

**CORTEZ FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
December 14, 2011**

**PRESENTATION**

Drew Krob, a Montezuma - Cortez High School student, and whose parents own Reflections in Metal, made an address sign for station 3 and a Maltese cross, out of metal, and presented it to the Cortez Fire District. Mr. Krob stated, "I just wanted to make the signs as a way to say 'Thank You' to the fire department for supporting the High School Fire Science program." President Bridgewater admirably stated how fantastic the work was, thanked Mr. Krob on behalf of the Cortez Fire District and presented him with a certificate of appreciation from the district.

**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 November 9, 2011, were brought before the board for approval. Patricia DeGagne-Rule made a motion to approve the minutes, Hal Shepherd seconded. The minutes were approved on the following vote:

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

*(Note: the order of the agenda was changed due to the large number of citizens to address the board, and Mr. Ertel needed to leave the meeting early.)*

Chief Vandevoorde introduced Mr. Shane Hale, the new Cortez City Manager, who was attending the meeting to meet the board.

President Bridgewater opened the meeting for public comment and stated that this was the appropriate time to address the Board. Nineteen people signed the attendance sheet. The sign in sheet is attached to the minutes. *(Note: No one introduced themselves as they spoke, nor did they speak in any order or in an organized manner, thus the following is a transcription of the publics' comments with unnamed quotes and named quotes where applicable.)*

An opening comment was made by an attendee that "The reason most of them were there was because it was understood that the Board was going to take a half a mill out of their pension fund, or take a half a mill away from them." President Bridgewater responded that no money was being taken from the pension fund, but that the Board was only budgeting a half a mill as the contribution to the pension fund for 2012.

"We have all volunteered 10 or more years and spent a lot of time with the fire department and we will get the short end of the stick if you take that out of there." "The State says we can go up to \$600, we're at \$495, if we can get up to where we can get our full pension and we are actuarially sound, then it would be a good thing to do, we fought real hard to get this where it is now, 75% of our money is in bonds, they can be called at any time and then will have to be reinvested at a lower rate. So the actuarial study, last year was the last time we had one, so I think we are jumping the gun really bad using a two year old study with the state the economy is in now, not contribute what we had

contributed, at one time what we contributed is also reflected on what the state contributed. So if we didn't contribute so much, the state wouldn't contribute either, cause it was a matching fund type of thing." Chief Vandevorde stated that "The more we contribute, the less they (the state) will contribute. Especially if we over contribute to the account. The state looks at a payout of \$300 a month, not \$600. That is not a max, a department can payout more, but the state bases their contribution on a \$300 per month payout."

"But the thing is, getting back to the main thing, when we get up to \$600 and we're actuarially sound, I don't think anybody here would have a gripe what so ever." Mr. Ertel responded "Who says we're going to \$600 Joe?" He responded "Because that's what the state says is available that you can go to." (There is not a set amount) "\$600 was what it was when I got off 3 years ago, the goal was \$600 when I got off 3 years ago." Asst Chief Balke responded that the state (Colorado) is having financial constraints and is looking at pension funds that are paying out more than \$300 per month to retirees and agencies that pay more than the minimum half mill to pension funds as being self-sufficient and therefore taking the amount that they are contributing away completely.

"That's another good thing to say, that if they do drop us down more, we need that half a mill. To keep us actuarially sound." "There is nothing to ever say that the state is not going to give these funds forever."

**Mr. Ertel** asked if anyone had heard about what had happened to the district last year. There was a miscalculation made in the assessor's office, and the district had to return \$268K back to the county, and thus creating a budget shortfall. Mr. Ertel then went on to explain that the pension fund in doing very well and has made money every year, over \$700K in 7 years. The pensions are all being paid, and the fund continues to grow.

"A lot of that is because of what you guys are donating with that other half mill too."

"It says on the proposed budget it might increase \$3000 next year with your plan as it is right now." "Our Fund will increase only \$3000 if everything is actuarially sound, if everything goes the way your proposal says. That is a considerable difference from the \$92K that we got this year."

**Mr. Ertel** went on to say that, this department is hurting financially. Especially with the error from last year. "How much money does the fire department have? I understand you got two million dollars." (*Note: the reserves are approximately \$1.5 million*) Mr. Ertel inquired if they wanted the department to use up all of its reserves for the pension contribution.

