



Oak Creek Fire Protection District Board Meeting Minutes Oct 22 2024

Call to order 6:34 pm

A meeting of Oak Creek Fire Protection District was held at 131 E Main Street Oak Creek CO on Oct 22, 2024

Attendees

Attendees included David Park, President; Mike Roach, Secretary; Eric Kimsey, Member

Members not in attendance

Members not in attendance included: Dwayne Osadchuk, Member; Skyler McKinley, Member.

Approval of minutes

The minutes of the following meetings were reviewed and approved:

Aug 13, 2024

Aug 15, 2024

Aug 26, 2024

Financial Review

Karrie Littman presented the Board with the current Financial Statements including details on revenues that have been received and anticipated timeline of future tax and deployment revenues. The Board had a few questions, and they were answered. The Board approved the financials.

Samantha Herling has been approved to go to Minnesota to EMT School and she has successfully applied for and awarded a grant that is a 50/50 for \$1,800. The Wildland grant was denied.

The FPPA Affliction Agreement was tabled.

Budget 2025

The draft budget was delivered to the Board on Oct 15th. The Chief briefed the Board on some of the details to include that there is a deficit to this budget. Then he also explained that he has found an error in the payroll numbers in that since switching the full-time year-round employees to salary he has still been paying the holiday pay, which is worked into the salary number for each employee. He will also be eliminating a Division Leader position on the Wildland Division of the District, there will still be 3 Captains on each of the Structure and Wildland Divisions. While evaluating the engine equipment and needs, he has found an engine that Vail Fire is looking to sell and proposing the sale of the District's 8-1 engine and purchasing the Vail Fire engine, more discussion at a later meeting. The new Ambulance will be done in 2025 and our share of this, grants are covering the other, will be \$140,000. Impact fees will also be in place in 2025, which should raise between \$60-90,000 which can be used for infrastructure and capital purchases for the District. There are other items included in the budget that will be evaluated during the budget workshop. The 2024 budget was hampered by the unexpected approximate \$100,000 in vehicle maintenance; anticipated total is \$240,000 by year end. The Chief will have a revised version ready for the Budget Workshop in mid-November.

Impact Fees

David Park presented the Exception Waiver List and a checklist for application consideration by the Board. There was much discussion on both documents with the Board stressing the importance of consideration of Public Benefit. Once the list is approved, Notice of such will be given to the Town of Oak Creek and Routt County.

Fire Camp

Chief Glauthier reported the SUP is in progress and the District is addressing the comments from Routt County. The Chief thinks it will be Nov -Dec before the approval comes through, which means housing for the crews next year will not be in place until July at best. This means the District will need to secure housing again in expensive and random units until the project can be completed. This will again put a financial strain on the District which is believed to be unnecessary.

New Fire Station

Chief Glauthier reported that the Soroco High School has the results of their survey, and it shows the community would like to see and renovation of the current structure and an addition of 50% new structure. The quote for the design of a new station from OZ Architects came in at around \$325,000. There are many options on the table to be discussed at a later date.

Chief's Report

- **Crew & Calls:** The Chief reported that the call volume is lower than last year. The crews did respond to a structure fire that originated from oily rags in a can in the garage. Steamboat & Yampa Fire also responded, and no other structures were threatened. In that same couple of days, the EMS crews responded to a CPR and other medical calls and there was HazMat spill on Hwy 131.
- **Mitigation & Deployments:** The Mitigation crews have been very busy this season, and the department has a growing good reputation in the field. Single Resource Task Force Leaders have been approved for Brady Glauthier and Tim Hohnbaum through field work. The engines did well with only one repair during a deployment.
- There is a new project on the radar for the District. Sprinkler House Systems. Once approved and installed, this system will protect homes during a wildfire incident by increasing the humidity surrounding the home and elevating the risk of losing the home to fire. More discussion to follow.
- The Chief did let the Board know at the regular staff meeting, the crews conveyed the concerns over the negative view of the District by the community. The crews work very hard to be there when anyone in the community is in need and to do quality and professional work all the time. They had some very good ideas to help get good accurate information out and to engage in the community more in a positive light, from attending the Board meeting and conducting school presentations, putting information in the newsletters, etc. Mike Roach expressed concerns about the misinformation that is out in the public and would like to find ways to correct this. Everyone hopes it is only a few vocal people are the ones creating this and everyone at the District will work hard to improve the image of the department by interaction and good work.
- The District does have its first intern in quite a while, Ethan Lozano is a Soroco graduate that has been working with and studying for many months and is responding with the crews on calls. Congratulations to Ethan on your hard work and dedication.
- Karrie Littman let the Board know the ladies of the Historical Society will be providing dinner for the crews before the next Board meeting as a thank you for all the assistance given during the moves during the roof project and preparing to open for Labor Day. Thank you, Ladies- looking forward to your homecooked delights.
- **Housing in Oak Creek-** The apartment on the first floor of the laundry is ready to move into for the On-Duty crew, but the rent was increased by a hefty amount. The Chief asked for guidance from the Board, the District could continue to rent the 2nd floor apartment for \$1,500 to house the On-Duty crews in Oak Creek or move into the nice 1st floor unit for \$2,300 plus utilities. The Board appreciates the importance of having a crew in Oak

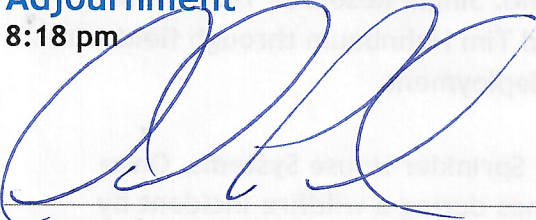
Creek and approved the 2nd floor apartment for \$1,500. There are still staff living in the Stagecoach station to cover that section of the District.

Community Input

Dan Schaughnessy was introduced as the newest member of Oak Creek Fire, coming from Chicago Fire and looking to become part of the community. Welcome Dan!

Adjournment

8:18 pm



President- David Park



Date of approval