

**CORTEZ FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
October 9, 2013**

CALL TO ORDER

President Bridgewater called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the meeting room at Station #1. Roll call followed and the board members present were Orly Lucero, Keenan Ertel, and Jim Bridgewater. Kent Lindsay and Lori Johnson were absent. Administrative Assistant Wendy Mimiaga, Asst. Chief Charles Balke and Chief Jeff Vandevorode were present for the meeting.

Orly Lucero made a motion to excuse Kent Lindsay and Lori Johnson from the meeting, Keenan Ertel seconded. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	Bridgewater
Yes	absent	yes	absent	yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting and the regular meeting, both held on September 11, 2013, were brought before the board for approval.

Orly Lucero made a motion to approve the minutes for both the Fiscal Affairs Committee and the regular Board of Directors meeting held on September 11, 2013, Keenan Ertel seconded. The minutes for both meetings were approved on the following vote:

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	Bridgewater
Yes	excused	yes	excused	yes

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

The board reviewed the list of bills and accounts and the financials included in the Board packet. President Bridgewater inquired about the \$330 monthly network access fees paid to the City of Cortez. This is the computer fee we pay to the City for internet access and computer services.

Orly Lucero made a motion to accept the bills and financials including the supplemental list of bills, Keenan Ertel seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	Bridgewater
Yes	excused	yes	excused	yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Mott and Amanda Haukeness thanked the Board for sending them to the Fire Women training in Frisco, CO. It was a valuable and beneficial experience. Among the many classes and hands on trainings they participated in were leadership, scene size up, risk benefit analysis, and they were able to network with women firefighters from Denver and around the country. One of the instructors at the training is now a volunteer in Pagosa Springs. It would be beneficial to have her come here to conduct a training for our department.

Adam Kennedy addressed the Board explaining that he was approached by a man in Wal-Mart who berated him that all he sees is the fire truck driving up and down the street. Mr. Kennedy attempted to explain why he would see the truck around town, but was interrupted by the individual who told him that Kent Lindsay keeps him informed about all the wrong doings that happen at the Cortez Fire District. Mr. Kennedy asked for examples that were told to him, but he could not elaborate on any specifics.

According to Mr. Kennedy, the overall gest was that Mr. Lindsay was being derogatory regarding the department to his customers at his business, and this was not the first time Mr. Kennedy has had to come to the defense of the District for similar situations. Mr. Kennedy further explained that he is not sure what can be done about the situation, but that he wanted it on the record that he felt a Board member was not being supportive of the District, and not using his position on the Board to be proactive.

President Bridgewater commented that several Board members have addressed Mr. Lindsay in the past on similar accusations, but other than speaking with him about the situation there is not much else that can be done at the Board level. President Bridgewater also commented that he has encountered a very similar situation. Mr. Kennedy expressed his frustration that regarding Mr. Lindsay one thing will be said and discussed at the Board meeting, but then the opposite is being portrayed in public. President Bridgewater thanked Mr. Kennedy for bringing this to the Board and expressing his concerns, and that it is important for the Board to be made aware of the situation, but that he did not think anything will change, but that he will speak to him on the subject.

Mr. Ertel commented that he also has spoken to Mr. Lindsay on similar situations to no avail. Mr. Ertel further explained that a recall petition is the only avenue available to address a rouge board member that the organization or public feels does not support them or have their best interest at hand. This is very costly to the District. Of course, there will always be some dissention on the Board about issues, however, once a decision is made, the Board must be unified in the decision. Mr. Ertel continued that he too has issues with a Board member voting yes to supporting an issue at a BOD meeting, then saying the opposite in public.

Mr. Lucero added that he agrees with Mr. Ertel, that the Board needs to discuss the issues, but once a decision is made they need to proceed forward, work together and be united.

Mr. Ertel continued that he is very proud of this department. He was involved in a motorcycle accident down McElmo canyon and the first person on the scene was Chief Vandevoorde, immediately followed by our rescue unit with a paramedic, who all handled the situation very professionally. No one is perfect and mistakes will be made, but for someone to only focus on the few errors is unfair to everyone in the department.

President Bridgewater commented that the firefighters do a great job and they are very appreciated. The District is not perfect, but it will get better. Do not give up or allow this to ruin it for you.

CORRESPONDENCE

Included in the packet were inclusions from the Cortez Journal from September 13, October 1, 4, 2013 and a thank you note from Alisa and Henry Hecht.

REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

A report of the current financial accounts was included in the packet. The county treasurers' office distributed a total of \$29,134.12 to the district for the month of September, 2013. \$22,790.57 for the general mill levy, and \$6,343.55 for the additional two (2) mill levy.