"What bothers me is the last actuarial study that was made for the pension fund included a one mill that is contributed from the tax payers plus the state matching funds, the actuarial study told us that all we could receive is what we're receiving right now, \$495 was the maximum payment that could be made." President Bridgewater reminded him (Mr. McCutcheon) that the amount was raised \$50 just after he left the board. After denying the increase, Mr. McCutcheon said that he was the one "that talked the board into it." He continued, "with that raise, that was the maximum amount that we could go. The thing I'm getting at, if you take 33% away from our contribution and the fund, what's that going to do to our payment. It's going to cut our payments. That actuarial thing says we're drawing all we can draw now with the one mill and the state matching funds. If we drop a half a mill they're damn sure going to tell us we can't draw this amount." President Bridgewater replied that he did not think the actuarial had a maximum. The \$50 increase was made for no other reason than it was a 10% increase.

"The last time I was on was in 2006 and that's when it went up to the \$495. And that's when we were actuarially sound to do the \$50 extra. At that time the max that we could turn around and do in 2006 was around \$600 if we were actuarially sound. As far as I understand it never has had a max on it, but it was like this is what you kind of, the actuarial study is an advisor thing, right? We can turn around and take what we want out of there, but if it goes down, from my understanding, you know, we can give options and that kind of stuff, I don't know."

**Adam Kennedy** – "Why are you guys mad. None of your benefits are changing. None of my benefits in the future are changing. They're just trying to add some money to help everything out."

"Are you going to guarantee that our income won't change." Mr. Kennedy responded that nothing is guaranteed.

"The other thing basically your saying is the \$495 is the maximum we're ever going to get."

**Mr. Ertel** explained that the board is cutting the half mill for the upcoming budget year, 2012, not permanently. This is being done to balance the budget this year.

"I understand that, but is there anything stipulate in the budget that in 2013 that this will come back to a full mill to the pension."

**Mr. Ertel** responded that will be up to the board. They will look at the actuarial study that will be done next year, see what the fund looks like and then make that determination. He also clarified that the pension fund has not lost money no matter what the contributions and payouts have been. It has always grown. The board's intent is not to cut into the pensions and that the retirees should get every bit of pension money the fund can sustain. If the fund can pay out \$495, then that is what it should be, if it is \$600 someday and the board feels the fund can handle that amount, then it should. "Was there ever a promise when you were a volunteer fire department that you were going to get \$600 as a pension when you retired."

"I don't think anybody on this department got on for the money, the retirement. But I guarantee you we spent a lot of hard days and nights."

**Mr. Ertel** reiterated that no one denies all the hard work, time and commitment put in by the volunteers, but no one guaranteed them \$600 a month as a retired volunteer and you are not getting it.

"I'm under the perception that you are going to take this half mill this year and then give it back to us next year."

President Bridgewater replied that he does not know what the board will have to do next year, and that they will need to approach the board then.

"That is why I am trying to stop it now."

**Eddie** - "The thing is, I spent 24 years on the volunteer fire department, 8 years on the board, and I don't think we've come up here as a mad group, when I went on the department in the 1950's, the pension was the furthest thing on my mind to be on the fire department. When I got through and all, and there was a pension, I wouldn't tell anybody that I don't enjoy the \$495 that comes every month. I just don't want to see the fire department do like the federal government, start doing the social security and Medicare. I don't want that to happen. Other than that I don't think we're up here as a bad group, we just want to try to see this, hopefully we can keep our \$495 if we have our 20 years in. If it goes up, fine, and if it don't I think we'd all stay." "I think what everybody is saying is that there is some kind of a guarantee, but I know you can't guarantee that, you're going to take this half a mill away, you're saying back in 2013 we should get it back."

"Where is this half a mill going?" (It is going into the districts' budget for general operations)

"The way I understand it, they charged you this \$200 some thousand dollars, O.K. you thought you was going to have to do away with a bunch of stuff in the fire department. And all of a sudden your hiring more men and buying more equipment." Mr. Ertel responded that we have not bought more equipment or hired more men, but that we were putting on more volunteers.

