

**BEULAH FIRE PROTECTION AND AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING No. 72  
June 27, 2013**

**MINUTES**

The meeting of the Board was held at the District office in Beulah, CO

Board members present were: Chair and President Steve Douglas; Vice president Pat Stanifer; Secretary Anne Moulton; and Fundraising Coordinator Bob Thompson. Absent, excused for work, was Treasurer Travis Allee. Also attending were Fire Chief Bryan Ware, with no responders or community members.

**1.Chair and President Steve Douglas called the meeting to order** at 6:34 p.m.

**2.THE AGENDA:** additions were requested of: under New Business, under Wildfire Evacuation Preparedness include responsibilities and animal rescue; and add new item b, a grant opportunity for the creation of defensible space. *Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Bob Thompson, seconded by Pat Stanifer. Motion carried with no objections.*

**3.MINUTES of the March 28, 2013 Meeting:**

*Motion was made by Pat Stanifer and seconded by Bob Thompson to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried with no objections*

**4.Bryan gave the Financial Report in Travis Allee's absence.** No statement thru May 31, 2013 is available at this time; Gwen does not yet have access to some accounts.

- Travis has been working with US Bank and Gwen to get Gwen access to accounts and to straighten out some confusion about which accounts were used for which payments.
- Bryan estimated we spent \$51,000 last month including the truck purchase , but Gwen will give us a detailed accounting as soon as she has access to all necessary information.
- Travis and Bryan will both have access to the Smith Barney account (Jimmy Armstrong Fund) which at last report had \$52,500, and this amount has been expended for tender and fire equipment. We still have roughly \$2200 left from the approved \$40,000 for the tender and will see if we can return most of that, but even so, with the additional approximately \$18,000 in fire equipment, the Jimmy Armstrong fund has been balanced out to zero. At this time we paid those bills from our reserves in order to keep that Smith Barney account open in order to benefit from the higher investment income of \$1500/month in April.
- There is discussion about the type of account and nature of income; it is believed to be a money market, and market driven. We will find out. We may have some risk associated with such good investment returns. Steve asked for clear

information about that concern by the next meeting. Several documents are required to complete transfer of the account, and are in process.

- Kim Ritchey is our contact at Smith Barney under Jim Murray. It was suggested we have Kim come to our meeting to discuss options, risk, and expected income, for our budget before we budget for 2014.

#### **5.FIRE CHIEF BRYAN WARE REPORTED:**

- To date this year, we have responded on 38 EMS calls (transported 29), and 37 fire calls.
- In June we had a smoke call; it became a 5.3 acre fire, divided between private and Forest Service land on the old Mason Gulch fire area. We utilized mutual aid from US forest Service, ground crews and smoke jumpers, BLM, Rye Fire, Red Creek Fire, Pueblo County ESB ( with Mark Mears) and Sheriff's Department deputies, West Park Fire and American Red Cross. The second day we used the Juniper Valley hot shot crew to mop up. By 8:00 pm the first day it was 100% contained, and by 11:30 the next day it was terminated. It was determined to be a lightning strike. Bob used our new tender delivering several loads of water. He felt both truck and scene ran very well. Thanks to Bob for the use of his ATV, it helped. We had 62 responders on the first day and 44 on the second day. Steve and others say it was well managed, and a good first experience. We couldn't ask for a better response.
- We found we need a Bendix radio to talk to the Forest Service, and a charger for batteries on site which might have allowed us to loan a radio to them. They have the means to talk to us through their COM center. We are looking at all options to resolve this.
- Thanks to the Croleys; they were just super, cooked and provided food, assisted any way they could. We staged in their yard. They were very happy with our response.
- The Red Mountain youth camp on North Creek had two sessions this year. The first 3 weeks ago, one right now. We gave CPR and first aid training, did a fire inspection, and loaned one AED to them.
- The garage sale will be at the Fire Station 1, Saturday from 8-4.
- The open house Sunday at 2 pm at Station 1 is primarily for the dedication of the tender and recognition of Jimmy Armstrong's contribution (his name is on the doors of the tender). Bob was asked to speak about Jimmy Armstrong and will. Steve spoke to the great job of managing the Armstrong Fund by Beulah Fire. We are glad to be able to provide this visible honoring of Jimmy Armstrong while recognizing the many benefits to the past and present fire department from his fund.
- August 24<sup>th</sup> we will have the next community blood drive.
- Steve asked about the security of the trucks temporarily outside the station, with hand tools in unlocked cabinets, during preparation for the yard sale. There is discussion of how they can be better secured.
- Renee Sandoval cleaned walls and the entire office, thank you.
- The fuel pump on the Tahoe is being fixed by Austin.

