

KETCHUM RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

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James E. Gray

Chairman

Earl Engelmann

Secretary

Sarah Michael

Treasurer

Rich Bauer

Fire Chief

Regular Meeting of the Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District

December 09, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman – James E. Gray
Treasurer – Sarah Michael (via telephone)
Secretary - Earl Engelmann
Sun Valley Fire Chief – Taan Robrahn
Ketchum Rural Fire District Chief – Rich Bauer
Administrative Assistant – Trish Smith
Public

CALL TO ORDER.

Chairman Gray called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 2020 CLAIMS

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the December 2020 Claims; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Engelmann
 Commissioner Michael
 Chairman Gray

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray declared the motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 18, 2020 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the November 18, 2020 Special Meeting Minutes; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Engelmann
 Commissioner Michael
 Chairman Gray

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray declared the motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2020-05 MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2021

Chairman Gary stated he will hopefully be out of town February 6th through February 27th but can phone into the meeting. Commissioner Engelmann stated his schedule is currently up in the air but will probably be out of town for most of the month of May but can also call into the scheduled meeting. Commissioner Michael has no travel plans, and supports the 2021 meeting schedule.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve Resolution 2020-05 Meeting Schedule for the year 2021; seconded by Commissioner Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Engelmann
 Commissioner Michael
 Chairman Gray

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray declared the motion carried.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION 2020-06 PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCING REQUESTS FOR THE NEW PUMPER/TENDER

Chairman Gray is in favor of Zions Bank financing proposal. It is the lowest interest rate at 1.8% and it does not have a prepayment penalty. The PNC proposal lists no fees; however, they do have a prepayment penalty after 2 years. MCM has a prepayment penalty of 1% and their interest rate is 2.9%.

Commissioner Michael agreed that the most cost effective is Zions Bank.

Commissioner Engelmann agreed with Commissioner Michael's assessment.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve Resolution 2020-06 financing by Zions Bank for the new pumper tender; seconded by Commissioner Michael. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Engelmann
 Commissioner Michael
 Chairman Gray

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray declared the motion carried.

REPORT OF THE BLAINE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING 12/08/2020 -
CHAIRMAN GRAY

Chairman Gray thanked almost everyone in the room for their attendance at the Blaine County Commissioners meeting yesterday. It was very informative for the County Commissioners to understand, not only the need to change our name, but also how we operate with our transparency. Chairman Gray thanked Commissioner Engelmann for broaching the ambulance subject, while it was not part of the general topic there, Chairman Gray feels it is very important for the county commissioners to understand that we collectively with ourselves and other fire districts are interested in having ambulance support throughout the valley, to provide the quickest service we can to the public. About the name change, after a discussion, both Chairman Greenberg and Commissioner Fosbury stated they would be more comfortable with a name change if our new name was "North Blaine County Fire and Rescue" instead of just "Blaine County Fire and Rescue".

Chairman Gray opened public comment.

Chief Bateman of Wood River Fire and Rescue acknowledged and apologized for being a bit tongue tied at the county commissioners meeting yesterday. He prepared some thoughts which he shared with Chief Robrahn prior to the meeting; a name change story from his time in Colorado that he felt germaned the dialogue culminating in an assertion that the name less than the values that drive the organization that he has seen here, in a printed version. He submitted the printed version for our records.

Chief Bateman stated he shared these thoughts with the Wood River Fire and Rescue Commissioners, and they were supportive of that decision. His reply to the question asked of him in the county commissioner's meeting yesterday regarding his opinion of our proposed new name. He does not have an opinion one way or another. Autonomy is a large slice of an ethical theory that has been taught in leadership classes for the better part of a decade. For Chief Bateman, autonomy means that rational beings or organizations may do what they want if their actions do not harm other people. Your name does not harm Wood River Fire and Rescue in any way. Chief Bateman's primary concern from yesterday's meeting was that they continue to return to the same talking points without moving forward on the issue. Wood River Fire and Rescue wants to be a partner and support Ketchum Rural Fire District in that regard.

Richard Canfield attended the Blaine County Commissioner meeting yesterday and stated his takeaway was the concern the county commissioners had about potential confusion between Blaine County Search and Rescue that has existed for quite some time, and Blaine County Fire and Rescue. Mr. Canfield has made it clear that he has no issue with the word "rescue" being in the name. He believes all departments are involved in rescues if need be. From his point of view, the idea of making it clear geographically, and clearly stating the primary area of responsibility, would be the rural part of the northern part of Blaine County. He believes the primary responsibility, the electors and the funding come from the northern, rural part of Blaine County, and believed the name should reflect that. Although upon hearing Commissioner Engelmann suggested compromise at yesterday's county commissioner meeting of "North Blaine County Fire", Mr. Canfield feels that is a reasonable compromise.

