whitehall and the Battalion Chief under the supervision of the Chief deems it, if we have the resources to help and it is close enough, we will go ahead and send medical help, if they need us. There is multiple time where we have turned it down because we didn't want to go so the Battalion Chief or Senior Captain will deem it necessary if we go or not.
- Zach: If it is not a medical call, their dispatch calls Station 1, let them know what the incident is and what they need exactly. Similar to, the new response plan, no Stations are getting called they want specific Engines, whether that is a Type 6, a Tender or Pumper according to what is going on in the County that day, the Battalion Chiefs, Senior Captain will make that call out of which pieces of Apparatus will be going out of the County. A lot of times it is only Volunteers that they will send and not the Paid. I know in recent memory they sent Terra Verde's Tender and Home Atherton's Engine, if my memory is getting me right, because the Paid Department was double up or tripled up on medicals or some other reason the Battalion Chief or Senior Captain thought that it was fitting to send Volunteers out of the County.
- Jerry B: Like I say we like to have everything on the table and if you guys are doing Mutual Aid like that it is kind of opposite of what we are trying to do.
- Lee: We need to discuss the difference between Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid. Automatic Aid is I believe what you were saying you want Floral Park to come to every call that you are dispatched to.
- Jerry B: Let's take that off, I am talking about self-dispatching, Rescue 1.
- Chad: Jerry you have no idea the conversations happening between A-1 and Station 1, or Station 1 and dispatch, you have no idea.
- Jerry B: I am just asking.
- Chad: I am just telling you because I know how it works.
- Zach: I just don't ever recall you guys just deciding to go.
- Chad: Here is a situation that happened yesterday, prior to us going live with CAD where we incident type dispatched, yesterday they back line call for a medical for Flint Creek Estates were A-1 went and they called us and said we needed to go as well. So, prior to CAD going into our system we would have just written that call down in the book, it would not have been a big deal. Now, since it is tied together, we get on the radio. Yesterday, I was on the Rescue and said to dispatch we are responding to Flint Creek Estates on a medical call you back lined us for, you wouldn't have heard that back line call. You don't know everything that goes on and you are wondering why, those are some of the reasons why.
- Jerry B: When dispatch calls A-1, Jefferson County is requesting ambulance at mile marker 272 and then a minute later, Rescue 1 dispatch we are going on that call.
- Chad: Exactly Jerry, do you have any idea what happened on the back line call that could have sent us?
- Jerry B: But they didn't backline you! They backline the a...

- Chad: No, backline means calling on the phone, they paged A-1, are you saying they paged A-1?
- Jerry B: Yes.
- Chad: Ok, paged A-1, they could have backline us, called us from dispatch and called us at Station 1, you have no idea.
- Jerry B: So, we are using phones to dispatch also?
- Chad: Yes, that is how the real-world works, at an actual department that runs medicals and 911 true emergencies. You don't think we have had a backline call for a 911 emergency from a pedestrian.
- Jerry B: I know you get them all the time for fire calls and everything, but what I am saying is there is no mutual aid or automatic, and that is what you are doing. You are telling us not to do it, and you are doing it.
- Chad: Because he is the Chief, and he is the one deciding, and I decide on medical calls if I deem it necessary that we can go ahead and do it.
- Jerry B: I don't want to tie this down; I just wanted an answer.
- Chad: Real level at the Fire Department that is how it works.
- Zach: You said there was no mutual aid or automatic aid, there is, we go to Jefferson County too many times a year.
- Jerry B: I wholeheartedly agree.
- Zach: Way too many times a year, but it is State that you be good neighbors and go. Well, they almost take advantage of Butte Silver Bow, Whitehall, Boulder, Elk Park, their Volunteer Fire Departments that struggle with manpower and at one time, Butte Silver Bow between 8-5 was their first alarm in the town of Whitehall, because they knew 90% of their members of the Whitehall Fire Department were working at the Mine and they knew they couldn't go. So, they built their response plan to have Butte Silver Bow their first call, unacceptable. Butte residence pay tax so that we are available for Butte Silver Bow residents, not Jefferson County, so that is a big deal when they call. So, I put a stop to that right away, someone must be a scene, someone must give us a size up, someone must request specific vehicles, and call Station 1, if no one answers the phone at Station 1, they call dispatch, then dispatch, dispatches us. Then, the B/C, Senior Captain, Me, or Kelly Lee can pick which ones we deem necessary is good to go over the hill. So, there is no written plan, there is no policy, it is day to day, by how busy we are, by who is on other calls, by what kind of call it is, is it a Wildland Fire? I am sending Terra Verde. Is it a structure Fire? We may send someone else. It is just called dependent. Your statement was false, there is Mutual Aid, there is Automatic Aid, it is hard to make a written policy because it is so broad. It would have to be a 50-thousand-page report because of how dynamic calls are. How many times do we get stuck on the top of the Interstate in the middle of the winter and it drives me crazy, that we are in someone else's County when Butte Silver Bow taxpayers are paying for our apparatus in our County. So, it drives me nuts, it takes some thought, and we do, do it. There is a reason we do it that way.
- Jerry B: Do we have any standard operating procedures in place? Or is it totally up to the guy that is on shift?
- Zach: For operations?
- Jerry B: Yes.

