

**CORTEZ FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
August 8, 2012**

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Jim Bridgewater called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m. in the meeting room at Station #1. Roll call followed and the board members present were Lori Johnson, Orly Lucero, 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 July 11, 2012 and the minutes for the special meeting held on July 18, 2012 were brought before the board for approval.

Kent Lindsay made a motion to approve the minutes for both meetings. Orly Lucero seconded. The minutes for both meetings were approved on the following vote:

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	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. Kent Lindsay made a motion to accept the bills and financials, Lori Johnson seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	Bridgewater
Yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Toby McCoy gave a presentation on the 2012 Tri State convention that was held in Dolores, Colorado August 3, 4 and 5, 2012. Fourteen teams competed at the convention and training, despite the tragic fire that destroyed the Hollywood Bar the night before the activities began, and kept the majority of the area firefighters busy all night. Cortez sent an engine, ladder truck and a tender, which were mostly manned by the team that then competed the following day. The convention, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be held in Grants, New Mexico next year, 2013, and then will be held here in Cortez in 2014. Mr. McCoy thanked the Board of Directors for allowing the team to compete again this year and represent the Cortez Fire Protection District. The results were as follows: 1 man event – 5<sup>th</sup> place; 2 man – 12<sup>th</sup> place; 3 man – 3<sup>rd</sup> place; 5 man – 10<sup>th</sup> place; 6 man – 4<sup>th</sup> place; comedy skit – 2<sup>nd</sup> place; and overall – 5<sup>th</sup> place. Asst. Chief Balke inquired what trainings were attended. Mr. McCoy stated there was a helicopter training by Care Flight, Big Fire Small Department and Hybrid Extrication.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Included in the packet were inclusions from the Cortez Journal on July 14, 24, 28 and 31, 2012.

**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 \$31,240.34 to the district for the month of July, 2012.

The business money market account at 1<sup>st</sup> Southwest Bank had a balance of \$252,063.25 as of July 31, 2012 with Interest earned in July, 2012 of \$110.47 and year to date of \$983.88. The annual percentage

yield remained at 0.50%. The 24 month jumbo CD of \$252,500 at 0.90% earned \$187.41 as of July 13, 2012, and year to date of \$941.87. The current balance is \$253,441.87.

The balance in the State Farm account, as of July 31, 2012, was \$980,895.10 with interest earned in July, 2012 of \$581.40 and year to date earnings of \$4,425.93. The interest rate remained at 0.70%. The total in our reserve accounts is \$1,486,400.22.

A brief update was given on the recent Federal Reserve Policy meeting held at the end of July. No action was taken, however the Fed is waiting to see what happens in the next few months before deciding what action they may need to take in September at the next meeting. For now they are anticipating lower rates through, and possibly beyond, 2014.

Ms. Mimiaga also reminded the board that the deadline is coming up to register for the annual SDA conference, September 19, 20 and 21, 2012, and to please decide if they are interested in attending.

### **REPORT FROM THE ASST. CHIEF**

Asst. Chief Balke went over his report that was included in the packet along with a list of the meetings and events he attended throughout the month. Asst. Chief Balke reported that The Firefighter I and II exams and practical sessions were done, and we now have two new volunteers, Patrisha McEachern and Jess Carothers, that have been put on the department and were issued gear and probationary packets. The narrow banding for the radios is continuing.

We are moving forward with the SAFER grant. The testing will be Friday night, August 10, 2012, the physical ability test will be on Saturday, August 11, 2012, and the oral interviews on Monday, August 13, 2012. Each phase will have a separate proctor, therefore there can be no preferential treatment to any one candidate. The applicants will have to meet a minimum average score or better, as well as the minimum criteria of Firefighter I and First Responder, to be offered a position. They will be notified Tuesday, August 14, 2012, if they are offered a position, and then will have two (2) weeks to accept or decline. Also, based on the grant guidelines, we have posted for a hiring list. The grant recommends that we have an eligibility list that exceeds the number of positions for which we are hiring. We have six (6) positions, and only have six (6) individuals testing for those positions. The eligibility list does not guarantee employment at any current or future date.

Asst. Chief Balke also included a graph of the monthly calls and response times for July, broken down by district. The average response time for the month of July, taking into consideration all districts, was 10 min 27 sec.

### **REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF**

Chief Vandevoorde went over the report and list of meetings and inspections he included in the packet. He reported that a thank you ad was placed in the Cortez Journal (included with the correspondence) that listed everyone who contributed to the fire pup program. The district received \$3,812 for fire prevention materials.

Chief Vandevoorde further went over the testing process for the six (6) firefighters that have applied for the six (6) full time positions with the district.

There were 164 calls during the month of July, 112 EMS, 44 fire and 9 vehicle accidents. The total calls for the year is 881.

The district received the funds for the Forest Service grant. The \$9,971.40 will be used for wildland gear. Chief Vandevoorde and Asst. Chief Balke went to Denver, Colorado for the annual International Association of Fire Chiefs convention. They attended many classes and were able to look at equipment that we will need to replace.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Full time firefighter health insurance** – Chief Vandevoorde informed the board that it has been brought to his attention that some of the applicants for the full time firefighter positions already have health care coverage elsewhere. He would like to offer these individuals a \$4,000 stipend at the end of the year to help cover their outside health care costs. This would save the district about half the cost of the insurance. The cost of the health benefit will be about \$8,000 per firefighter for the first year, and is estimated to increase about 11% for each subsequent year. Having the firefighters keep their outside health coverage would save the district fifty percent or more in costs. It was discussed among the board that this has been done by other local employers including the Montezuma Water Company, The City of Cortez, Ertel Funeral Home and the Town of Dolores.

Kent Lindsay made a motion to allow staff to offer the stipend to the fulltime firefighters in lieu of health benefits, Lori Johnson seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	Bridgewater
Yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

**B. Fiscal affairs committee** – Chief Vandevoorde approached the board to appoint the three members, as per the bylaws, to the fiscal affairs committee to work on the 2013 budget with the staff, and then report to the Board of Directors. As stated in the bylaws, the committee will consist of the Secretary/Treasurer, Kent Lindsay, and two other board members.

Keenan Ertel made a motion to appoint Lori Johnson and Orly Lucero to the Fiscal Affairs Committee, Lori Johnson seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	Bridgewater
Yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Ertel	Lindsay	Lucero	Johnson	Bridgewater
Yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Jim Bridgewater – President

Attest:

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Kent Lindsay – Secretary/Treasurer