

**CORTEZ FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
April 11, 2012**

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim 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 Patricia DeGagne-Rule, Hal Shepherd, Kent Lindsay, Keenan Ertel and Jim Bridgewater. Administrative Assistant Wendy Mimiaga, Asst. Chief Charles Balke and Chief Jeff Vandevoorde were present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the regular meeting held March 14, 2012, were brought before the board for approval. Hal Shepherd made a motion to approve the minutes with two typographical errors corrected on pages 2 and 3, Patricia DeGagne-Rule seconded. The minutes were approved on the following vote:

Ertel	Lindsay	Shepherd	DeGagne-Rule	Bridgewater
Yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

The board reviewed the list of bills and accounts and the financials included in the Board packet. Hal Shepherd made a motion to accept the bills and financials, Kent Lindsay seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Lindsay	Shepherd	DeGagne-Rule	Ertel	Bridgewater
Yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chief Vandevoorde introduced David Fertado, the executive producer of the web based firefighter series Battalion started in 2007. Mr. Fertado was invited by George McNeil to film our department, and is staying at the fire station for two weeks where he will be filming the crew for an episode for the program. There are over 156 shows available on demand on the web site, and there have been about five million viewers over the past five years. Some smaller departments and technical colleges use the show for training. He works with about 30 departments throughout the United States, along with several outside of the country. Mr. Fertado does this to present a full view of what goes on with fire rescue personnel and to support the men and women who put their lives on the line to help others. The series is not about fires or victims; it is about the job that the firefighters do. Every show has been authorized by the department for which it is filmed and he never shows anything that goes wrong within the fire service.

Orly Lucero thanked the fire department for being present at the Cortez Rotary club Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 7, 2012.

CORRESPONDENCE

Included in the packet were six newspaper articles, letters and photos about the fire district, recent fires and the upcoming election from the March 17 – April 10 issues of the Cortez Journal and the Four Corners Free Press. Also included was a thank you note from the League of Women Voters for the

presentation made by Asst. Chief Balke at their meeting on March 17, 2012, and an invitation for an appreciation luncheon for all emergency personnel to be held on April 17, 2012 and hosted by the Church of Christ.

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 \$115,651.68 to the district for the month of March, 2012.

The business money market account at 1st Southwest Bank had a balance of \$251,549.30 as of March 30, 2012 with interest earned in March, 2012 of \$155.02 with an annual percentage yield of 0.75%. The 24 month jumbo CD of \$252,500 at 0.90% earned \$180.62 as of March 13, 2012, the current balance is \$252,680.62

The balance in the State Farm account, as of March 31, 2012, was \$978,576.94 with a current yield of 0.80%. The interest rate declined to 0.80% from 0.85% on February 29, 2012 and then declined again on March 28, 2012 to 0.75%. The interest earned in March, 2012 was \$657.50 and the year to date earnings are \$2,107.77.

Mr. Ertel inquired about the interest rate at the State Farm Bank. He had thought it was a fixed rate at .90%, not an adjustable rate. Chief Vandevorde pointed out that it is a money market account, and the funds are accessible to us at any time. Discussion ensued about how accessible we needed \$1 million dollars to be. We should look into other financial vehicles that offer a higher rate of return. Mr. Ertel would like to see us work with Mike McAndrews at Edward Jones to see if we could earn a higher rate of return (since he does so well with the pension fund). Chief Vandevorde reminded the board that we can only invest funds in instruments with a short term, two year, maturity. (*per C.R.S. 24-75-601.1. legal investments of public funds,shall not have a maturity period greater than three years.*) Ms. Mimiaga was instructed to look into possible investments with Edward Jones, and other options in two-year CD's. Chief Vandevorde also reiterated that banks will only accept a limited amount of public money for investment.

REPORT FROM THE ASST. CHIEF

Asst. Chief Balke went over his report that was included in the packet along with a list of all the meeting and events he attended throughout the month. Asst. Chief Balke reported that the Fire II class will continue for a few more weeks, and then they will get into the specific courses, the S130 and S190 wildland fire classes, that will be taught by the BLM crew, Hazmat ops. Class, that has been opened up to surrounding agencies that need to get personnel their hazmat certification, and then First Responder, also open to other agencies. We are moving forward with the regional hazmat mini team, working with Travis from Colorado State Patrol. We will be doing regional training here, and offering that to the surrounding agencies.

Asst. Chief Balke has put together some committees, apparatus, communications, equipment PPE, and new hire testing, for members to get involved. A request has been put forth to anyone interested in serving on a committee. There has been some response for some of the committees, but not all.

The Battalion, David Fertado, is here and riding with and filming the crews. All appropriate legal documentation has been filled out including hippa and authorizations as to what he can and cannot film. Nothing airs without our approval.