- Zach: We have Policy Manuals all over our Stations, yes. The Career guys test on it. That is a big part of their promotional tests and evaluations is their SOP's and SOG's.
- John: You know you are absolutely right, in saying, "Butte Silver Bow should be staying in Butte Silver Bow".
- Zach: As much as we can.
- John: Yes, as much as you can, and they are probably taking advantage of the situation. Sounds cheesy, but is there any way to send them a bill?
- Zach: The Chief Executive has asked me a few times, and I don't know a good way to do it, without, I don't want to tell them we don't like helping them, because we are willing to do it and fortunate enough to Butte, we do have a lot of Stations and a lot of apparatus, but that is our benefit, that they don't have. Boulder is struggling, Whitehall is struggling, I don't know what Elk Park has, but that is their life going on right now. We have a little bit of a different situation, so a lot of times we can spare a few, but shoot, there was one time before we made this change, we had 6-7 pieces of apparatus going over the hill for a car fire that had zero exposures, at the end of a road with snow. Why would we send 6-7 pieces of apparatus to a car fire with zero exposures? That car is going to be burnt to the frame before you guys even hit the interstate, let alone over the hill and up a dirt road. We must be smart about what we are sending, because at any moment, we could have poop hit the fan here. We need our apparatus here, if that is what our taxpayers are paying for here not there, but we will help when we can. But to charge for it, yes, JP has asked me a few times, what other Counties do, and I am trying to be a good neighbor.
- Dan C: Can I put two cents in there, Butte Silver Bow County also goes to the Jefferson River, and they respond to that area, Butte Silver Bow properties as well.
- Zach: Yes, that little section there by Silver Star.
- Jerry B: Going back to the ISO, my Brush truck, are we considering that part of Butte Silver Bow now or not? The reason I am asking is our insurance is due on the first of the month, and we are trying to decide whether to sell the truck, or to keep it, or what we want to do.
- Zach: As far as the Courthouse, and the County Shop, there are a few vehicles that don't exist in the Fire Departments of Butte Silver Bow, if it is not titled, insured, and maintained by Butte Silver Bow, they don't have any record it even exists. I haven't figured out a good way. Take yesterday for example, Home Atherton's Tender, I believe, correct me if I am wrong, was dispatched to that grass fire, and Home Atherton's Tender and Mini responded, now in the response plan, only the Tender is mentioned. So, you are self-dispatching your Mini, because it is your personal vehicle, and you have a couple(Terra Verde). Does the response plan even mention personal vehicles? Because they are not part of Butte Silver Bow's. So...
- George: But they are a part of the Volunteer Department's, but not Butte Silver Bow.
- Zach: Part of the individual departments.
- Jerry B: For instance, Boulevard, their Mini, they own the Mini, but Butte Silver Bow takes care of everything.
- Zach: I don't want to get into an argument about vehicles, but there are other people in the county that will claim otherwise on a lot of vehicle questions. If Butte Silver Bow holds the title, insurance, and has done maintenance since whenever, that is their stance. I have asked them before, their stance is that Butte Silver Bow owns that vehicle, because when we consolidated in 1977, we consolidated into one.

