

**CORTEZ FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
March 14, 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 and Jim Bridgewater. Administrative Assistant Wendy Mimiaga, Asst. Chief Charles Balke and Chief Jeff Vandevoorde were present for the meeting. Keenan Ertel was absent. Patricia DeGagne-Rule made a motion to excuse Keenan Ertel, Kent Lindsay seconded. The motion passed on the following vote:

Ertel absent	Lindsay yes	Shepherd yes	DeGagne-Rule yes	Bridgewater yes
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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the regular meeting held February 8, 2012, 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 excused	Lindsay yes	Shepherd yes	DeGagne-Rule yes	Bridgewater yes
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BILLS AND ACCOUNTS

The board reviewed the list of bills and accounts and the financials included in the Board packet. It was requested that First Bankcard credit cards be more itemized. Hal Shepherd made a motion to accept the bills and financials, Patricia DeGagne-Rule seconded. The motion passed as follows:

Lindsay Yes	Shepherd yes	DeGagne-Rule yes	Ertel excused	Bridgewater yes
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PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Johnson asked if the board had talking points about the mill levy increase. It would be good for everyone to be on the same page when discussing the upcoming election. Ms. Johnson also inquired about the board minutes being posted on the web site. It was explained that they have not been posted in the past, however we are currently working with the web site host and will have the minutes posted from now on. Currently there are three months posted with the rest to come.

George McNeil stated that he is doing everything he can to get the word out about the mill levy. He had his mother distribute information pamphlets to the middle school teachers, and has been talking with the general public and getting positive feedback.

CORRESPONDENCE

Included in the packet were seven newspaper articles and letters about the fire district, recent fires and the upcoming election from the Feb 21 – March 8 issues of the Cortez Journal.

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 \$273,139.39 to the district for the month of February, 2012.

The business money market account at 1st Southwest Bank had a balance of \$251,349.28 as of February 29, 2012 with Interest earned in February, 2012 of \$149.76 with an annual percentage yield of 0.75%. Last month it had been reported that the interest rate was going to be lowered to 0.50%. This is not the case, and the interest rate still stands at 0.75%.

The balance in the State Farm account, as of February 29, 2012, was \$977,919.44 with a current yield of 0.85%. The interest rate declined to 0.85% from 0.90% on February 1, 2012 and then declined again on February 29, 2012 to 0.80%. The interest earned in February, 2012 was \$667.51.

The CD for \$250,000 at Four Corners Community Bank came due February 14, 2012 with an interest rate of 1%; at maturity, it earned \$2,500.00. As directed by the Board of Directors at the February 8 board meeting, the balance, \$252,500.00 was deposited at 1st Southwest Bank in a two year CD with a maturity date of February 14, 2014, and an interest rate of 0.90%.

REPORT FROM THE FIRE INSPECTOR

Chief Vandevoorde included a report with the inspections he has done. Again, a number of which were for businesses that needed inspections to renew their liquor licenses. The contract with the City of Cortez for the fire inspectors concluded on February 17, 2012.

There was another conference call with Empire Electric regarding their proposed new building complex. This will happen monthly while they work on the plans for their new facility.

A plan review was done for the Church of Christ for an addition they are planning for their building.

The City of Cortez has hired a new fire inspector who will start March 26, 2012. He is from around Alamosa, Colorado and has a background in building construction, but not much fire background.

REPORT FROM THE ASST. CHIEF

Asst. Chief Balke went over his report that was included in the packet. Asst. Chief Balke reported that the Fire I & II classes are continuing every Tuesday and Friday evenings and every other Saturday. There are a variety of instructors from within the agency teaching different classes. February also yielded the last three days of the ALS continuing education opportunities.

Several props have been built for training purposes to aid in firefighter survivability and forcible entry. In addition, the antique Seagraves engine is being serviced for public education events. i.e. parades, Christmas toy delivery.

Asst. Chief Balke has applied for the SAFER grant, staffing for adequate fire and emergency response. The first round will begin next week where they will start reviewing all the applications.

Three new volunteer members were added, Keadrick Kingery, Tanner Elliott and Seth Ellis. Both Kingery and Ellis attended the San Juan Fire Academy in Farmington, New Mexico. Elliott is currently attending the Firefighter I & II course.

Asst. Chief Balke also presented a graph of the monthly statistics showing the breakdown of the responses and response times by district. President Bridgewater requested that a legend be added to explain what each district is.