Asst. Chief Balke also included a graph of the monthly calls and response times broken down by district, along with a district map.

REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Chief Vandevoorde went over the report he included in the packet. The Chief reported the Ag Expo was a long weekend, but very successful. They were able to meet and talk to many people that live in the district, gave out over 800 fire helmets to all the kids and numerous fire truck rides. The feedback from the community was very positive. Thank you for all the help from the members that attended.

Lori Johnson asked the Chief to participate in a critique with dispatch on the Beech Street fire. The dispatchers had multiple events occurring at the same time, a suspicious subject involved in a shooting in Towaoc, and the house explosion. There were many 911 calls coming in about the house explosion, as well as the high police traffic while perusing the shooting suspect. The dispatchers handled the volume very well. It was very hectic, especially for two new dispatchers, but they handled the job very well. There were other calls dispatch asked us to listen to and see if the dispatchers could have done anything differently, they had done a good job with those as well. It is nice that we are working with dispatch, and they are asking for our opinions, and looking for ways to make things better.

The fire department meeting on March 26, 2012 was well attended. The power point that has been presented to the public was shown as well as a presentation of the district budget and the pension budget. Each line item was explained and how all money was allocated. The members seemed to appreciate and better understand where the district stands financially.

There were 139 calls during the month of March, 103 EMS, 31 fire and 5 vehicle accidents. The total calls for the year is 366.

A copy of the preliminary ISO report was included in the packet. The Chief received a call from ISO that another packet has been sent out stating that we will be the same in the city and drop to a "5" in the county. This did not make sense. The Chief inquired if ISO had received the information he had sent to them. This information had gone to a different individual who was not working at the time of the telephone conversation. The Chief was then instructed to disregard the new packet that had just been sent until the information could be reviewed. Going from a current "9" in the county to a "5" does not seem possible. We would have to have a station every ten miles with personnel to man each station.

Several inspections were done in the county including the old ABC Rental on Hwy 160, where G. Whill liquor store wants to move, and River Oxbow Farm on CR G where they are planning a subdivision. There is an issue with a private bridge that will need to be put in. The Chief met with the county planning commission and explained that the bridge will have to be engineered to ensure the safety of the fire equipment and personnel. According to outside sources, a fire department does not have to cross a bridge if it is not rated (for load). They were very receptive to the information presented.

We are looking into changing health insurance providers. CEBT rates increased 13% for the upcoming year. We are working with Mountain West Insurance and looking into possible changing to Rocky Mountain Health Plans if we can get a lower rate. It could equate to a \$400 - \$500 savings.

The Open House and Food Drive is scheduled for April 21, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the same day as the Health Fair. All Board members are invited to come down. We have sent out flyers to all the churches, and displayed at various locations throughout the city. A copy was included in the packet.

Chief Vandevoorde ended his report by thanking Ms. Mimiaga for all the extra work and overtime put in for the election, and all the extra help and time many of the firefighters have put in to help with the election and especially the tabor notice mailing.

OLD BUSINESS

Election, May 8, 2012 – The TABOR Notice was mailed to “all registered electors” on Friday, April 6 as per Article X Section 20 of the State Constitution and C.R.S. 1-7-902, 903, 905, 906, 907, at a cost of just over \$2,300. Ballot packets will be mailed the week of April 16 – 20 per C.R.S. 1-7.5-107(3)(a). We are looking to mail about 11,000 ballot packets to all registered electors and property owners. By coordinating with the Sanitation District, it has been more time and work, but it will help in saving up to 1/3 of the cost in printing and mailing the ballot packets.

Mr. Ertel asked an additional question about ISO. He was interested in how subjective the ISO evaluation is, and if the rating is affected by the individual that does the evaluation. Chief Vandevorode replied that it does make a difference. Mr. Lindsay responded that every point you go up or down in rating will affect your insurance by about 12%. It was further pointed out that the individuals doing the evaluations are paid by the insurance companies, and the whole ISO rating system is designed by the insurance companies. They are also selective in what NFPA guidelines they choose to follow, i.e. only interested in the number of people that show up to a call, and not at all interested in the response time. Mr. Ertel feels that ISO is a waste of time, money and the staffs' efforts. It is not a true overview of the district, but rather a way to protect insurance companies' corporate interest.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no executive session.

ADJOURNMENT

Thank you to Hal Shepherd, this being his last meeting, for all his time and hard work for the District. His past experience has served this district and community invaluable. Having no further business to come before the board, Hal Shepherd made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Patricia DeGagne-Rule seconded. The motion passed as follows:

DeGagne-Rule	Ertel	Lindsay	Shepherd	Bridgewater
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Jim Bridgewater – President

Attest:

Keenan Ertel – Secretary/Treasurer