- Jerry B: A hum.
- Zach: So, a lot of people's opinions, like you said, Boulevard owns that Type 6 and in a lot of people opinions Butte Silver Bow owns that Type 6. Whether Grady or you agree with that I don't know. That would be a conversation with the County Attorney and Kate, your guy's lawyer, that you have been taking to.
- Jerry B: Ok, so as of right now, no, you don't want to take over the Type 6, Brush truck?
- Zach: I am not positive; it has not been offered to Butte Silver Bow. I know it is a Dodge, single cab that is all I know.
- Jerry B: We own the truck and we have always ran with it. We don't send anything out to fires to get paid for it or anything. I believe it was the original way before we were going to do it, we use it on all the grassfires around town.
- Zach: I just haven't received great answers to my questions, when I ask the County Attorney or whoever I ask, liability wise, I have no idea. You guys are taking a personal vehicle out to fires, so, the personnel inside that vehicle are covered under Butte Silver Bow's insurance, but the vehicle itself is not insured by Butte Silver Bow. I have no idea.
- Jerry B: We have always insured it ourselves.
- Zach: I know that is what you have always done, I just don't know if that is the right thing to do. I have no idea!
- Jerry B: Do I put it down for the ISO? It has always been in the ISO.
- Zach: I guess you could put it down and when Amanda comes and has a meeting with me. I can ask her and see what her thoughts are. I really don't have a great answer for you.
- George: The only thing ISO gives a rip about is structure anyway.
- Zach: Mostly, correct.
- George: They don't really care about wildland calls or that kind of stuff.
- Zach: Sorry, I don't have a great answer for you.
- Jerry B: No problem.
- John: Anything else? Thank you for taking the time and getting back with responses of being able to be here on such short notice tonight. Zach came to me requesting for us to change the time of this meeting, because the Fire Consultants wanted some information regarding buildings, trucks, and different stuff from every department. They wanted the information back by October 1st and our thoughts were this would be a good forum to get it out as soon as possible and the sooner the better. So, we moved up the meeting. Zach, do you want to take over from here.

8. Discuss Building and Apparatus Assessments requested by Fire Study Consultants and Assigned to the Fire Advisory Committee by Zach Osborne to be completed by October 1, 2023

- Zach: If you all recall, there were going to be a break in Advisory Meetings for the summer months June, July, and August we were possibly going to revisit in September, but September was going to be close to Labor Day, so we moved it to September 12th, we moved it a week. I contacted John and requested to move it a week back instead of a week forward, because I wanted enough time for these (folders) to go around. My idea with these, everybody knows the Fire Study Consultants were here a few weeks ago, and

what they do as part of the study is, they assist with a vehicle replacement program, they look at building assessments. I told them, do you expect us to crawl up on every roof and look at every nook and cranny and attic space? They said no, just the general impression of the building and then the apparatus. I definitely could have done this myself. I didn't want to put an idea in people's heads that I would maybe be biased, because that has been brought up before. So, I thought that since the Fire Advisory Committee has done basically vehicle assessment before, years ago whenever that year was, 2015 when you guys did a vehicle replacement program. I thought we could use that as a history and basically their new form is very similar. You grade the apparatus, miles, year, VIN, what condition, pump size, and tank size.