Chief Robrahn is supportive of moving forward with the name North Blaine County Fire and Rescue.

Chief Bauer concurred with Chief Robrahn. He further stated that Chairman Greenberg stated multiple times yesterday that he is copacetic with the North Blaine County name. Out of respect for the county commissioner's opinions, Chief Bauer thinks North Blaine County Fire and Rescue is a great name.

Chairman Gray stated another issue discussed at the meeting yesterday is assuming an identity in a community. He thinks once we complete the name change, we should create a program

to inform the public, especially those within our district, that we are indeed an independent and separate taxing and fire district. In future meetings, we can put together a plan to publicly bring this information forward.

Commissioner Michael was able to listen to part of the Blaine County Commissioners meeting yesterday and supports the North Blaine County name. She viewed the North Ada County website and stated while their official name is North Ada County Fire and Rescue District, they simply list the name as North Ada County on their website. Commissioner Michael wishes to add the word district to our name because it does indicate we are a taxing district. She would like to have the new name be North Blaine County Fire and Rescue District.

Commissioner Engelmann thought the Blaine County Commissioners' meeting went well. In the spirit of consideration and cooperation with the Blaine County Commissioners, he is fine with the name North Blaine County Fire District. He believes the name change does not mean much unless we go out and educate the

public with who we are, what we do, and our vision for the future. He further stated that we should follow up with continued education, especially the people we represent in our district.

Chief Bauer being a firefighter for 26 years, thinks the name Blaine County Fire and Rescue District is too long. It could become cumbersome in day-to-day activities in the office. It could be troublesome in the office because official stamps are required on building plans when they are approved. And when you think about logos, T-shirts, and such, it is just too long. His suggestion is to either choose the "Fire and Rescue" or the "Fire District".

Chief Robrahn concurs with Chief Bauer.

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to change the name of the "Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District" to "North Blaine County Fire District" and begin the process of a proposed name change again; seconded by Commissioner Engelmann. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Engelmann
 Commissioner Michael
 Chairman Gray

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray declared the motion carried.

Public Comment Closed

MONTHLY UPDATE – CHIEF BAUER.

Chief Bauer thanked the commissioners for their support with the name change, he believes it will greatly increase our efficiency and help us create a new identity for the fire district which he believes is essential. He also thanked the commissioners for approving the financing for the new pumper tender. This will be an incredible piece of apparatus for Ketchum Rural. He reported that between Ketchum Rural Fire District and Sun Valley Fire Department we will be carrying an impressive amount of water on wheels. This will greatly aid our efforts to protect the community. There was a fire on Thanksgiving Day around 5:00pm. The fire

was in the Meadows RV park, the family was sitting down to dinner when their home began to fill with smoke. Engine 2 arrived on scene to find smoke in the home with no visible flames. Theo Rich was the first on scene and took initial incident command. Tanker 2 arrived almost simultaneous to Chief Bauer 's arrival. Chief Bauer instructed the fire fighters to remove the skirting from around the bottom of the home where they found the insulation was on fire. The fire was quickly extinguished and there was no intrusion into the home. The interior of the home did suffer some smoke damage. Faulty heat tape was the cause of this incident. Chief Bauer thanked Ketchum Fire Department, Wood River Fire & Rescue and Hailey Fire for their assistance.

Oftentimes, we hold large after-action reviews, but with the recent uptick in Covid cases, we declined to hold a large after-action review of the Canyon Road fire. Instead, Chief Bauer asked for comments from any personnel involved in the fire. He received great comments from Theo Rich and Nate Galpin, as well as Trey Knox from Wood River Fire & Rescue. The Chiefs will be creating a document from those comments highlighting areas of improvement to use as a learning tool. Chief Bauer replied to Bill Mancert's email regarding the use of the work "rescue" in the previously proposed new name but did not receive a response.

Chief Bauer got a phone call from Tim Hanna, a Greenhorn Station resident, and a personal trainer. He has a client who is interested in making a donation to the Greenhorn Fire Station in the form of potentially purchasing each one of the residential units their own portable radios. This would be a great way to enhance better communications. Sometimes, due to the location of the station cell service is not the best. The portable radios have more power and receive a better signal. The radios will live and belong to the individual housing units.

Chairman Gray asked if we can we enhance the system by installing a repeater there? Chief Bauer responded by saying he believed Chief Elle previously researched that topic, and some of the problems with the VHF radio system that we operate on is the mountains. The station is in a shadow of Baldy and it is unclear if a repeater will help the situation any, but Chief Bauer will research this further with the assistance of Captain Black since that is his area of expertise. Captain Black stated we could research the possibility of a link and ascertain what the cost would be. Chairman Gray appreciates the fact that there is a private citizen who is willing to assist Ketchum Rural Fire District with the purchase of radios for our residences.

