

KETCHUM RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 416/100 Arrowleaf Road
Sun Valley, Idaho 83353

Phone: (208) 622-8234
Fax: (208) 622-7600

James E. Gray

Chairman

Earl Engelmann

Secretary

Sarah Michael

Treasurer

Rich Bauer

Fire Chief

Virtual Special Meeting of the Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District April 15, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman – James E. Gray
Treasurer – Sarah Michael
Secretary - Earl Engelmann
Director of Public Safety – Walt Femling
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 COMMENTS.

None.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the March 11, 2020 meeting minutes; 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.

MOTION

Commissioner Engelmann moved to approve the Claims; 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.

2020 BUDGET HEARING

Director Femling and Chief Bauer are working together on the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget. Director Femling will have a presentation for discussion at the Regular Meeting scheduled for June 10, 2020 at 10:00AM.

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to approve a Special Meeting on June 25, 2020 at 10:00AM to discuss the Fiscal Year 2021 preliminary budget among other items and to hold a Budget Hearing on August 12, 2020 at 10:00AM to review and adopt the Fiscal Year 2021 Budget for Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District; 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.

AUTO AID AGREEMENT WITH WOOD RIVER FIRE & RESCUE AND SUN VALLEY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Michael asked if this proposed agreement was the same auto aid agreement, we have with Ketchum Fire Department. Chief Bauer described the differences. The auto aid agreement with Wood River states that a crew of 2 personnel will respond. The auto aid agreement with Ketchum Fire Department has a crew of 3 personnel responding. The auto aid agreement with Wood River Fire & Rescue and Sun Valley Fire Department is a real auto aid agreement, there

is not a caveat that ensures each district is covered first. We will get personnel out the door to handle the emergency at hand. In conversations with Chief Bateman, this seems to be in the best interest of all the constituents of both fire districts. Chairman Gray suggested we modify our auto aid agreement with the Ketchum Fire Department to be the same as the auto aid agreement with Wood River Fire & Rescue and Sun Valley Fire Department. Chief Robrahn stated, this auto aid agreement has been shared with Chief McLaughlin of the Ketchum Fire Department to see if they would be interested in modifying the auto aid agreement, we currently hold with them. He also said Idaho Statute states that we should have 2 people outside for every 2 people inside, for a safety factor for the fire fighters. That was our goal, to get more personnel helping each other quicker for their safety. We have not received feedback from Chief McLaughlin yet. Chairman Gray thinks it's a good idea to have the auto aid agreements identical. Director Femling stated the auto aid agreement with Wood River Fire & Rescue and Sun Valley Fire Department is a better agreement. The agreement with Ketchum Fire Department states they need to back fill their department before they assist. Ketchum Rural had some fires last October where we did not receive help from Ketchum Fire Department for several hours. This agreement with Wood River Fire & Rescue and Sun Valley Fire Department gets a better and safer response. Commissioner Engelmann thinks it's a good agreement and agrees the priority is to get personnel out. Commissioner Michael was appreciative for further explanation of the differences between the agreements.

MOTION

Commissioner Michael moved to approve the Fire Service Automatic Aid Agreement between Wood River Fire and Rescue, Sun Valley Fire Department and Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District; 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.

MONTHLY UPDATE – CHIEF BAUER

Chief Bauer thanked the Commissioners and the City of Sun Valley for all their support during the Covid-19 pandemic. One of the Ketchum Rural residents was quarantined due to an exposure however he is back in service and not showing any symptoms. The only resident we are currently missing is Isaac Blundell. He works full time for the Caldwell Fire Department and his Chief didn't want him to return to the Wood River Valley until the situation in Blaine County deescalated. He should be returning to the Greenhorn station next week. Chief Bauer has been serving as the safety officer on the Blaine County Fire Chiefs Incident Management Team, helping to ensure the safety of all personnel during the crisis. Chief Robrahn and Captain Black have also been serving on that team. The trio had been attending daily briefings for over 2 weeks while the crisis was at its peak. Those briefings have now been scaled back to just Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