- George: This came up after they were here, basically? This is an add on.
- Zach: They sent it to me the day after they left and said could you go around and do an assessment. Right away I said I kind of don't want to be the one doing it. If you guys already have one already done, an older one you could build off. That is when I called John. Now, if you guys don't think you're the committee that would want to do it. I would be happy to go do it myself. I moved it a week back because they want it by October 1st and if we would have met on September 12th that would only give two weeks to get it done. I will stop talking and you guys as a committee can discuss and tell me if you want to do it, if not that is fine, I will go and do it. If you do, Diane made some packets that are easy to follow, there are just sheets for each apparatus and each building.
- George: I don't think we did anything on the buildings, it was on all the apparatus.
- Jerry B: Coming from me, and Home Atherton and the Fire Council, I think it would be great for you to get together with the Chief's and go through each department. That way you have got a chance to see what is happening, what is there, what is not and getting on a more personal deal. That is just my opinion.
- John: Any comment?
- Zach: I am not trying to pass work.
- Jerry B: 100% I just think it would be better for the whole situation, if you came around just with the Chief's and get a chance to say hello and see what they have got. You haven't been to all the stations, have you?
- Zach: It has been some time, but I have been to some quite a few times.
- John: It might be a good idea.
- Lee: I still don't think it would be a bad idea for all of us to see, so this committee could have more details and more ideas.
- Jerry B: What if we did like we did the last time, and the committee goes out and you can come with us.
- Zach: I am happy to do that. I just remember at one of my presentations on getting the Study passed, there was "will we have a seat at the table", "do we have any jobs with it" and I did mention a few times that I would be asking the Fire Advisory Committee to do a few things so.
- Jerry B: We could do it, I just thought it would be a chance to make some goodwill.
- Zach: It must have been about two years ago now, when Michelle Shea came to one of them, (tours) we tried, we made it to Race Track and Boulevard and that was it.
- Jerry B: Didn't COVID come back or something?
- George: Something derailed it.

- John: If this Committee wants to be involved, we will have to do it soon. When would we meet. What does everyone's schedule look like? What is their feeling about it?
- Chad: No Melrose or Walkerville, right?
- Zach: No.
- Chad: How many departments.
- George: Should be 9.
- Chad: 9 Volunteer Stations and 2 Career Stations, 11 divided by possibly four, one day a week.
- George: It would be a pretty good task and I will be out of town quite a bit...
- Chad: I will not be in town either, not all would have to be at everyone single one, but in order to combat the, it's not his word, or your word or my word, as long as the majority of us are there to say this building is a ten and it is a 5 or this apparatus is good and not poor, or vice versa.
- Jerry B: As long as it is 1 Commissioner, 1 Volunteer and 1 Paid.
- Dan C: I just want to add two cents, to get it done in 30 days is a tall task.
- John: It is.
- Dan C: We have tried this in the past to hit every Station and I don't think we ever got it done.
- George: It took like three months or better.
- Lee: Well, we would have to push a little and clear your schedules.
- Joel: We have six of us, we could each pick a department and do an evaluation on it and have six done in one night, or three if you wanted one Volunteer and one Paid to do it.
- Chad: I mean it is three a week.
- Zach: Do you remember how long for each vehicle? How much did you go into detail on your last assessment?
- Dan C: Most of it was on SCBA tanks.
- Chad: The one prior to that, we spent longer than we needed to. Honestly to get it done, even being through, I mean three a night wouldn't be a tall order if we didn't mess around. We could sit there and BS, but...
- Zach: This sheet is very what is it, engine, ariel, rescue, manufacture, year, purchase, miles, age you get a score, miles, and hours you get a score, service you get a score, condition, and reliability you get a score and then total score.
- George: Last time serviced is that what that means?
- Zach: Let's see 1, 3, or 5 points based on type of service unit receives, routine preventative minor or major. The more severe the service is the higher number of points and below at the bottom of the page gives you the point explanation.
- George: I don't think that would be too tough to do, if that is all that is involved.
- John: There is no PPE.
- George: Buildings may be a different story, but equipment is straightforward.
- John: Talk with the Chief's they know their buildings and you would just have to walk through.
- Chad: You would have to structure it so the Chief's have the ability to take us through and walk through each apparatus like an assembly line, let them know what we are looking for, for the buildings and they can walk us through on the buildings, score and try and set a time to it so we can move on.