"Volunteers don't cost anything. ....nobody's getting a wage ..... loss of time there off their jobs, they didn't get no money for it."

**President Bridgewater** commented that the pension fund has increased over \$650 thousand dollars in his six years on the board. The account was overfunded, and probably because it needed to be then, possibly because it was not sound then, it is doing well today.

"If it is overfunder why are we just getting \$495"

**Mr. Ertel** commented that concerning the future of the pension fund, the reality is the number of 20 year retirees will be very few, if any. The current retirees are an exception. They were volunteers their whole career. With fewer long term volunteers, there will be less financial pressure on the pension fund. The norm will probably be ten year retirees. With the needs of the community, we have instituted the reserve program, and are becoming a paid department with fewer volunteers.

**Larry** - "The only thing...we should have had two actuarial studies since I retired in 2006. If we were actuarially sound then we should have had an increase in benefits. And that's what kind of are our concerns right here, we haven't seen nothing or anything like that that I know of in the last four years. And I'm pretty sure when I was on the.....pension fund, it was 2006 when I left."

President Bridgewater explained that in 2008 there was a \$50 increase to the pension payouts.

Larry insisted it was 2006. "The actuarial study is coming out now in 2012. Well how bout we listen to the actuarial study and do anything like that until after 2012."

**Mr. Lindsay** stated that "I talked to SDA legal today and the department of local government has made a suggestion to state that all actuarially fully funded pensions that the state allocation be cut. At

what percentage, I don't have any idea, but there will be an article in next months SDA magazine about it. SDA is watching that and they'll fight it."

"Do you think that volunteers and stuff like that that will be coming up like Nick right here, by the time you retire do you think six or seven hundred dollars for a retirement, would that give you incentive to try and stay on for twenty years as a volunteer."

**Nick McDonald** – "If I was in different circumstances it might, sure more money, absolutely. Where I am personally, if I do ten years, great. That's my goal, fifteen years. But, for a lot of people they're not in my situation, so yea, they may have that incentive after tonight who knows, everybody talks to one another, they may say I'm going to prove them wrong and I'm going to make twenty years, and then we all might end up looking at one another and say 'oh crap'. And you're saying the state may cut funding, well the state may cut all the funding, we don't know. Then what are we going to do. Like I told Jim today, my concern is not about me, I'm concerned about this generation behind me. Because they put in their blood, sweat and tears, they built this department, they built the damn station, that's who I'm concerned about. I don't care if I get another dime. It's like social security, it's probably going to be gone. So these guys I want to take care of. When I was at that board meeting and I got voted on to the pension board, I remember Jay Balfour stating that if we increase this I do not want to ever have to take it away. Some of these guys, I don't know if all of them, rely on that check every month to pay for groceries, a light bill or sewer bill, I don't know what they use it for, but I know some of them consider it as income to live. And if we take that away from them in five years, I don't know how many of them will still be with us, but I feel it is my duty as a pension board member, they put me here to take care of them. That's who I'm looking out for, not me." *(applause from the audience)*

**President Bridgewater** explained that the idea of retirees only putting in ten years came from the fact that the current retirees, that are still not old enough to collect their pension, only have ten or eleven years served as a volunteer.

**Joe** – "I understand that, and that's all part of the actuarial study when it goes through and they get the age of all us, I understand how the actuarial goes, I guess my main problem is that we're taking money from the fund, before this actuarial study is done." (Mr. Ertel reiterated that no money is being taken from the fund) "But if the state takes their part out which is the potential, the potential based on what's going on right now."

**President Bridgewater** again stated that the state is looking at cutting the funding to the pension funds that are over contributed. The state average payout is recommended at \$300, and that is the amount that the state contribution is based on. If you pay over that amount, which some departments are paying a thousand or more, it is up to the individual departments to come up with the funding. President Bridgewater went on to explain that he does not want to put the additional \$70+ thousand into the pension fund so that the board will be able to balance the budget for the department.

"So just kind of like Ed said, it's easy to take from the social security program, just like the other gentleman, and forget about everybody else."

"They're *(the state)* going to take every dime they can get and they're going to have to pay, it looks like, the schools some money because they've been reaching and getting my money and your money in taxes, because they haven't been giving them to the schools, they're hard up, O.K., I understand hard up. But, how can we afford another \$70 thousand next year and the next year and the next year."