Chief Bauer stated the radios were suggested by Tim Hanna to his client when asked how he could help. Our residents are skilled, and intelligent people. We really appreciate all their hard work and thoughtfulness.

Looking back on this year, with the pandemic and all that we have encountered, Chief Bauer is amazed by what everyone has accomplished, from the commissioners, to Sun Valley's management of Ketchum Rural, it has been an incredible year, and we have many great things to come. He appreciates everyone's assistance.

Commissioner Michael thanked Chief Bauer for the data and charts he provided regarding to response times. She would like a presentation of the data at our next meeting. Chief Bauer thanked Lieutenant Jimmy Bowman for compiling the data, which is not just Ketchum Rural response information, but the combined response of Sun Valley Fire Department and Ketchum Rural Fire District as we do operate as one department.

MONTHLY UPDATE – CHIEF ROBRAHN.

Chief Robrahn thanked everyone for their hard work this year. Trish did an amazing job yesterday at the county commissioners meeting, she was well prepared, and it really showed. He thanked Wood River Fire & Rescue Chief Bateman and Commissioner Bailet for attending our meeting today and their continuing collaboration. It shows the willingness to work together to improve the ways we serve our communities. Recently the Sun Valley City Council approved a 457 Plan for the employees and paid on call fire-fighters. This is thanks to the City Administrator Walt Femling, Mayor Peter Hendricks, and the entire City Council for approving this bonus for the staff and paid on call fire-fighters. They will have the ability to create a state retirement plan that they may contribute a portion of their paycheck to. It is another great benefit that we can offer our fire-fighters and help them to be more prepared for the future.

Chief Robrahn congratulated Matt Hansen who recently completed his paramedic schooling at CSI (College of Southern Idaho). He passed all the required tests at the school level; next he will complete his national registry. We are all very proud of him.

Chairman Gray asked if the retirement program is through PERSI (Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho)?

Chief Robrahn replied it is not through PERSI, it is through Nationwide.

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Gray would like to discuss in the future, how an ambulance could be staffed at the Greenhorn Station. In previous meetings the topic has been broached about having personnel on site ready to respond at all times, not just live ins who have other jobs elsewhere. Chief Bauer was asked to investigate converting a room for full time staffing at Greenhorn Station.

Chairman Gray further stated that a member of the public recently brought up the fact that some exercise equipment was donated to Ketchum Rural Fire District. He wanted to make sure that Ketchum Rural understands that any future repairs, maintenance and/or liability lies solely on the shoulders of the Ketchum Rural Fire District. Chairman Gray believes this equipment is insured under our policy but requested Trish to converse with ICRMP (Idaho Counties Risk Management Program) regarding this coverage.

Commissioner Michael stated she would like us to revisit holding our public meetings virtually. She believes holding virtual meetings will increase participation including not only public citizens, but also the press. Commissioner Michael attended the county commissioners meeting via GoToMeeting yesterday, and noted there were a bunch of people watching and listening to that meeting. Stating from Trish's research when this topic was first discussed at the Ketchum Rural Fire District Special Meeting held on June 25, 2020; Ketchum Rural would need to purchase a camera for \$900.00, a microphone for \$200.00 and speakers. It would also require an additional person to administer that type of meeting. She believes there is an opportunity to request that one of our volunteer fire fighters administer this type of meeting for 2 hours each month. It would not be prohibitively expensive. Commissioner Michael stated there is no question that people prefer to attend meetings virtually as opposed to in person. She would like to move forward with a virtual meeting plan, or request that the staff present a plan for our next meeting, so we can start streaming our meetings in January 2021.

Chairman Gray believes it would be premature to stream our meetings prior to the completion of our name change.

Commissioner Engelmann stated he did notice a lot of people listed on the screen and the county commissioner's meeting that had joined via GoToMeeting. Most of those people simply listened and did not comment. He also stated that he, in the past has listened to the City of Ketchum meetings that can be streamed with

listening capability. He asked if such a capability was available here at the City of Sun Valley.

Nancy Flannigan, the City Clerk for the City of Sun Valley stated she met briefly with Trish this morning and may have found a few options at little or no cost to the District. Option one is the Granicus system, which is the streaming system used by the City of Sun Valley. There is a tab on the Sun Valley website that is not in use. It is under the "Government", "Agendas & Packets", "Meeting Audio, Agendas & Minutes" tab. The capability is available to stream the audio of the Ketchum Rural Fire District meetings on the City of Sun Valley's website. That tab can be designated to the Ketchum Rural Fire District at no cost. A separate idea is that the Ketchum Rural website can be housed on the City of Sun Valley's website under the tabs "Government", "City Departments", "Fire". Nancy will confirm, but as it stands now, the District can have access to live audio of their meetings on the City of Sun Valley website at no cost. Nancy is awaiting confirmation regarding the cost, or lack thereof.

