

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE PAGOSA FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

February 9, 2010

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Pagosa Fire Protection District was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, in the training room at Station #1.

1. Chairman Ron Maez called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. The following directors were present: Dick Cole and LeRoy Lattin. A motion was made by LeRoy Lattin to excuse the absences of Directors Howell and Frye as both were out of town. Dick Cole seconded the motion which passed.
2. The minutes of the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting were approved as written on motion by LeRoy Lattin, second by Dick Cole and passed. The general fund financial statement was reviewed. A question was raised regarding the increases in the Workmen's Compensation premiums. It was explained that numerous claims have driven up the premium costs. The financial statement was then approved on motion by Dick Cole, second by LeRoy Lattin and passed.
3. The Chief's report to the Board included a review of progress in rewriting the District's original service plan authored in 1975. The revised service plan will need to be submitted to the county commissioners in each county involved in the inclusion. It was the consensus of the Board to extend into the same parts of Mineral and Hinsdale counties covered by the Upper San Juan Health Services District. Costs of the inclusion election could approximate \$12,000 depending on costs for the legal description and the number of polling places.
4. The Chief presented a proposal from Gemsbok Consulting for grant writing services. The services offered include researching available grants from governmental sources and private foundations. After considerable discussion, LeRoy Lattin moved to enter into a contract with Gemsbok for grant writing and that the staff keep the Board up-to-date on the costs involved. The motion, seconded by Dick Cole, passed unanimously.

5. The Chief further discussed the prospect of billing for responses to structural fires as well as vehicle accidents and hazmat incidents. At his direction, Administrative Assistant Priscilla Roberts had conducted a survey with five local insurance companies asking the following question:

If the fire department were to charge a reasonable fee (to the insurance company) for responding to an incident within the District where activities were required to attack a structure fire or wildland-urban interface fire, would such a charge have a negative impact on the insurance premium? If so, how would this policy affect the insured?"

The same question was asked in reference to vehicle incidents requiring extrication and mitigating hazmat incidents. The results showed that in many cases, these fees are already included in insurance policies. The fee limit could range from \$800 to \$3500. Because of the distance from responding stations to the scene, some insurance companies automatically add this additional endorsement to the policy. Therefore, the District could collect the fee (up to the policy limits) from the insurance company. Some of the insurance agents did express concern about collection of fees within the boundaries of the District. According to Mrs. Roberts, overall rates might increase due to the frequency of application for insurance payments. Discussion followed concerning whether this billing would constitute "double dipping" and whether it would affect the District's public image with the taxpayers. No formal action was taken.

6. The Chief had received a request from Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District for weight room usage for its employees. The request was denied because of current heavy usage by emergency service employees and the belief that if the District honored the request, it would affect the income of similar local exercise facilities.
7. The Chief also reported the following:
  - The new chassis for the brush truck is on order.
  - The ISO information will be presented at the March meeting.

- The Safety Expo will be held on June 12<sup>th</sup> in the Centerpoint Church parking lot.
  - The fire department appreciation dinner will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Community Center.
  - The annual Colorado Firefighters Academy will be held in Pagosa this October.
8. Since the term of office for Chairman Maez expires in May, Director Cole volunteered to replace him on the Unified Command Committee.
9. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Richard A. Cole  
Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT SEAL