

Carbon County Fire Protection District
Regular Meeting
Minutes
March 21, 2024
Platte Valley Community Center, Saratoga, WY.

President Homer Beach called the meeting to order in the Platte Valley Community Center at 6:30 pm. Administrative Assistant Tara Williams performed roll call. The present members were Homer Beach and Jim Piche. Courtney Ney and Pat Waliser attended via Zoom, and Cory Nuhn was absent. Also present were Carbon County Fire Warden/Interim CCFPD Chief John Rutherford, Carbon County Commission Chairwoman Sue Jones, CCFPD attorney Megan Goetz, and CCFPD Admin. Assistant Tara Williams.

Additions/Corrections to the Agenda:

*The agenda did not require any additions or corrections. **Jim Piche moved to approve the agenda as presented. Pat Waliser provided the second. Motion carried.***

Introduction of Guests/Presentations:

President Beach welcomed Commission Chairwoman Sue Jones and thanked attorney Megan Goetz for driving over from Laramie, WY.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Jim Piche motioned to approve the minutes from March 7, 2024. Pat Waliser provided the second. The motion passed.

Correspondence:

No correspondence was reported.

Treasurer's Report:

Secretary/Treasurer Courtney Ney presented the Treasurer's report to the board, which included the February financials and the current bills from February 24, 2024, to March 21, 2024. She advised that there was a total of \$1,650,478.42 in all of the accounts.

Vice President Piche asked if Secretary/Treasurer Ney had moved the \$1,000,000.00 from the RNB account to the Wyoming Class account. Secretary/Treasurer Ney shared that she has an appointment next week with Amanda and Sabrina at RNB to address her lack of online banking access. She said that our accountant, Kassandra Ramsey, will also attend due to her inability to access the online banking feature. Secretary/Treasurer Ney explained that while she is there, she will transfer to Wyoming Class since she has to sign for it physically.

Carbon County Fire Warden/Interim CCFPD Chief John Rutherford asked the Secretary/Treasurer to please address the district's change of address from the PO Box to the physical address.

Secretary/Treasurer Ney presented the bills for \$4719.63.

Jim Piche moved to pay the bills, and Director Waliser provided the second amendment. The motion carried.

Attorney Report:

CCFPD Attorney Goetz advised that she has no report and that several items will be addressed in the Executive Session.

Interim Chief report:

Interim Chief John Rutherford reported that the conference table is put together and looks great. He thanked Vice President Piche and Carbon County Fire Mechanic Steve Schofield for their assistance.

The Interim Chief explained that the Wyoming Fire Service handout was presented to the legislators during the 2024 Legislative Session. Its purpose is to convince them that the bills should be supported. The following bills passed:

- *SF0003 - State Employee Leave for Volunteer Fire or Volunteer EMS*
- *SF004 – Rehiring Retired Firefighters – Continued Retirement Benefits.*
- *SF008 – Health Insurance for Volunteer Emergency Responders.*

The only one that did not pass was SF0039 – Firefighters Recruitment Film.

Interim Chief Rutherford shared the additional 2024 Legislative Bills supported by the Wyoming Fire Service that passed.

- *HB0066 – Firefighter – Cancer Screening Benefits.*

- SF0016 – Military Department Emergency Fire Suppression Account.
- HB0043 – State Forestry Good Neighbor – Positions
- HB0064 – Fire Prevention and Electrical Safety – Amendments.

The interim Chief informed the board that the Carbon County Fire Department—Rawlins’s station is using the training room at 812 E. Murray St. for training and plans to continue using it.

He also reported that he will be taking old air packs to a business in Salt Lake City, UT. That exchanges them and sends the old packs to third-world countries. Director Waliser asked if he could take some SCBA down with him, and Chief Rutherford explained that the company only wanted the air packs.

He then informed the board that the Hanna divisions’ shears broke and that he would be dropping them off at LN Curtis for repair.

He met with the Sheriff, Pat, and Matt today regarding the transition period between the count dispatch taking over Saratoga dispatch and ensuring that paging the valley won’t be an issue.

He expressed the importance of a proposal to regulate emergency responders through OSHA, which is currently at the federal level. The big question will be whether volunteers will be held to the same standard as paid departments. Wyoming is an OSHA state; eventually, it will have to decide what will follow and what won’t. If it becomes OSHA law, the following will be mandatory:

- Mandatory physicals
- Mandatory training

Old Business:

The old business will be discussed in the Executive Session.

New Business:

- *Vise President Piche asked Carbon County Fire Warden/Interim CCFPD Chief John Rutherford to explain to the board what CrowdStrike is. It is virus protection software that monitors your computers and is provided for free by Homeland Security. After discussing it with President Homer*

Beach and Vice President Jim Piche, he signed up to cover 15 computers. Vice President Piche motioned to approve the joining of CrowdStrike, and Director Waliser provided the second. The motion passed.

- *Vice President Jim Piche moved to formally adopt the Apparatus Placement Guideline. Director Pat Waliser made the second motion, which passed.*

Board Discussion: *No discussion took place.*

Executive Session:

Vice President Piche motioned for the Board to enter into executive session pursuant to Wyoming Statute §16-4-405(a)(vii). Director Nuhn provided the second. The motion passed. Time 7:12 p.m.

Vice President Piche moved to exit the executive session, noting that no action was taken at 8:18 p.m.

Vice President Piche then moved to approve and seal the executive session minutes. Director Waliser provided the second, and the motion passed.

Any Further Business/Good of the Order:

Adjourn:

No further business came before the Board. The next meeting is Thursday, April 4, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Platte Valley Community Center in Saratoga, Wyoming.