- George: The only part that would be general condition, wouldn't it? Under Buildings, that would be somewhat subjective? The rest of it is, do you have 24-hour watch service, kitchen facilities, training meeting rooms, individual lockers, that is pretty black and white.
- Chad: Yes or no, yeah.
- Zach: I am throwing ideas out there, that is why we have this committee. If we don't think 30 days by getting a group together, another idea is me getting with the Chief, bringing John Sullivan, our Building Manager out, possibly bringing Jerry Carpenter, our Shop Manager out, I could try and do it that way also. If you guys think that maybe...
- Chad: That would be good.
- John: And invite whoever could make it from the Fire Advisory Committee, so they could tag along also.
- Zach: Well, if I am inviting Jerry or John, it is 8-5 business hours.
- Dan C: You will not be getting them after hours, especially that time of year.
- Zach: So, that is another idea.
- Chad: I think that is a good idea, and then if we are super eager to go and do it, we would just have to make time, later in the winter when there is nothing going on and do it. Look at all the departments building and apparatus with you and the volunteer Chief.
- Zach: For example, Jerry Carpenter said he has no records in the last 5 years in servicing Floral Park, stuff like that, that he would know that we would have no idea. Service records I don't know. Diane and I received a bill, and it is, oh, they did this.
- Dan C: Well, the thing about that is they just moved, so who knows what kind of a cluster their documentation is.
- Diane: They have it on computers too.
- Dan C: Jocko was not much of a computer guy.
- Diane: They have secretaries.
- Dan C: Not at the shop they don't
- Zach and Diane: Jennifer Kerns is there.
- Zach: I can definitely, do it that way if you guys think it is a decent idea.
- George: Yes, there is kind of three areas that I would question on apparatus, the service they don't really, because they have three options for each of those. It is kind of like, all our stuff would be 1s's, but I am sort of guessing on how they would want to score that. I guess 5 is poor, 3 is kind of the middle of the road, I don't think it is too difficult to deal with. Some of it might be a little bit subjective but...
- Chad: If they are going to do that though, it is the most consistent way to do it. Compared to me showing up one time and then Joel showing up the other, it would be the best, unless each of us can make every single one.
- George: I don't think that is possible, especially within a month.
- Chad: If they can do it, that would be better.
- Zach: I wanted to ask the Committee's opinion. I could do it that way and report the findings to the Committee and they would come out in the Study.
- John: I would still like a couple of Committee members to be able to make it. Do some scheduling, I am available every day after 2 p.m. Dan, you might be available I don't know.
- Dan C: No, 6-4:30.

- Chad: I think for right now, the 30-day time frame, the four people do it and then if there is a true desire to want to go around and look at everything again, we could do it over 3 months.
- Jerry B: I totally agree with the four guys, but I also agree that we want to get you (Zach) and us (Volunteer) out there, later.
- Dan C: John and Jerry have busy schedules as well, for them to get it done in that short of time it is going to be a challenge.
- George: I think for the buildings guy anyway, it would be, and the equipment guys too, or supervisors whatever, I think it will be really good, because I am about certain that Holland was the last one in our building and nothing got done. Some of that would be really good, so they would know where the problems are. In the past the Safety Officer comes around and dings us for stuff, but nothing ever gets done about it, if we don't do it. For example, they came down and fixed a toilet problem and they replaced some guts on it, that we actually supplied, and it still didn't work right, so they left the water off. So, I had to come in and figure out what they had done and what the problem was, it was a matter of replacing a valve, then it worked fine. There are a lot of other problems too, like the water heater doesn't work, we have had that shut off for years, because it would electrocute you if you tried to use it and the pump cycling all the time.
- Zach: I agree, that is all communication. When other Chief's contact me I contact them right away. Home Atherton's garage door, they were there that night.
- Jerry B: I was super.
- John: Ok, no one has a problem with the four of them, do we want to put it in the form of a motion?
- Lee: We are you requesting for them to go with you, if they can't go are you resorting back to us going in the next 30-days?
- Zach: For the ease of getting, it done quick, I would probably get a hold of the Chief and Him and I would go through it. Then it would be up to me to take a bunch of notes, I am not a construction worker. Thinking about it now, it was a lot to ask.
- Dan C: Well, tell them you can't have it done by October 1st.
- Zach: Right, and there is no, like if you don't get this done by October 1st, we are not doing the Study for you. That is another option as well, we pay them for a finished product, if we don't get this done in a time period, it is not like they are going to ding us or not do that section for us.
- Jerry B: It is too bad they didn't bring it with them when they were here.
- Zach: I don't know whether they were under the assumption that needed to be through somebody else.
- Dan C: Give it your best shot, if it gets done good, this is the best we can do, may take an extra week or two.
- Zach: So clarifying I am going to get a hold of George (Ei: Volunteer Chief), Jerry Carpenter and John Sullivan, the four of us will schedule a time, and then I will do it for the next department and the next department, fill out these sheets, then I will report these sheet back to this Committee, if you are interested or wait for the Study. Later in the year Jerry B. said he would like to go around as a committee and that is what we could do if people were still interested. Is that what everyone agrees on?
- John: I would like to see the sheets.
- George: I think it would be good.