- Steve and Bryan discussed with Dylan Jacketta a loan of ESB hand tools. In the meantime we have put in a purchase of additional wildland fire tools and Steve purchased and donated a sizable amount of hand tools for the department. An inventory was provided of hand tools now available, including those loaned by ESB. Steve commented that we want to assure that our crew has good tools; they work long hard hours and it is important to have a few spares as well to be prepared.
- Ruth Ann Amey has donated many garage sale items, including Lyn's equipment. Thank you.
- The Chiefs are talking about going to stage 2 fire restrictions; we will be informed and given a list of those specifications which will also be on our website.
- Trucks are patrolling am and pm for smoke.
- Web site amendments have been made by Nathan, with wildland fire information at the top of the public information section.
- Laura included some general information about fire restrictions in the Pine Drive telephone newsletter. When there are changes notices will go out on the Crawl and in the Buzz.
- Bryan responded to a question about a Mulch pile. It may smolder, we usually see smoke first. It is best not to dig into it then. Wet it down. Spread it out in the first place, as much as possible to avoid spontaneous combustion.
- Our State of Colorado EMS grant was awarded but downsized. We will buy a combination tool to be purchased between July 13, 2013 and June 14, 2014. This will be capital improvement. Bryan asked how it should be budgeted: for next year, or part now and part next year. We agree to wait until September budget revisions, then see where we stand.
- We did deploy Brush 72 to the South Fork Fire, with firemen Scott, Ross, and Tommy in response to a call from Mark Mears. The trucks were approved for \$1000/day reimbursement plus fuel expenses. We will pay our personnel, then have \$450/ day to return to the department. If we don't have current requirements for our resources, if asked, we are benefiting if we send help; our crews get experience, and we have a give and take relationship with other communities. Bryan asked if the board wants to be consulted to decide for each event or is it ok for Bryan to make decisions. We agreed that the board should be kept in the loop with information immediately that day by e-mail, but Bryan can decide.
- Next week Bryan will be in and out of the office, still on call and available, while family visits. There will be others in the office.
- All our papers are back from the IRS with our name change.

## **6. OLD BUSINESS**

**a. Twin Buttes Fire Water supply.** Bryan finally received the first quote back today (Austin and Kyle), which will probably be a month out anyway, and he will reach out for a quote to another company that said they were 3 months out. Then we will get the quotes off to Red Creek Development. Our role is just to get the quotes; Red Creek developers have to negotiate any issues including that of the float valve. Bryan will make

sure the involved parties know that Bob Thompson would like to be involved in decisions about valves. The tank is currently empty.

Pat asked Bryan if fire water trumps drinking water if we had a severe water restriction from both water districts. Yes if any is available per Bryan. He has talked with Gary Kyte, and there are no restrictions to date. At this time we lack the full ponds we had before.

**b. Fire Tender update.** The tender is almost complete and is operational now. We are awaiting a head set for the engineer so he can communicate with the radio system and banners??? We now have a 1000 gallon porta-tank on it and are awaiting a 2100 gallon tank to replace it which is being shipped July 5. Steve will allow use of his trailer for the 1000 gallon portable pond for the summer to be stored at station 2. Great job.

**c. Wildfire Mitigation update.** We have done 22 property evaluations so far and have 8 more to schedule. We have a sign-up sheet, had one at the Fair and will have one at the garage sale. Lori Lara would like to have us get involved in the schools, teaching a firewise segment for the next school year. It is good to see that a lot of people are doing mitigation. Greg Goodland, from the U.S. Forest Service, would like to be at any further public meetings. The concept of neighbor encouraging neighbor is starting to work. The state pamphlet we have been giving out is on our website with full text. We continue a focus on ladder fuels which can make a huge difference in preventing the spread of a fire, including to or from homes in an existing fire.

**d. 2013 Property Tax Value Decreases.** We need to look at expenses to cut back this year as well as what we can reduce next year. We won't know until August precisely what we can do this year. We expect to lose about \$15,000 next year in property taxes. Our Tabor required emergency fund, if not needed, become reserves, but we can't count on that. Watch for places to be frugal. All agricultural taxes went up. We have a few new houses. EMS billing is short by about \$2000 for this point of the year. It is important that volunteer compensation not be shorted come December, that we be mindful of all our volunteers give us.

**e. The Community Newsletter** is not done yet. We still plan to work on it next week, and have it done by next Friday. Bryan will send a draft to us. Every one of the command staff being cross-trained is a good part of the story. Eight of our firefighters are taking a first responder class and will be completing that next week successfully. Those who want to go on to EMT next fall can do so; six are planning on doing so. All responders and their pictures, training levels, are on the website, a good roster.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Wildfire Evacuation Preparedness:** SW Pueblo County has an evacuation plan which was published in 2006 as part of the Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and updated last summer and this spring. It identifies agencies, responding parties, evacuation routes. It is also on the website public information section. How does the public know about an evacuation? Bryan can request an evacuation but Pueblo County

Sheriff's Department must initiate and implement it. We do register individuals who will need an assist. Some may not know they should consider being on this list, for example, someone who cannot see well at night and can't drive. After individuals pass Traffic Control to leave the area, they won't be able to return. We can't make people leave and won't risk responder lives to help them later. Steve mentioned that Dylan Jacketta's approach is to ask them for the contact info of their next of kin. Pre-emergency education is important. Individuals can add cell phones to Reverse 911, but have to do so individually at 583-6250 or on the Sheriff's website; this info will be on the website and on the newsletter. There is an article going out on the Buzz. We will not risk responders for structural protection if there is only one way in and no safety zone. Reverse 911 places 3 calls to a specific number before it stops trying. A message delivered to voicemail is considered a completed call, but if the mailbox is full, no message is left. It is important to speak when answering a call; if you don't say anything, it won't leave a message. It is also important to check on our neighbors. Information will be put on the Crawl.