The business money market account at 1st Southwest Bank had a balance of \$128,865.63 as of September 30, 2013 with Interest earned in September, 2013 of \$27.36, and year to date \$400.83. The annual percentage yield remained at 0.25%. The 24 month jumbo CD of \$252,500 at 0.90% earned \$195.70 on September 13, 2013. Total interest paid in 2013 is \$1,724.56 and total to date is \$3,624.36. The current balance is \$256,124.36.

The balance in the State Farm account, as of September 30, 2013, was \$988,650.61 with interest earned in September, 2013 of \$528.04. Interest earned year to date is \$4,881.01. The interest rate remained at 0.65%. The total in the reserve accounts is \$1,373,640.60.

With the government shut-down there were no economic numbers released and thus no unemployment or jobs report. Based on some private institutions, the economy added 166,000 jobs in September, which is right around what the government would have announced, so the unemployment rate will probably remain unchanged at 7.3%. The September FOMC meeting reported that the economy is still expanding at a moderate rate. It had been anticipated that the Fed could start easing on the purchase of treasuries in October, however, it does not look like that will happen this year.

Ms. Mimiaga also reported that she and Ms. Johnson attended the annual SDA Conference in September. It was again a success, and they both were able to attend multiple sessions and brought back a lot of good information. This year SDA started a new breakout session where the individual special districts, i.e. fire, sanitation, metro, etc., all met individually. It was very beneficial to sit down with all the fire districts together and learn from each other, i.e. financial issues, volunteerism, etc. SDA will be improving on these breakout sessions for next year, and it would be very beneficial if additional Board members and/or the Chief and Asst. Chief could attend the conference next year.

REPORT FROM THE ASST. CHIEF

Asst. Chief Balke went over his report that was included in the packet along with a list of the trainings, meetings and events he attended. Asst. Chief Balke reported that the Citizens Fire Academy has been postponed. As it has been a very busy time, not enough time was allowed for publicizing the event, and thus not many people were able to sign up for it. A better effort will be made for the next scheduled academy.

The new website is still under construction. Staff met with Geeks on Grand for the first in-service training on the site. The site should be up and running in about two weeks, depending on the content input.

We have signed up for the Compliance Engine in conjunction with the city inspectors. When businesses are inspected for hood systems, sprinkler systems, etc., all the reporting will be submitted digitally and uploaded into firehouse. Automated letter will be sent out to businesses for inspections, deficiencies, violations, et. al. As the authority having jurisdiction, the letters will come from the fire district, but in conjunction with the city inspector. The hood and sprinkler system inspections are not part of the job of the fire inspector. They are done by an outside agency. This system will assist both agencies with checks and balances. This is a nationally used data recovery system, and is no additional cost to us.

Mr. Ertel inquired if the fire inspector will be able to keep up the inspections. Chief Vandevoorde responded that he has met with Sam Proffer, City of Cortez Building Department, and feels very confident that the fire inspector is fully capable of doing the job after all the training and education he has completed. They are definitely moving forward.

Mr. Ertel also inquired if the Fire District will be given a monthly report on the fire inspections that have been done. It was explained that they will all be entered into the firehouse program, and available to be accessed at any time. The fire inspector will also be generating a monthly report to his direct supervisor, Mr. Proffer, and we can also request a copy. Mr. Proffer has also offered to address the Board of Directors to make sure everyone is comfortable with the job being done. Mr. Ertel is just concerned about the liability of the District if something were to happen. Asst. Chief Balke also explained that the city fire and building inspectors frequently confer with the District on fire hazards. They definitely keep the District apprised of what is being done, and what potential hazards may exist.

Asst. Chief Balke reported to the Board that he was deployed to the City of Evans with the Southwest Incident Management Team, for the week of September 15 – 22, to assist with emergency management concerning the flooding that occurred on the front range.

The AFG Grant will not be opening in October, and it is uncertain as to when it will open. We do have much of the information prepared for when it does open. There will be changes, and the AFG grant will be different when it does open.

The repairs on the aerial ladder truck are complete, and we will be getting a final report soon.

Asst. Chief Balke commented that there are many well deserving items on the ballot this year, and the agencies with a united front have a much better chance of succeeding. We all need to be united concerning our ballot question if we want it to pass, and it is very discouraging to hear we are not, especially with the amount of time and funding that has been dedicated to the effort.

Mr. Ertel inquired about the Hampton Inn project, and if they had worked things out with the sanitation district, and if it was still moving forward. Chief Vandevoorde explained that the sanitation district, as a special district, cannot change the rates for an individual, entity or a specific situation. They have to

work with the rates that are in place. Asst. Chief Balke added that we have three good commercial projects moving forward, the High School, the Hampton Inn and the new dental offices and complex behind Walgreens. Mr. Lucero added that the new auto parts store will also be going in on Main St.

