

## **FIRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 5:30 p.m.**

### **I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Chairman Dan P. Olsen.

#### **Members Present:**

Jerry Brothers, *Home Atherton VFD*  
Dan Callahan, *BSB Commissioner #12*  
Patrick Doherty, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
Michael Hoyt, *Little Basin Creek VFC*  
Chris Mjelde, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
Dan Olsen, *BSB Commissioner #5*  
Chad Silk, *BSB Career Fire Dept.*  
George Stone, *Terra Verde VFD*

#### **Guests Present:**

None

#### **Members Absent:** None

- Reading and Approval of Minutes
  - George Stone moved to approve the minutes; Pat Doherty seconded the motion.
    - The November 13, 2018, Minutes were unanimously approved.

### **II. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA**

None.

### **III. SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

No Secretary/Treasurer at this time.

- Outstanding balance in TIFID fund
  - Funds allocated to date:
    - On behalf of Fire Chief Jeff Miller, BSB Firefighter Chris Mjelde handed out a budget report and conveyed that the TIFID fund has a balance of \$142,206.25 as of the February 5, 2019, Butte-Silver Bow General Ledger – On Demand Report.
      - Chris Mjelde stated that Chief Miller wanted to emphasize that this balance includes the \$30,000 reserve; and, that the additional 31 SCBA bottles approved at the June 12, 2018, meeting **have not** been purchased yet. That purchase would be approximately \$10,000.00.
    - The question was asked when will we be able to put in our next

requests. Do we have to wait until the next budget is approved? Chairman Olsen stated that if there is an emergency request that we can look at the request at that time. The request would go through the normal process.

- Shelly Jones provided a DRAFT spreadsheet of all the department's 2018/2019 requests, which included the original purchase order amount (after the committee reviewed and approved the original quotes and sent their recommendation to Fire Chief Jeff Miller) and the actual amount that was paid to each vendor (shipping charges were not always included in the quote). A final document will be provided at the next meeting.
- New member, Michael Hoyt, asked questions about the TIFID Fund process. Discussion included when the TIFID Fund is subsidized, the estimated amount of funding (approximately \$100,000.00), the normal process for department requests, that the TIFID will sunset in the next two (2) or three (3) years, and that the BSB Fire Department's future budgets will need to include funding for the replacement of SCBA bottles and PPE. Chairman Olsen will provide copies of the Fire Advisory Committee by-laws and procedures to Mr. Hoyt.

#### IV. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

- None

#### V. OLD BUSINESS

- **Review Department Needs**
  - None
- **Formalize the New Planned SCBA Replacement**
  - Captain Chuck Janhunen was not able to attend the meeting.
  - Jerry Brothers questioned why used, refurbished bottles were purchased when the Fire Advisory Committee recommended purchasing new bottles. He said that Chief Miller was going to give us (the committee) a report at this meeting.
  - - Chief Miller was not able to attend the meeting due to a family medical emergency. Chris Mjelde said he does not know why that happened. Chris explained that Chief Miller asked him to relay to everyone that we ended up with 40 reconditioned, 15-year old bottles that passed the test. It was asked if we sent in our old bottles when we received the reconditioned bottles, and the answer was no.