REPORT FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

Chief Vandevoorde went over the report he included in the packet. Included in the packet was a copy of the five-year plan, which was formulated with information that has been discussed over the past

year. It was handed out to citizens who have requested information about the fire department. This plan will be used as a guideline and reviewed on an annual basis.

Chief Vandevorde met with Western Group Insurance again to review the insurance policy and reevaluate some of the values on the vehicles. Some were valued too low and some too high based on the replacement values. Once this is done it could help to lower the insurance premium.

Also included in the board pocket was a copy of the 2011 yearend report. Again, this report has also been handed out to the public when information about the department has been requested. President Bridgewater requested that these reports be sent to all the candidate running for the Board of Directors.

There were 113 calls during the month of February, 90 EMS, 16 fire and 7 vehicle accidents. The total calls for the year is 226.

We have heard from ISO and they will be keeping us at our current rating. There were some discrepancies in the scoring, which will hopefully be resolved. The supervisor was surprised how some of the sections were rated, so documentation has been sent to him to help resolve those conflicts. One of the biggest issues was concerning manpower and the number of people on call responding and the types of calls. Another was just based on the forms we used for the ISO evaluation. The official ISO forms were used; however, the individual doing the evaluation said he preferred using his own forms. In addition, he said that we were not listed in the phone book. These are some of the conflicts that have been sited. President Bridgewater stated that he had hoped the score would come down, but now he did not think that it would without some severe changes. He also did not understand and was very concerned about the points based on the number of personnel. He said "it comes down to we don't care if it take forty five minutes to get there as long as you show up with forty five people." This does not make sense. ISO will probably never change their mind, but we need to do what we can to say this is not right. Ms. Johnson stated that the ISO information is already out to the insurance companies and that her insurance rates have increased because of the rating. President Bridgewater stated that ISO said the information is not published for six months and the rating has not changed. Chief Vandevorde said that the supervisor he talked with said that our rating will remain the same. Hal Shepherd requested that a copy of the ISO evaluation be included in the board packet next month.

There were three structure fires in February. The guys all did a great job. The house fire on Hwy. 160 took off quickly, the family was very happy at the quick response, and that we were able to save most of their belongings including their pictures and especially their computer since they home school their children. There was also a lightning strike, and the house explosion in town.

Chief Vandevorde handed out a booklet of information that was put together for the next pension board meeting. It included the by-laws, the information that has been put together over the past few months about the pension contributions and payouts, and the state statutes that pertain to financial issues and pension contributions.

Mr. Shepherd inquired as to how we were doing with the B tones. It was reported that response has been good except for the lightning strike at 2 a.m. Not a lot of people showed up for that fire, but the turn out has been good for all other incidents.

OLD BUSINESS

Election, May 8, 2012 – It was reported that Tuesday, March 6, 2012 was the deadline to cancel a special district election. Upon that date, only the Cortez Fire Protection District and the Cortez Sanitation District were slated to proceed with an election. We have chosen to coordinate the election with the sanitation district. An intergovernmental agreement has been drafted between the Montezuma County Clerk and Recorder, the Cortez Fire Protection District and the Cortez Sanitation District to coordinate the election between the two districts, for which Wendy Mimiaga will serve as the coordinated election official. It will be more work; however, we will be able to share in some of the costs and save a little money on the election, possibly a third on the ballots and the mailing expenses. A copy of each ballot style, the coordinated ballot and the ballot for the Cortez Fire Protection District, was handed out to

each board member. The sanitation district falls completely within the fire district. These ballots were certified with the Montezuma County Clerk and Recorder on Friday, March 9, 2012 as state by state statue C.R.S. 1-5-203(3)(a). We will not be able to use the counties voting machines to count the ballots, and will therefore have to count them all by hand. We will be able to use the same election judges and thus share in the cost of the election judges. Luann Meyer, who works in Cameron Seachrist office, has offered her assistance with the election process. She has worked as a coordinated election official for many elections in the past. Her help is greatly appreciated.

Kent Lindsay made a motion to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement for the May 8, 2012 coordinated election. Hal Shepherd seconded. The motion passed as follows:

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

It was explained that the Secretary of State is very explicit as to how the mail ballot packet is sent to each registered elector. There is a specific envelope that it is sent in and it includes the ballot, secrecy sleeve and return envelope that must be signed by the registered elector. It was also reported that the Mail Ballot Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State on Tuesday, March 13.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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, Hal Shepherd seconded. The motion passed as follows:

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Jim Bridgewater – President

Attest:

Keenan Ertel – Secretary/Treasurer