**President Bridgewater** reminded the audience that since the last actuarial study was done, the pension fund has increased \$150+ thousand. Mike McAndrews has done a wonderful job managing this fund.

"So basically your anticipating taking this half a mill before the actuarial study is done. Is that correct?"

**President Bridgewater** said that the board is discussing contributing \$70+ thousand, or a half a mill, to the pension fund for the 2012 budget as opposed to the full mill, \$146+ thousand, that was contributed for this last years budget (2011). It is the proper thing to do, it balances the budget and puts the money where it needs to be.

"Before the actuarial study. That's the only problem I guess I really got with it, then I understand the problem that you're gambling with this without an actuarial study."

**Matt Lindsay** – "I have one question, where did the one mill come from. How did we get that."

"It was part of our plan, to start a pension fund what was for this fire area. You do understand that we do have an area that is designated for us. So that was part of the plan for a one mill levy."

The board explained that it is not a voter approved mill levy, that it is directed by the Board of Directors.

**Matt Lindsay** – “So in reality, it is the boards’ decision.” “So I guess my other concern being on the pension board is at the meeting last time, I don’t remember any of this coming up. So this has been kind of out of nowhere for Nick and myself, and people have asked us several questions, and we’re like we don’t even know where it came from.”

**Nick McDonald** – “I found out about this on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> at a volunteer meeting that you guys were proposing to adjust the budget for the district and take it out of the pension fund, or the pension budget. I kind of think it is a little weird that I have zero information on this, nor do I have a voting right, you guys as the Board of Directors have full control of the pension budget. What are me and Matt here for, to warm a seat. I didn’t sign off on the budget, I didn’t get asked about a budget, nor any negotiations on a budget.”

The pension board only meets quarterly. It was stated that the preliminary budget was first discussed at the November board meeting. *(The budget was first presented at a special board meeting on June 16, 2011, and the preliminary 2012 budget was presented at the October 12, 2011 regular Board meeting.)*

Talk continued about adjusting the pension meeting time.

“All of a sudden you got a \$286 thousand increase wouldn’t somebody on the board think ‘whoa!’”

**President Bridgewater** clarified that he cannot guarantee that the board will re-instate the full mill contribution to the pension fund next year. He may not be on the board, and doesn’t know who will be on the board next year. “It won’t be any of you guys.” The intent of the board is to balance the budget. It is quite possible that the pension fund has been over-funded the past several years. It has increased over \$600 thousand in the past five years.

“Probably it’s overfunded because we’re not drawing the amount of money we should be drawing.”

“I don’t think it can be over funded unless you get the maximum.” (There is no maximum)

“Then let’s just split it up between us guys and forget the pension board.”

“What can be done by the fire department to make up that \$70+ thousand” “We have trucks that aren’t used, that haven’t been used. (sell them) For a couple of them you could get \$70 grand, what you’re looking for. I’ll guarantee you that. I’ll buy one.”

“We’ve been going back and forth all night, the real reason we’re here is to let you know how we feel. We just don’t want you to do like Washington is doing.”

**Mr. Ertel** invited everyone in the audience to please come back next year during the budget discussions to see where the district stood financially.

President Bridgewater then closed the public comment period.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Item A – FY 2012 proposed budget**

President Bridgewater opened up the discussion to see if the board would like to discuss or change anything else in the FY 2012 budget. Mrs. DeGagne-Rule commented that the budget looked good. Mr Ertel stated that it was a good budget despite the circumstances.

Hal Shepherd made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2, Series 2011, Resolution To Adopt Budget, Pursuant to 29-1-108, C.R.S., Patricia DeGagne-Rule seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Lindsay	Shepherd	DeGagne-Rule	Ertel	Bridgewater
no	yes	yes	yes	yes

Mr. Lindsay stated that he had to vote no to adopt the district budget because an actuarial study had not been done for the pension fund.

