

**Cortez Fire Protection District
Pension Board meeting minutes
January 13, 2016**

Call to order

President Sharp called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m. in the meeting room at Station #1. The roll was taken and the board members present were Orly Lucero, Lori Johnson, Gene Gustafson, Kent Lindsay, Sherri Wright, Buck Woodman and Larry Sharp. Administrative assistant Wendy Mimiaga and Chief Jeff Vandevoorde were also present for the meeting.

Approval of the minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on October 14, 2015 were brought before the board for approval.

After reading and review, Lori Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on October 14, 2015, Kent Lindsay seconded. The minutes were approved on the following vote:

Gustafson	Johnson	Lindsay	Lucero	Wright	Woodman	Sharp
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

Administrative assistants report

Administrative Assistant Wendy Mimiaga went over her report that was included in the packet.

It was reported that the value of the Edward Jones account on:

October 30, 2015 was \$2,098,125.72, an increase of \$8,523.28 from September 25, 2015, with an income for the month of \$81.23.

November 27, 2015 was \$2,097,713.46, a decrease of \$412.26 from October 30, 2015, with an income for the month of \$14,605.87.

December 31, 2015 was \$2,117,252.48, an increase of \$19,539.02 from November 27, 2015, with an income for the month of \$9,693.43.

The total income for the year, 2015, for the Edward Jones account, is \$66,717.28.

The balance for the First National Bank account:

October 31, 2015, was \$64,712.20 with interest earned of \$3.05.

November 30, 2015, was \$65,318.03 with interest earned of \$2.71.

August 31, 2015 was \$77,984.35 with interest earned of \$3.52.

December 31, 2015 was \$107,426.45 with interest earned of \$4.19.

The interest earned for the year, 2015, was \$44.67. The interest rate remained at 0.05%.

We received the fourth quarter distribution of \$10,000 from the Cortez Fire Protection District on December 9, 2015, for a total contribution of \$40,000 for 2015. It was deposited into the First National Bank account.

We also received the State contribution to the Volunteer Pension Fund, issued November 24, 2015. We received \$36,000, more than the \$25,000 we had anticipated. The difference was reflected in the 2016 budget.

New Business

2016 Actuarial Report – As per State Statue, we will have an updated actuarial report done this year, 2016, for the Volunteer Pension Fund. Mr. Lindsay had inquired last year, at the January and April Pension Board meeting, about the possibility of a \$50 increase in the pension benefit, and that he wanted to have this addressed in the 2016 actuarial report.

Lori Johnson made a motion to move forward with the Actuarial Report, and to consider the current payment and a \$50 increase, Kent Lindsay seconded. The motion was approved on the following vote:

Gustafson	Johnson	Lindsay	Lucero	Wright	Woodman	Sharp
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

President Sharp asked if could be done in different increments. He commented that in the past the Board did not go with the amount in the actuary study, but went a little lower to have a little room. Mr. Lindsay suggested they do it in quarters, \$25, \$50, \$75, \$100. Ms. Johnson inquired if the study would then cost more money to produce. Ms. Mimiaga stated that she would check with Frank Dobis. Ms. Johnson commented that it would be more work, and thus could cost more money, and at least consider the \$50, and we can always back down from there.

Ms. Mimiaga went over the past increases starting from the State recommended maximum of \$300, which was in 2003. It jumped up to \$390 in 2004, \$450 in 2006, \$490 in 2008 and \$495 in 2010. These were significant increases and mostly occurred when the District was all volunteer, and based on the districts substantial increases in contributions. Ms. Johnson also pointed out that a 3% increase would be about \$15, and that is a standard cost of living increase, and if that is all we can do, then that will be it. A \$50 increase would be a 10% increase for a twenty year recipient.

Training Hours - First, Mr. Lindsay pointed out that Kenneth Ford has submitted his letter of resignation as a volunteer. Mr. Ford has a total of fourteen (14) years qualified for the pension benefit.