Chad Silk made a motion and Jerry Brothers second the motion. All were in favor of Zach, Volunteer Chief, John Sullivan, and Jerry Carpenter evaluating information on the Study Sheet from the ESCI. Study Consultants.

9. Call Volume Report

- John: Any comments or errors?
- Jerry B: I have a question, can dispatch just send you this information down?
- Zach: Send us this?
- Jerry B: Yes.
- Zach: We would just do a query if you were relying on CAD, these are all your numbers.
- Jerry B: Yes, I realize but I thought say the first of the month comes, can you send me all the calls and times for say Big Butte and go down the list? Will this new system do that?
- Zach: We could pull queries, yes. If we were doing it right you could actually pull queries per vehicle, pull queries per manpower of the Career since they put in your personnel, you can do a lot.
- Jerry B: That way you would have the time we were called, time we were leaving, time we were on scene all of it.
- John: Okay.
- Zach: You mean you want that?
- Jerry B: No, I mean for you for your records.
- Zach: Yes.
- Diane: You mean instead of you reporting it to us?
- Jerry B: I just thought the CAD system would do all of that.
- Zach: Yes, so, when we started requesting this prior to 2001, prior to CAD, Swift could do it, only to a certain extent. Lee is laughing because Swift was really hard to pull a query. It would take me a month to pull a query.
- George: That is the reason we are doing this; Swift was all messed up. That is why they requested us to report on the volunteer department's calls, because they weren't being reported correctly.
- Zach: So, Motorola Flex doesn't lie, it shows who was dispatched, who responded, who didn't respond, it shows dispatched times, arrival times and clear times, all of that. We could probably advance. We are having issues with most of the departments, I would say they are getting multiple months behind, and we keep sending emails reminders. I could ask Lee and Riley to pull every month really quick.
- Jerry B: I think for a while we should do the same thing, keep track every month to see if they are jiving, then we can go that way.
- John: At least till the end of the year.
- George: There has been a few times I got to the Station, and I knew what we kind of going on, and called the IC rather than calling dispatch, and IC would say I don't need you at this point and so I never really responded per say, as far as dispatch is concerned. So, maybe I am not doing that correctly.
- Zach: And then you are reporting it as a call on this?
- George: Yes, because I did respond, I was ready to respond.
- Zach: You were at your Station, or you were in-route to the scene?
- George: No, I was at the Station ready to leave.
- Zach: Okay

- George: Because I was aware of what was going on, due to the conversation and radio traffic, they probably don't need me. There is no point in rolling at that point. I don't know how to handle that.
- Zach: Some would say that is a not response and some would say that is a response.
- Lee: If you are at the Station, get on the radio and say whatever apparatus is responding, Engine 4, do you need anything else.
- Chad: That way you will always get credit for it, I would definitely do that. If dispatch marks it down, it goes right into CAD and would be on the reports.
- George: Okay.
- John: That makes sense, anything else?
- Jerry B: The other night at the meeting I played my message for the Airport thing, our phone didn't work, most of the pagers didn't trip, and then I was told that B/C Worley called up and said make sure you make a note that Home Atherton did not respond. Is that common practice now? Are we giving the opportunity to find out if we were called and is anyone checking up, why didn't you come? Or anything like that.
- Chad: Ask why you didn't go?
- Jerry B: If you guys are saying Home Atherton didn't respond make sure to make a note of it. In my mind there is something going on there. There is a reason for saying that.
- Chad: For the reporting now, should just be logged, so when we do our report if your apparatus responded, and if dispatch put in there your apparatus is a no response.
- Jerry B: In this case we didn't get the call.
- Chad: I don't know.
- Zach: There is no way for dispatch or B/C Shane Worley to know you didn't get the call. No idea why you wouldn't have gotten the call because Shane heard it, so it just didn't come through your end. The Career department was hearing through I image 800 while they were rolling, probably, correct? But it wasn't coming through the VHF?
- Jerry B: We checked the computer and SafeAlert didn't even get a pickup. I think it goes right back to the tone deal.
- Lee: Is it just SafeAlert that didn't get it? Or actual physical pagers?
- Jerry B: I got it, I was at work I couldn't go on my pager, then I checked four other pagers, and they didn't get it. I always thought if one pager got it, they all got it.
- Zach: We can ask Jason Parish to help us with that.
- Jerry B: Played his phone message with bad tone.
- Lee: Jason described it as there is inference, there are 20 different issues it could be. Hopefully he can clean that up for now. Maybe once that signal is clear, it will reach those extra pagers.
- Jerry B: I just wanted it out on the table and stuff.
- Lee: It is the same with us, we are out on another call, even with 800, they are brand new radios, but we hear the same exact thing. Our might sound a little better because we are close to the station and dispatch.
- George: The grassfire yesterday I was in town, I was at the car wash, but I was tied up and couldn't get away but, Randy got it, it came over my pager and no SafeAlert and a bunch of other guys heard about it but didn't get paged. I don't know if it was from SafeAlert or if it was from their pagers.