Chairman Gray would like this as an action item on our January 13, 2021 meeting agenda and requested that Nancy Flannigan confirm through the City of Sun Valley the logistics of it all. Commissioner Engelmann thinks this would be a great first step. Even the people who attend our meetings, mostly want to listen, not participate. The ones who do want to participate, like Mr. Canfield do attend our meetings in person. He further stated it would be great to have our meetings streamed for citizens to listen to, just like the City of Ketchum and City of Sun Valley Council meetings. Nancy Flannigan confirmed that is how the City of Sun Valley Council and Planning and Zoning meetings are held. Chairman Gray does not believe video is all that important and believes streaming our meetings live would work out well. Commissioner Michael asked if someone wanted to submit public comment, would they email the Mayor or the City Clerk since it is not an interactive system? Chairman Gray answered by saying people would submit any public comment if they are not attending in person, by emailing Trish prior to the meeting. This information is listed on our meeting agendas.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Richard Canfield stated it is a great idea to be able to listen to meetings via audio. He tries to attend all meetings, but sometimes he cannot, and being able to listen from home would be beneficial. Yesterday Commissioner Greenberg stated that he would try to attend today's meeting and asked if he would attend through GoToMeeting or Zoom. Mr. Canfield stated that basically the whole country is

functioning on Zoom. People are online and are comfortable with finding some way of listening and knowing what is going on. It adds to community knowledge and information about the efforts that Ketchum Rural is putting forward to establish an identity in the county.

Furthermore, Mr. Canfield, after hearing about the donation for the radios, wanted to mention as a retired school superintendent, most school systems that he has been involved with have what they refer to as procedural guidelines. His suggestion for a guideline for Ketchum Rural would be that when anyone wishes to donate to the Ketchum Rural Fire District, that it be brought to the Commissioners, and then they would take a vote whether to accept the donation. This ensures the donation is read into the public record because the district needs to accept responsibility for any upkeep, replacement, or liability for equipment, it protects everyone because as a legal entity accepting a donation it is made public, and the board can acknowledge with thanks. This is just a suggestion he thinks we may want to consider moving forward.

Chairman Gray thanked Mr. Canfield for his suggestion.

Chief Bauer explained how donations are received. As it stands now, there is a Ketchum/Sun Valley Fire-Fighters Association. That donation will be routed through the 501C-3 account that is already established. This donor specifically stated the donation is for portable radios for the Greenhorn Fire Station, then the funds are filtered through the 501C-3 that is currently in place. Chief Bauer does appreciate Mr. Canfield's comment about a public acknowledgement because he feels it is very important to acknowledge our appreciation. Mr. Canfield's understanding of the donations to the Ketchum/Sun Valley Fire-Fighters Association the funds go to both Ketchum and Sun Valley, and that donations are made and specifically assigned to purchase items for the District then it should be made clear. Chief Bauer stated that is the process that Lieutenant H. Storey has explained that anytime a person or entity donating funds who request they be used to specific items, or for specific companies, we honor their wishes.

Commissioner Michael stated she has worked with fiscal sponsors like the volunteer association, it is possible to create our own separate bank account under their auspices and that way the money goes directly into a bank account with our name on it. If the board is interested, Commissioner Michael would work with Chief Bauer and explain to him how that process has worked with other non-profit organizations. Chairman Gray believes as a political entity, we would not have the capabilities of gaining non-profit status, although that is a question for an attorney. Commissioner Michael explained that the Ketchum/Sun Valley Fire-

Fighters Association is a 501C-3 and, if the association were to agree, we can create a separate bank account, under their 5013-C and receive charitable donations so that people can obtain tax write offs. Chairman Gray questioned if that is necessary. City Administrator Walt Femling stated it will be necessary for the housing projects. Commissioner Engelmann thinks if we are going to be asking people for donations for the housing, maybe we should look into this. Chairman Gray asked Chief Bauer to converse with the association about us setting up such an account. Chief Bauer agrees this is something that we should certainly do for the housing project, but the majority of the money donated to the association is not earmarked for something, and it should continue to be that way, unless anyone thinks otherwise. He does believe this would be beneficial for the housing project donations. Walt Femling stated we are not ready for this at this point. When we are ready to roll out the housing campaign, then we will want to obtain an account such as this. We do not need to do this now.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Michael seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken.

AYES: Commissioner Engelmann
 Commissioner Michael
 Chairman Gray

NAYS: None.

Chairman Gray declared the motion carried.

Adjournment 11:07 AM



James E. Gray, Commissioner/Chairman



Earl Engelmann, Commissioner/Secretary