- Jerry Brothers really doesn't know how that could happen when we allotted for new ones and how did we end up with used. Chris Mjelde reiterated that he does not know how it happened, but new bottles run \$528.00. They are \$600 each, but if you buy a certain amount you get a 12% discount. Chief Miller asked Chris to pass along that we have 40 bottles now that are good for five (5) years. To explain further, the \$425.00 bottles are \$325.00/bottle right now, but at year 20 of their life it will cost \$50 to recertify again, and then again at the bottle's 25-year life it will cost another \$50.00, shipping is included in that price.
- If we were to return these bottles now, they will only give us \$150.00/bottle back. We would end up with a loss of \$175.00/bottle. Chief Miller is leaning towards keeping the 40 bottles. Chris conveyed that Chief Miller would like the committee to discuss if we want to buy new bottles at \$528.00/bottle. Jerry Brothers said we had a lot better deal out of Helena – from Heiman.
- This topic was discussed further – new versus used and sending the refurbished bottles back every five (5) years. Jerry Brothers wanted to know why when public money is allotted for something, how does it get changed is what he doesn't understand. Who made the decision to go to that and never call anybody. Chad Silk said there was absolutely no cruel intent. Jerry said: "But, this is public money." He asked, "Isn't their rules and regulations when we are going to buy new and somebody makes the decision to buy used? Is that okay? Are we just going to sweep it under the rug?" He then said used bottles as far as he is concerned is that a bottle is a bottle.
- Chairman Olsen stated that we are an advisory board, and we took everybody's opinion and advised Chief Miller to go buy them – the board was clear as an advisory board that we don't see any advantage financially to go with the re-certified bottles, and that we should buy new. Somewhere it got lost in the communications, and that is why he wants to make it clear that we are an advisory board, but it is Jeff's decision. We can advise him to do that, but it is really up to him. If it gets to be a problem, we can address it at that point, but it just got screwed up someplace.
- Mike Hoyt's questions were answered regarding the history of previous discussions and the process of replacing the bottles. Jerry Brothers also explained the proposed plan of exchanging bottles with Little Basin Creek (LBC) VFC.
- Chad Silk said that per Chief Miller that we (career) would be happy to keep the reconditioned bottles.

- The topic of bottle replacement continued reciting previous discussions. Chairman Olsen said that the goal here is not who is getting the new bottles; we need to take it as a “department,” volunteer and paid just like the hose replacement. We just need to ask, do all the departments have enough currently certified bottles to get the job done. Chairman Olsen said we are not the “paid” and “volunteer.” We are the Butte Fire Department, the equipment is all of Butte-Silver Bow’s, we need to work together with whatever we need to keep the citizenry of Butte safe – Let’s do it. Let’s not say – no, we bought those.
  - Jerry Brothers did ask that for the record, he wanted to mention that Captain Chuck Janhunen has done some work on their (Home Atherton’s) SCBAs and he has been a fantastic guy to work with and he did a great job. A lot of times guys don’t get a pat on the back, and he went above and beyond.
  - The committee would like to formalize the plan for the SCBA bottle replacement next month. Mike Hoyt would like to have the plan in writing so that he can go back and share it with Chief Jim Ross, Little Basin Creek VFC. Mike said nothing has been in writing, numbers are thrown out in the air, and it seems the plan has changed. Jerry Brothers will bring the plan to the next meeting.
  - George Stone mentioned that the Fire Advisory Committee has pre-approved bottle replacements for the next couple of years to get them on a rotating basis.

## **VI. NEW BUSINESS**

- Rural Response Plan
  - Jerry Brothers did not have anything further for this discussion tonight.
    - Statements were made that we just need to add Big Butte & Home Atherton VFDs’ tender to the Rural Response Plan.
    - Jerry Brothers asked that when career folks are responding in their area, could they notify dispatch to call the respective volunteer departments out if they (Career) are responding in their district.
      - Chad Silk said that if they are responding to wrecks, the volunteers would not be called. He said that if he remembers, he would do that. It is Dispatch’s responsibility to call them out.
      - Chris Mjelde mentioned that if they are heading to an incident, they are pretty busy getting ready, and that not everyone has the map memorized.
    - Chairman Olsen said that he and Jerry Brothers would like to set a meeting up with Dave McPherson.

- George Stone said that the plan may just need a few tweaks to include the tenders. They (Big Butte and Home Atherton) did not have the tenders when the response plan was created.
- Dispatch does have a copy of the Rural Response Plan.
- Chairman Olsen brought to everyone's attention that a Jefferson County commissioner contacted him about them (Jefferson County) being able to put on our (BSB's) tax bills to put a \$29.00 fee for ambulance service for responses from Pipestone to Waterloo that are for Silver Bow County residents. Discussion ensued.

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**VII. NEXT MEETING DATE – TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2019, AT 5:30 p.m.**

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**VIII. ADJOURNED**

Dan Callahan made a motion to adjourn the meeting, and George Stone seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

CC: Chief Executive Dave Palmer  
Dan Olsen, Chairman, Fire Advisory  
Chief Jeff Miller, Director Fire Services  
Chuck Janhunen, Captain BSB Fire Department  
Sheriff Ed Lester, BSB Law Enforcement  
Dave McPherson, 9-1-1 Dispatch Supervisor