- John: In the future Jerry, if this happens shoot the Chief an email like that saying our pagers didn't go off, can we have them looked at. Something like that, so everyone is on the same level.
- Jerry B: Okay.
- Zach: Yes, emails were sent a few times when we switched over, saying if you ever have any issues, please email me any issues so that I can take them to dispatch. Dispatch is having the same issues, that is why we have Jason Parish trying to help us out now.
- Lee: Hopefully, Jason will get it fixed or fixed up enough to get to the end goal.
- John: Will someone make a motion to approve the July Call Report.

Jerry Brother made a motion to approve the Call Report (January-July), George Stone seconded the motion. All were in favor.

10. Public Comment on any item not on the agenda

- John: Mr. Doble
- Matt Doble: Thank you for having me. I want to do a quick update; I know in the past couple of meetings before we were talking about testing the SCBA. We have been doing that. I have a quick update everything, over all is going okay. Just some minor adjustments, in repairs, there have been a couple of major surgeries we had to do. The main concern that I have and why I am here tonight is batteries. The consistency across all the departments, not just one, is the batteries. There have been a few packs that for the Hud for the head up display and the pass alarm. There have been a few departments that I have got that are completely dead and that to me is just unacceptable, because obviously that is our livelihood for anything we go into, I mean IDLH. Whether it is the batteries that are 9 volt or AA's they need to be checked. Just not one department, it is all the way across. The first test I usually perform is putting them through a cycle, because if I know something is wrong, I can change out the batteries into new ones and if those new batteries are not working, I know there is something wrong with the electronics. I don't want to put it through a flow test and must reflow test it later because I had to fix something. First is the Hud and the pass alert, once I do that if the batteries are good, fine. I can move on, then do the flow test. If they are bad, I change the batteries, then I flow test. If they are bad, it is because of electronic issues, with a few departments there has been and has had major surgeries and I fix that and put batteries in good. A lot of them were just dead batteries. I have talked to a few Chief's about it, they have been good about it and surprised that has been happening. The concern I have is that the packs are not being maintained, obviously, because if they were being maintained once a month, you would be putting them on, you would know about the batteries, the heads-up display and the pass alarm is going off. We all know the pass alert is our livelihood if we go down on a fire that thing is going off in thirty seconds. If that is not even showing up or the Hud that is a huge concern for me. The second thing about that is packs not being worn and maintained at your training that you are doing. Again, I just want to stress it is a huge safety issue, not only for you, but your department, us, and the public. If you don't maintain SCBA's we are wasting taxpayer's money. Then I must replace things and 9-volt batteries are not cheap, in the last month I have changed over thirty 9-volt batteries. They are almost 18-20 dollars a pop for the 4 packs, that just adds up. If they are