Kent Lindsay made a motion to accept Kenneth Ford’s resignation as a volunteer, Lori Johnson seconded. The motion was approved on the following vote:

Gustafson	Johnson	Lindsay	Lucero	Wright	Woodman	Sharp
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Mr. Woodman mentioned that Mr. Ford stated that he “is unable to meet qualifications..,” and if this was due to not having the time to put in due to work. Mr. Woodman was concerned as Mr. Ford has been with the Department for a long time and works quite a bit and really seemed to enjoy his work with the Department. Chief Vandevoorde pointed out that Mr. Ford will continue to work part time for the District, but no longer as a volunteer.

A list of the training hours and B-Tone responses for the volunteers was presented to the Pension Board. In order for the year to qualify toward the pension benefit, each volunteer must have a minimum of thirty-six (36) hours of training and have responded to 20% of the B-Tone calls, or fifteen (15) calls for the year. Only two (2) volunteers made the requirements, Lori Mott and Troy Mott.

Kent Lindsay made a motion to accept the training hours and B-Tone responses as presented, Lori Johnson seconded. The motion was approved on the following vote:

Gustafson	Johnson	Lindsay	Lucero	Wright	Woodman	Sharp
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

Old business

Bill Reichelt – Included in the packet was the information handed out at the October 14, 2015 meeting along with some additional new information. Also included was another letter from Mr. Reichelt that he delivered to the administration office earlier in the day, January 13, 2016. Mr. Reichelt thought he became a member in 1991, however, based on the application he submitted, it was dated in 1992. A copy of this was given to Mr. Reichelt. The original copy remains in his file. Based on the information regarding his training hours, Mr. Reichelt does not qualify for the pension. Mr. Lindsay stated that he would dispute Mr. Reichelt’s training hours, especially since he was stricken from the roles on March 7, 1997, due to prolonged absences. Based on Mr. Lindsay’s understanding, if that occurred, you lost everything and if you did come back to the department, you had to start over. *(note: A copy of the minutes from the March 7, 1997 meeting stating Mr. Reichelt was stricken from the rolls were included in the packet.)*

President Sharp stated that he did not recall that you had to start completely over, time served is time served. He did note that not many people were stricken from the roles. Many did put in for a leave of absence.

Mr. Reichelt does not show up as being involved with the Department throughout 1997. He then submitted a letter on January 15, 1998 stating that he would like to be reinstated as a member of the department, along with a new application. It was accepted and Mr. Reichelt was put on one year probation. President Sharp recalled that Mr. Reichelt may have been stricken from the roles again in 2005. Mr. Lindsay stated at that time he and Darrel Dennison picked up Mr. Reichelt’s gear. There is no letter of resignation or request for the pension to the pension board on file.

Despite all of this, Mr. Reichelt still does not have ten (10) years where he qualified for the pension by attending thirty-six (36) hours of training as required by State Statute C.R.S. 31-30-1122.

Ms. Wright also pointed out that it is the firefighter's responsibility to keep track of their training, and that we have already spent many hours trying to track this down. Mr. Lindsay added that the training officer would hand out a list of your training hours so each individual had a chance to complete the necessary requirements by the end of the year.

Mr. Reichelt disputed that the training hours for Tri-State should have been enough for him to reach the required number of training hours for the years he fell short. All we can base this on are the actual training hours submitted each year by the training officer, for which there is a copy of each year included in the packet for Mr. Reichelt. Tri-State trainings are included in those hours. We cannot start second guessing the records of the previous officers.

Kent Lindsay made a motion to draft a letter to Mr. Reichelt stating that based on the information available, he did not fulfill the requirements to receive the pension benefit, Gene Gustafson seconded. The motion was approved on the following vote:

Gustafson	Johnson	Lindsay	Lucero	Wright	Woodman	Sharp
yes	yes	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, Sherri Wright seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Gustafson	Johnson	Lindsay	Lucero	Wright	Woodman	Sharp
yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Larry Sharp – President

Attest:

Kent Lindsay – Secretary / Treasurer