Hal Shepherd made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 3, Series 2011, Resolution To Appropriate Sums Of Money, Pursuant to 29-1-108, C.R.S., Keenan Ertel seconded. The motion passed as follows:

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

Kent Lindsay made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 4, Series 2011, Resolution To Set Mill Levies, Pursuant to 39-5-128, C.R.S. and 39-1-111, C.R.S., Patricia DeGagne-Rule seconded. The motion passed as follows:

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

Chief Vandevoorde thanked the staff for all their hard work on the budget. There were some tough decisions that had to be made and some hard feelings, but it is tax payer money, and it has to be used for the protection of the community. We are currently at 80.2% of the budget for this year. We really watched the figures again this year as much as possible.

President Bridgewater commented that he thought it was a problem that the pension board was not informed of the budget. He thought that the pension board should start meeting in February instead of January so that the pension board meeting falls in schedule with the district budget meetings.

Mr. Lindsay commented that the other two pension board members should be invited to every budget hearing we have. It was stated that everybody is invited to all the meetings.

Nick McDonald said that "I felt a little blindsided. You know. Kind of like slip it under the rug and hope they don't see it. I know that wasn't your intention, but that's how it was perceived. I don't think you did it purposely. It has never been changed, but when there is a change of that magnitude. Think about your own retirement if you had a change like that you would want to know about it."

Mr. Ertel said that they should have been notified that the board was considering changing the levy and the appropriation to the pension fund. This is what we are proposing and they need to be aware of it.

(Mr. Ertel had to leave the meeting at this time, 6:54 p.m.)

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**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, Patricia DeGagne-Rule seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Lindsay	Shepherd	DeGagne-Rule	Ertel	Bridgewater
yes	yes	yes	n/a	yes

**CORRESPONDENCE**

Included in the packet was a thank you note from the First Assembly of God for sharing the crew and engine at their Halleluiah Carnival.

Also included were two newspaper articles on the Citizens Fire Academy from the Nov. 26, 2011 issue of the Cortez Journal, and a Holiday Safety column written by Asst. Chief Balke that was in the Nov. 19, 2011 issue.

**REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

A report was included in the packet. Wendy Mimiaga included a breakdown of warrants and fees from the Treasurers' office through November 1<sup>st</sup>. It was reported the county treasurers' office distributed a

total of \$25,785.52 to the district for the month of November, 2011. Also included was a CD for \$250,000 from Four Corners Community Bank that will come due in February, 2012. It is earning 1%. Currently, the business money market account at 1<sup>st</sup> Southwest bank is earning 0.75%, with a balance of \$250,924.64. State Farm is still at 0.90% with a balance of \$1,025,684.86. Mr. Lindsay suggested that we look at Discover Bank and Capital One, as they both seem to pay a little higher interest rate, about the same as State Farm Bank. Mr. Lindsay asked if we were still just going a year out on our CD's. He would like to remain a little more fluid. Projections are for interest rates to start increasing.

### **REPORT FROM THE FIRE INSPECTOR**

Chief Vandevoorde included a report on the inspections he has done, and permits that were issued. Chief Vandevoorde has been working with Linda Smith with the City of Cortez on a list of what needs to be done to issue liquor licenses. He updated the board that a sprinkler test was done and approved on the Axis Medical building on November 23, 2011.

Chief Vandevoorde also reported that he had worked with Sam Proffer from the Cortez City Building Department and Warren Burns with Telgain on the remodel at City Market.

The County has also asked for input on the remodel of the old First National Bank building. Chief Vandevoorde has given them some recommendations for changes to meet the fire and life safety codes.

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

Asst. Chief Balke went over his report that was included in the packet. Asst. Chief Balke reported that he is looking into an Amerilert system for emergency and non-emergency notification of personnel that will be used through cell phones. We are currently in the middle of a non-emergency notification system that can send out mass text messages to the entire membership. Hopefully dispatch will be given the software they need to start doing dispatches across the cell phones in conjunction with the paging system.

At the last LEPC and Southwest All Hazards meeting there was discussion of putting together a Montezuma County mini hazmat team and receiving funding from the LEPC and Southwest all Hazards organizations.

In January, 2012 we will be starting a Firefighter I and II academy. We have sent the information out to all the surrounding departments, and have already gotten a couple of calls from other agencies who want to attend. The new volunteers will take the Firefighter I and II courses. Anyone on the department that does not have their Fire II certification will be able to attend the Fire II sessions and test for their level II certification. Several of the firefighters in our department who are qualified will help teach some of the classes.