**Animal evacuation.** We are a Fire/EMS agency; there is nothing about animal evacuation or care in our service plan. Forms were created with Kevin Fern, and he previously became the point contact for animal evacuation. When Kevin resigned, Naomi Blake joined the board of the County Animal Rescue Team (CART) to be a line of communication between us. She is a Firefighter/EMT. She will help individuals to register with CART. Our role will be as point of contact for residents to register their animals; that information will be passed on to the CART team. She and the rest of us will be busy fighting the fire, and will not be able to help evacuate animals, but will contact CART. Each person needs to make their own plans. For instance, if you have three large animals and a trailer for only two, you need to make plans with neighbors or otherwise find a solution. CART will do its best to help when individuals can't evacuate their own animals, but they couldn't come in here and efficiently evacuate the number of animals that are currently registered. Naomi has given them a list of people locally willing to help. There will be temporary animal staging areas near Beulah (outside the valley); ultimately they will go to the Fair Grounds or some other site. Karen Ashcraft, emergency management coordinator at the county level, is aware we have not taken responsibility for animal evacuation. Thanks from the whole community to Kevin for having been involved in the process previously. There is a misconception that Kevin would have been the one to have been out there gathering animals; no, he would have needed to respond as a firefighter. Bob Thompson commented that it is not and never was a responsibility of the Fire Department to evacuate animals. To the credit of Kevin, the Beulah branch of the CART team is the best organized in the county. We do need additional volunteers for CART from Beulah. If there is a mandatory evacuation, residents will only exit one time, with no option to return for other animals. During a pre-evacuation they can go in and out. Please register with CART if you expect to need assistance, but work out your own plan. It would help a great deal to find another volunteer leader who is not a firefighter or EMT. Naomi is working on that. There will be an education piece in the Buzz. There is information on the website with forms to fill out. Please update your information for CART.

**b. Grant Opportunity.** There is a state grant for wildfire mitigation available which has a short fuse; it was received by E-mail from Karen Ashcraft June 21<sup>st</sup> and is due July 17. There is \$9.8 million available statewide with two grant cycles over the next two years. It is available to local government and HOA's (Home Owners Associations). Individual homeowners cannot apply but can be a part of a government or HOA grant submission. It is a 50-50 grant, with the grant money reimbursed after the work is properly done, not given up front. There will be pre and post inspections of areas to be mitigated under the grant. Awards will be made around Aug 15, and there is an 18 month window to complete the work. It is specific to creating defensible space around homes and infrastructure, or shaded fuel breaks. There is a soft match opportunity (hours spent are included in the 50% match at the federal rate of \$21/hour).

An example of a grant application for Zone 1 & 2 defensible space could include a 100 foot radius around your home, or about ¾ acre. A 150 foot radius would reach out into Zone 3 and cover about 1.5 acres. A simple defensible space (with no high cost hazard trees to remove could cost about \$1000/acre, but with high variability depending on the property. Juniper Valley inmate hot shot crew can perform a lot of work at \$1900/day (have worked on the Mountain Park), but perhaps are not appropriate for work around homes with hazard trees that require specialized personnel and/or equipment (tree climbers, high rangers – bucket trucks) to remove.

One of the problems of mitigation is effective disposal of the slash. There is a provision to purchase a chipper provided there would be continued use beyond the grant life; up to 25% of the grant can be used for this. Vermeer makes a good chipper for 9" diameter materials for \$26,000 with a larger machine available for more (\$40,000). Perhaps it is better to pay local people to do the chipping, but then we would not have a chipper after the grant. There is discussion about user safety and liability as well as maintenance, plus the need to find the 50% match; we need to check with our attorney.

A grant to create simple defensible space around 75 homes and to purchase an appropriate chipper could total \$160,000. If the individual applicants had a lot of trees to remove, including several hazard trees (next to structures), the cost/acre and the overall grant request could be much higher. The district would probably be the grantee, with individual homeowners as sub-grantees. In the past we have hired an accountant to keep track of records and expenses associated with the grant. Approval by Pueblo County (ESB?) of our grant application is required before July 17<sup>th</sup>.

We decided to have a community meeting, half concerning the grant and half about evacuation/mitigation. A July 9<sup>th</sup> meeting is recommended; Bob will check the Community Center calendar. The grant will be focused to treat our "red zone" (map created for previous grant) which is Pine Drive, Squirrel Creek, Beulah Heights, Signal Mountain, North Creek and Middle Creek Drainages, as well as the "downtown" area around Central and Grand and nearby areas, as opposed to the less forested areas outside the valley.

**8. MOTION TO ADJOURN:** *was made by Anne Moulton, seconded by Pat Stanifer.  
Motion carried with no objections. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm*

Anne E Moulton  
Secretary, Board of Directors,  
Beulah Fire Protection and Ambulance District

Final