Chief Bauer has been working on securing antibody testing for all Blaine county fire and EMS personnel. The testing is currently set up with the Valley Apothecary and a study is being done by Stanford University. Prior to this Chief Bauer and his wife Summer were able to secure a private anonymous donor to help fund a testing project offered by his physician. We pivoted when we learned the Valley Apothecary was willing to test our first responders for free. We can now use the generous donation for other valuable projects within the Ketchum/Sun Valley Fire Fighters Association. Chief Bauer continues to complete plan reviews and approve building permits, so the builders can return to work when restrictions are lifted. Chief Bauer thanked Chief Robrahn, Chief Bateman, Commissioner Michael and everyone who participated in the grant application meeting with the Wood River Woman's Foundation. The Ski and Mountain Trauma Conference was selected as one of the projects to receive grant funding. Chief Bauer thanked the Sun Valley Fire Department duty staff who have been testing our cisterns in Ketchum Rural. The support from Sun Valley to Ketchum Rural has been amazing. We continue to work on our water supply, including updating cistern locations, map books and getting the cisterns positively identified with the location poles. Chief Bauer thanked fire fighter Theo Rich who has been busy signing off the Greenhorn live in residents on the wildland engine 10. All but one resident has been signed off. We continue to look toward getting the shift assist up and running, however Chief Bauer is cautious because we have a lot of unknown factors right now with the Covid-19 virus, and the wildfire season approaching. We don't know what support we may have from federal resources. Ketchum Fire has indicated they will be of

little assistance due to a lack of equipment. Chief Bauer thanked the City of Sun Valley for all their support to include the remote workstation access and technical support which has enabled us to continue to work and move forward during the crisis. The support has been awesome, and we haven't missed a beat.

Chairman Gray thanked Chief Bauer for his report, and continued updates through the crisis. He also thanked all the personnel in the City of Sun Valley and the Fire Department for all they do. Chairman Gray stated it's as good as it can be in a tough situation.

Commissioner Englemann suggested, since a lot of people have lost their jobs recently, that we allow on a volunteer basis the paid-on call fire fighters to complete the spring clean-up and landscaping at the fire stations instead of hiring a landscaping company to complete the work. Chairman Gray asked if the paid-on call fire fighters were willing to complete this work. Chief Bauer thinks it's a good idea to pay them their regular hourly wage and schedule them for a rural shift assist, and one of their tasks will be the spring clean-up. He feels certain, they would be happy to have the work.

MONTHLY UPDATE – CHIEF ROBRAHN

Chief Robrahn stated that was a great update by Chief Bauer, it covered a lot of what we've been working on. Chief Bauer and Chief Robrahn have been talking about a plan for the station clean-up as part of the shift assist program, there is a good plan in place to start the program. The residents are looking forward to being involved in the spring clean-up and assisting with the testing of our water supplies. Chief Robrahn was hoping to have a capital and master improvement plan to share at this meeting, however with the Covid-19 pandemic, we have not had the time to be able to create that document. Chief Robrahn, Chief Bauer and Director Femling are coordinating and developing a capital and master improvement plan for the Ketchum Rural Fire District.

MONTHLY UPDATE – DIRECTOR FEMLING

Director Femling has been in touch with Chief Robrahn and Chief Bauer regarding current projects.

DISCUSSION REGARDING POSSIBLE COLLABORATION WITH ISFCA

Commissioner Michael had spoken with the Executive Director of IFSCA regarding 2021 legislation to amend Idaho Code 31-1411 to lower from 40 acres to 1 acre, the size on non-contiguous property eligible for annexation into rural fire districts.

The Executive Director stated Kuna Fire District had been considering it for some time. There is a process by which the association reviews legislation, they're not sure how they will proceed this year, because they usually discuss legislation at their annual meeting. They are not having an annual meeting this year.

Commissioner Michael would like to interface with their legislative committee to see if they would be a partner in sponsoring this legislation. Commissioner Michael believes it would be easier if we have other rural fire districts interested in co-sponsoring legislation rather than being solely a Ketchum Rural Fire Protection District sponsored item. It would be great to have support from other fire districts across the state, seeking this legislation together. Commissioner Michael would like to explore the potential for collaboration through the IFSCA. Chairman Gray thinks it's a great idea and believes we would stand a better chance with more interested fire districts. Commissioner Englemann approves the idea, and thanked Commissioner Michael for taking this project on. Commissioner Michael will provide a report of her findings.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Gray has not heard from the attorney regarding our by-laws. He did not expect to hear from him until the middle of April. Chairman Gray will call the attorney if he hasn't heard from him by the end of the month.

ASSIGNED TASKS:

Director Femling will work on a preliminary budget for the 2021 fiscal year and present it at the regular meeting in June, scheduled for June 10, 2020 at 10:00AM.

Chief Robrahn, Chief Bauer and Director Femling will continue to work on a capital and master improvement plan for Ketchum Rural Fire District.

Commissioner Michael will provide a report of her findings regarding the collaboration with IFSCA of potentially co-sponsoring legislation to amend Idaho Code 31-1411.

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 10:57 AM

Approved virtually
James E. Gray, Commissioner/Chairman

Approved Virtually
Earl Engelmann, Commissioner/Secretary