We will also be participating in ALS CE Days in conjunction with the hospital in January. Matt has agreed to help us out as much as he can. There will also be other instructors from the hospital assisting.

On the pending AFG grant, it is anticipated that the first round of notifications will be around the end of 2011. If we do not hear anything by Dec., 15<sup>th</sup>, we probably will not hear anything until after the first of the year.

Asst Chief Balke recognized Chad Daniels who spear headed the Firefighters Christmas Drive. Through the generosity of the firefighters donating out of their own pocket, they raised \$1,500, and the Association donated an additional \$1,000. They have adopted ten needy families for whom they will be providing clothing, toys and food for the family. They will be delivering on December 23. The families are coordinated through the Pinon Project and the Salvation Army. Chief Vandevoorde added that we have picked up one straggler. An individual came into the fire department to ask for help with some

toys for his little boy. There are now eleven families. Based on the money that is available, staff has said they will pitch in more if needed to help. The board members also said they would help if more money was needed.

President Bridgewater asked Asst. Chief Balke about doing a CPR class during the basketball games at half time. Asst. Chief Balke said he would look into doing something with compression only CPR and community wide recognition. He will look into teaming up with the hospital and work out something with the high school.

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

Chief Vandevoorde went over the report he included in the agenda. Comfort Air placed a pea trap in the drainage line in the crawl space under the administration building as requested by Mr. Lindsay at the last board meeting.

Among the meetings Chief Vandevoorde attended was one with Shawn Collins at the Cortez Cultural Center on November 1, 2011. Ms. Collins inquired if the fire department could do an incident action plan for the Hawkins Preserve in case there was a need for an evacuation or rescue.

At the city staff meeting on November 16, 2011, the Chief met with Shane Hale, Cortez City Manager, to give him the attached letter. The letter informs the City that the fire department will no longer be responsible or liable for any building or life safety inspections in the City of Cortez after the expiration of the fire inspector contract on February 17, 2012.

Chief Vandevoorde informed the board there were 111 calls for November. The total calls for this year is 1436, at the end of November, 2011.

Chief Vandevoorde talked with ISO. They were supposed to have their results to the district before the board meeting, but to no avail. It is unclear when the district will receive their, ISO, results.

After meeting with Carol Tullis, Montezuma County Clerk, on November 17, 2011, about the upcoming election, Chief Vandevoorde would like to discuss the pros and cons of doing a mail ballot or a polling place for the May 8, 2012 election. Mr. Shepherd stated that having a polling place, you could get individuals who are energized and aware of the issues to come out to vote, versus having a mail ballot, especially with the tabor question, will probably yield more 'no' votes. Mr. Lindsay favors a mail ballot, as it will reach the handicapped and seniors who cannot get out and allows individuals to take their time and make a decision. The board, overall, has concerns with passing the tabor question. Ms. DeGagne-Rule believes it will depend on how well the public is educated about the needs of the department. President Bridgewater requested that the election be an agenda item for the next Board of Directors meeting, January 11, 2012.

The Chief reported that there was an incident at station 2 with an individual, who was by himself, backing engine 2 into the front service door causing damage to the building. There was no damage to engine 2. The insurance company was notified and estimates are being put together.

Included in the packet was an information pamphlet about the fire department with information on why we need a mill levy increase. The Chief asked the board for input. He would like to have every firefighter and board member take at least ten to distribute to their friends and neighbors. And insert them in the Four Corners Free Press for distribution in the Cortez area.

Chief Vandevoorde reported the Montezuma County Emergency Manager, Doug Parker, has resigned and will take the position as the Patrol Lieutenant with the Sheriff's office. Chief Vandevoorde and Asst. Chief Balke have been asked to take part in the interview process. Interviews are anticipated to take place on Jan. 13, 2012.

The Chief also informed the Board that as of mid Dec., 2011 we have spent approximately 80.2% on the 2011 budget. There is not much outstanding through the end of the year, so we look good going into FY 2012.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no executive session.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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	n/a	yes	yes	yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Bridgewater – President

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keenan Ertel – Secretary/Treasurer