**Norwood Fire Protection District**

**Board of Director Minutes, November 20th, 2024**

Board Members Present: Dave Alexander, Trace Griffith, Vivian Antonik, Wendy Crank

Department Members Present: John Bockrath, Casey Griffith, Zane Truelock

* **1802 Call to Order**
* **1804 Approval of Minutes**
* Vivian motioned, Trace 2nd, all in favor
* **1808 Financial Report**
* Review current budget
* Accept current budget for November 2024
* **1815 Public Walk-In/Comments**

None

* **1817 Old Business**
* Discussed the mill levy passing. John stated we are still not sure how much money that means for the district. He is in talks with the State and County. As John stated in previous meetings, since the property tax cut that was signed back in September, no one yet knows the exact figures. John guestimates the increase will be around an additional $600,000 in stead of the $1 Million we were going for. However, this is still much better than where we are currently. ALL mill levy proceeds will go toward personnel as this is what we asked for and we MUST follow the statutes set forth by the mill levy.
* Pension Update - We cannot obtain a small business loan, as agreed upon in the previous meeting, due to low funds in our bank account. As soon as we start receiving payments for our wildland services, John will revisit the small business loan.
* Wendy and Dave wanted to use the mill levy to pay the back pension, John reminded them that we must follow the parameters of the mill levy. The Board agreed in October to pursue a small business loan.
* Auxiliary Station-Sanborn – Residents of Sanborn park area came to the station prior to the BOD meeting to discuss opening a auxiliary station in Sanborn park area to help with insurance requirements. This meeting was discussed with the BOD. John and residents of Sanborn are looking into building options and cost. John said the first thing we need is land donated for a building. The cost will have to be at the residents expense since they are the ones benefiting from the auxiliary station. John and the residents will continue the discussion.
* **1835 New Business**
* EMS/Fire Totals – Fire 3, including structure fire

EMS 27

Transports 9

Total = 30 calls to service.

* New Budget Review – John handed out the proposed new budget with approximate figures. John again stated, we do not have exact numbers at this time. The budget was reviewed. Dave and Wendy wanted more money put aside for wildland fire pay. They both want enough money put aside for payment as soon as the wildland firefighters return. John told them this is NOT what the mill levy was for. It is for personnel to protect our district on a 24/7/365 basis. The wildland team is great, however, they are deployed elsewhere throughout the Country. We were lucky to have them on severity with our local Forest service team during monsoon season, but they still respond for Forest service and not NFPD. The presence of the wildland team is not guaranteed. Full-time personnel is. Dave and Wendy were very adamant about wanting more money for wildland. No other BOD members made comment. John said he will look at the budget when he gets the accurate figures, but does not feel this is the right move.

Dave also wanted more money for a part-time maintenance person for the district. Again, John argued that was not the intention of the mill levy. Zhe agrees it would be nice to have a specified maintenance person, but does not feel it is feasible at this time.

Board wants to see changes made to the budget. John said he will not do anything until he gets the final figures from the Sate and County Treasurers. John will contact the BOD via email when he gets the figures and re-does the budget. However, he is going to put the mill levy money toward full-time paid on call personnel trained in structure, ALS and wildland.

* Personnel – Discussion on POC personnel to cover what was discussed. John will be hiring a Deputy Chief of operations and recommended Trago Staats. John Had a discussion with Trago about moving from job to job over the past few years. Trago admitted he hasn’t been happy in law enforcement. He started his career as a full-time firefighter/EMT in Bayfield and worked there for seven years prior to moving to law enforcement. He will sign a 5 year contract with NFPD. He also agreed to complete his AEMT/ALS certification. Since Trago is a Nationally certified tactical medic, he will be able to all the advanced airways procedures that John and Heather can do.

John is going to make Heather Deputy Chief of EMS. With Heater and Trago, John will be able to share everything he does between two people and leave more time for him to do what he should be doing. Also, if something happens to John, there is a backup! This year we will have two POC 24 hours per day. The third will be split between John, Heather and Trago to meet the mill levy parameters.

* **1900 Chief’s Report**
* John covered most of what needs to be said. He did discuss the structure fire in town. He said we were incredibly lucky to have Trago, Casey and Zane in the station when the call came in. John and the three of them were on scene in 6 minutes and were able to extinguish the fire and save the structure. John said this is a perfect example of why we need full-time personnel.

John told the Board members that his employee evaluation needs to be done at the December BOD meeting. There will need to be an executive session to discuss his evaluation. John passed out copies of his job description and evaluation for the Board to review prior to the executive session.

John did tell the Board that he was awarded the ALS/Paramedic of the Year for the Western slope. No comments were made.

* **1910 Wildland Coordinators Report**
* Casey gave the BOD some bad news. He said he will be taking an assistant Captain’s job with the BLM. He said it is nothing against John or the NFPD, but he wants to further his career and can’t do it staying here. He wants to get more experience and certifications in command. He will be staying on as a volunteer in the BLM off-season. He is going to work with John to find another Engine Boss so the wildland team can continue.

Zane also spoke to the Board and told them that he has resigned. He is moving to Vernal, Utah and will be seeking employment there. He and Casey both thanked the Board for all their support.

* **1920 EMS Coordinator Report**
* John stated he has completed inventories of the ambulances. There have been numerous inventories over the years and he wanted it done a certain way. John spent three weeks going through each item and thoroughly cleaned every compartment and the cab. This inventory is final and will be done on a weekly basis by John, Heather, Jenna and department members. John said this will also be done by the POC’s on a weekly basis.

Both ambulances were gone over mechanically to make sure they are ready for the Winter.

* **1930 Adjourn –** Vivian motioned, Trace 2nd, all in favor.