Also included in the report was a graph of the monthly calls and response times for September broken down by district. The weighted average response time for the month of September, taking into consideration all districts, was five minutes, twenty one seconds.

President Bridgewater added that he had accompanied Chief Vandevoorde and Asst. Chief Balke to present the gaming grant application to DOLA in Durango, and commented on how Asst. Chief Balke's presentation was much more professional than the other presenters. President Bridgewater also observed that the panel seemed to be very receptive to his presentation. It was very well done.

REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Chief Vandevoorde went over his report and list of meetings that was included in the packet. The Chief reported that ballots will be mailed next week. The Chief thanked Ms. Mimiaga for all the hard work and extra hours put in for the election. He also thanked Amy Linman for all the time she has volunteered to help on the election as well. The Chief commented that most people do not understand the amount of work and time that goes into an election. Chief Vandevoorde requested that the District give Ms. Linman a \$50 gift card to thank her for her assistance.

Chief Vandevoorde and Asst. Chief Balke did a radio interview on KSJD on September 5, 2013 and got a very good response. Several people commented that they had heard the interview. The Chief also did a mil levy presentation at the Church of Christ on September 15, 2013 to about forty-five people, also with a good response. He also thanked President Bridgewater and Mr. Ertel for attending the League of Women Voters Ballot Issues Forum on October 3, 2013.

A SAFER Grant has been submitted for retention of personnel for next year. Our current SAFER Grant will end in September, 2014. If granted, this will extend our grant for two years.

There were 127 calls during the month of September, 90 EMS, 29 fire and 8 vehicle accidents. The total calls for the year, 2013, is 1210. We are about 80 calls ahead of last year at this time.

Chief Vandevoorde thanked the Board members that attended the Fiscal Affairs Committee meeting on September 11, 2013. This is a very helpful and informative meeting to start working on the budget before it is presented to the Board and available to the public for review.

It was reported that the District will be hosting the Cortez Chambers Business After Hours on Thursday, October 10, 2013 from 5 – 7 p.m. There is a waiting list to host the event, however, this month, October, there was a cancelation and Dena Guttridge, the Director for the Chamber, asked if we, the District, would be interested in hosting the event this month, especially with the election coming up. Usually the host of the event supplies the food and beverages, but since we were not budgeted to cover this added expense, Ertel Funeral Home has volunteered to sponsor the food and beverages, which is much appreciated. Corey Adamy has made several posters to put on each piece of equipment explaining what each piece is, how old each is and the replacement costs. We will also be performing an auto extrication demonstration, and there will be a pie auction to raise money for the high-school rodeo club. It would be much appreciated if the members of the Board of Directors could attend. The Chamber has been very supportive of the Cortez Fire District for this upcoming election. They have also submitted a letter to the editor, Cortez Journal, in support of the District.

OLD BUSINESS

Election – Ms. Mimiaga included a copy of the Tabor Notice that was mailed out to the households of all eligible electors on Thursday, October 3, 2013. There were over 6,000 notices mailed out. Ms. Mimiaga thanked the firefighters for all their help with the mailing of the Tabor notice. Ms. Mimiaga reiterated that the amount of work, time and expense that is associated with the election is extensive, and it is

imperative that the members of the Fire District back the effort. It is very daunting and a lot of work, by a lot of people, has gone into the effort. The property owners ballots will be mailed next week, October 15 – 18, 2013.

NEW BUSINESS

2014 Budget – first reading – A copy of the proposed 2014 budget, that was reviewed by the Fiscal Affairs Committee, was presented to the Board for the first reading. Two separate 2014 proposed budgets have been submitted, one contingent on the outcome of the upcoming election and the possible mill levy increase and one without. The Notice of Budget will need to be submitted to the Cortez Journal, the paper of record, and a copy of the proposed budget will be available for the public to review in the administration office. The second reading of the budget, and the public hearing, will be held at the November 13, 2013 meeting. If any Board member has any questions or changes we will need them before the next meeting.

Keenan Ertel made a motion to approve the Notice of Budget as presented to run one time in the Cortez Journal, Orly Lucero seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	Bridgewater
Yes	excused	yes	excused	yes

Also presented to the Board were several articles from various publications concerning the fire services, depicting the same obstacles as we face here in our District. The same problems are facing fire districts nationwide.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to come before the board, Orly Lucero made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Keenan Ertel seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	Bridgewater
Yes	excused	yes	excused	yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Jim Bridgewater – President

Attest:

Kent Lindsay – Secretary/Treasurer