maintained over the years you go, that is different, those are my two concerns. In coming weeks there will be a memo that I will send out to all the Volunteer Chief's and the Paid Department how to put the pack through a cycle. I am not saying you guys don't know how to do that, you do, but just so we know they are maintained. I was told by previous Coordinators that there was an agreement 12-15ish that they were going to be maintained every month, I don't know how true that was, I don't know. For me, I also want to have that monthly deal too. I will send the memo on how to do it, but once again these are your livelihoods, all our livelihoods. So, putting through a cycle, passing alarm, learn how to go through all three stages, making sure those light show up on the Hud all four, the two red, the two green, the yellow, red and the blinking light, just the easy stuff. Go to your training on a Wednesday, Thursday night, go to your pack push that one button, let it go through the cycle, turn the bottle on, you see the Hud lights. You are done in 30 seconds. So, it is easy to do. I am just going to reiterate that, if these are not maintained, you are not only putting our lives in danger, but yours, and the public's. The other thing is the SCBA parts are not cheap, and manufacturers know that they want to get you for everything even the little suppliers, and they know we need these parts to keep SCBA maintained. It is unsafe and if the departments are not going to maintain them it is a safety hazard for everyone. Just to give you an idea. There are only three Techs, Myself, Curtis, and Kolby and we are getting two more done in September. We have our own packs to do, and we have Rocker, Boulevard, Home Atherton, Terra Verde, Centerville, Little Basin Creek, Race Track and Floral Park's. We don't do Melrose, Walkerville and Big Butte have different ones. That is a lot of air packs to go through this summer, so, bear with us. I still have some for Home Atherton to do and Floral Park's. Rocker didn't drop any off, I need to contact them. Race Track knew we were back up so I will get ahold of them later on. There are a lot of air packs out there that we must get maintained and I am just pleading with you when we bring them back to you to make sure they are maintained, not changing the battery can be huge.

- George: Didn't you say the only battery that was recommended was Eveready?
- Matt Doble: No, Energizer.
- Joel: We check our packs before every business meeting.
- Matt: You guys are the best ones; I have not had to change any batteries for Boulevard.
- John: Do departments have check off list when they are checked?
- Joel: We have a pack committee, so before each meeting, those on the pack committee will go through and check all the packs and make sure everything is working, because we don't use them all the time training, so, once a month we do check them.
- Matt: That is perfect, sometimes you don't need an air pack to do training, but at least once a month go through them, that is great, that is all I am asking for. Just the other day there was a battery that expired in 2020 so I know that battery has not been changed in three years. I am not going to say who it is, but that is not the only one.
- Jerry B: Thank you very much for doing it.
- Matt: I love it, I am glad I am doing it, this program has been on the back burner for the last few years, I am trying to get up to the point of consistency. I am not trying to give myself a pat on the back here, but to do 4 packs it almost takes 4-5 hours, because I have the packs and the regulators. The regulators have been okay, but there hasn't been as bad as the packs.
- Chad: Thanks.

- Lee: Is there anything else we could do, besides just checking batteries and making sure they go through their cycle?
- Matt: Not really, just put them on and put them through a cycle.
- George: Basically, going through a cycle checks the batteries, you don't have to pull each individual battery and do a voltage check on it.
- Matt: No, when they are a dead battery, or when they are a dying battery, but they still are working you will hear a chirp on every pack doesn't matter what pack it is. The Hud you will have a blinking tiny red dot; you know they are dying if you hear or see that. Once this happens just replace the battery, you should be good for x amount of time. The problem with the 9-volts is, they are notorious for just dying. I have replaced a lot of 9-volts.
- George: We have AA.
- Matt: All packs are kind of different. For the pass alarm to be activated, the bottle must be turned on, air has to flow through the reducer to activate that electronic and that is when you would hear the chirping, just every two to three seconds.
- John: Is that something you carry extra on the truck, is extra batteries?
- Jerry B: No, we don't, but it probably wouldn't be a bad idea.
- Chad: We don't carry extra batteries on our truck's either, if you do your monthly checks, it would be sufficient.
- George: Some batteries have an expiration date of 10 years, so, sometimes the date may be a little iffy. You are talking about the 9-volts are mostly your problem.
- Joel: I have been in your little office space, so I feel your frustration.

11. George Stone made a motion to adjourn; John Sorich seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 6:53 p.m. Next meeting is October 3, 2023.

THE FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADVISES THE BSB DIRECTOR OF FIRE SERVICES