

**WIGGINS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
11 January 2024**

Those present for the Wiggins Rural Fire Protection District Board of Directors meeting were: Leroy Dilka, John Kopetzky, Nathan Troudt, Jo Rogers and Pat Rogers. Also present were Val Loose, Assistant Fire Chief John Pachek, Lieutenants Nick Randel. Michael Siedelberg and Jake Lira and Firemen Sam Belmonte, Ed Moore. Rob Mayer and Marco Rodriquez. Community members present were Kelli Belmonte and Mrs. Mayer.

Board President Nathan Troudt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Roll call was then taken with all board members present.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES DECEMBER 14 AND 28, 2024

Moved to approve the minutes from December 14th and December 2, 2024. This motion was seconded by Leroy Dilka. Roll call was taken.

John Kopetsky – Yes Jo Rogers – Yes Leroy Dilka – Yes Pat Rogers – Yes
Nathan Troudt – Yes

Motion carried to approve the minutes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION to hold a conference with the District's Attorney to receive legal advice on specific questions pursuant to C.R.S. 24-6-402(40(b)), concerning two matters: Walker vs. Wiggins Rural Fire Protection District 2022CV30005 and (2) worker's compensation matter.

Jo Rogers moved to go into executive session for the above reasons and this was seconded by John Kopetzky. Roll call was taken.

Leroy Dilka – Yes Pat Rogers – Yes Jo Roger – Yes john Kopetzky – Yes
Nathan Troudt – Yes

Motion carried to go into executive session.

The board went into executive session at 7:07 p.m. via a phone conference with Attorney Kathryn Sellars. The board out of executive session at 7:38 pm.

GUEST – TAYLOR HENDERSON – SOLAR ENERGY UPDATE

Taylor Henderson and Drew McMahan spoke to the group about the solar energy project that they are working on that will be located Southwest of Wiggins. Tim Walker has been the point of contact. Mr. Henderson told the firemen how much they are appreciated. He explained to the Board that a New York City fireman is on the Fire Risk Alliance for the company. They would also offer best in class training for the two departments that would cover any fires and those two departments are Wiggins and Southeast Weld County. Drew McMahan explained that the batteries at the solar station are encapsulated and these would be watched and contained if a fire were to start there. The structures and equipment are what firemen would watch for. The company would like to offer an opportunity to work with the Fire Risk Alliance on joint training for Wiggins and Southeast Weld.

Mr. Henderson updated the group on the project. On January 23rd there will be a hearing with Morgan County Commissioners on the solar panels. They have removed 320 acres from the project on M.5 and Road 1 that were near a number of residents. Truck traffic will be from Hudson then onto Highway 52 then Road 3 and Road 1. They will talk with neighbors regarding the truck traffic. There will be a new road on the Rumsey place that will change truck traffic areas. They will talk with CDOT about Hwy 52 and Road 3. They have the University of Colorado doing statistics regarding the cost. There will be a road use agreement between the company and the county. Morgan County builds their own bridges and the company would like to see the county do that for the bridges that might need re-done by their project

Fireman Rob Mayer would like to see a coop training curriculum developed in partnership with Southeast Weld. It was suggested to keep a certain amount of money in escrow for training and re-training. The company would be willing to check this out.

It was then asked how the panels are controlled especially if there is a problem. Mr. McMahan explained that with the full telemetry the problem would be detected. There is also a thermal runaway event alarm threshold and there is also an emergency response plan. All operators are certified. If equipment is needed the Company will get it here. There will also be a barbed wire fence surrounding the project. He also told the group that the solar panels are 2,000 feet away from homes and the County specs are 500 feet away from homes. The project will take 22 months to complete.

The company would like to donate to the firemen's assistance fund. The company has also talked with MCC and Weldon Valley – they want to invest in the community.

Paid Fire Chief

Mrs. Rogers said that the due date to receive fire chief applications was January 24, 2024. A date to discuss the applications received will be set. It was asked if the command staff can look at the applications, Mr. Dilka said not until after the applications are narrowed down and then the command staff could look at the finalists. It was also noted that the applicants that apply on Indeed aren't filing out the application.

Copy Machine

Information was then reviewed on potential copy machines for the District as well as maintenance plans. Mr. Dilka moved to purchase Kyocera TASKalfa 2553ci outright at \$7,273.45 and set up a maintenance plan. John Kopetzky seconded the motion and roll call was then taken.

Jo Rogers – Yes Pat Rogers – Yes Leroy Dilka- Yes John Kopetzky – Yes
Nathan Troudt – Yes

Motion carried to purchase a new copy machine.

Older 6 x 6 Trucks

The status of the trucks was then discussed. The question was is the District where we want to be with the trucks, especially the 6 x 6's. The new trucks have less than five calls, we can't do anything until the new trucks prove themselves. This item was tabled.

Website

Mrs. Rogers reported that she had talked with the Town of Wiggins. The Town had gone through the State with their website and the State gave the Town \$6,000 for training. Leroy would like Jo to check this out with the state. Nathan Troudt told the group that Full Circle had an estimate for \$8,950. Fireman Rob Mayer asked the board if could present an estimate with hosting cost, site management and maintenance. This was tabled until February.

NEW BUSINESS

Operations of Equipment Rotation (Leroy)

Mr. Dilka has concerns regarding the rotation of equipment at all three stations. He would like to see the rotation done on a quarterly basis. Mr. Dilka moved to put in policy a maintenance program that is done on a quarterly basis. This motion was seconded by Mrs. Rogers. Lieutenant Lira stated that he was for this policy. Ice/water rescue equipment need to be maintained as well. Roll call was taken.

Pat Rogers – Yes John Kopetzky – Yes Leroy Dilka – Yes Jo Rogers – Yes
Nathan Troudt - Yes

Motion carried to institute a quarterly equipment maintenance policy.

Interagency Agreement with Wiggins Police

Mrs. Rogers told the board that the Wiggins Police Department could do background checks from \$10 to \$15 and this would include FBI data. Officer Doug Erickson has done this for the school district. It was noted that the District uses Intermountain Data Corp for all of the background check. Mrs. Rogers then read off the description of services they provide: Colorado criminal court records-felony and misdemeanor, credit reports, Social Security verification, Out-of-state criminal records by state or county, driving records, workers comp claims, Colorado special employment package, AKA-alias-maiden-hyphenated name, driving record, Colorado civil records and employment. It was decided to stay with Intermountain Data Corp.

State Rental Truck

The state truck cost the District \$200 a year with the state lease. Mr. Rogers would like to donate the truck to another district. Lieutenant Lira would like to hold onto the truck. This item was tabled.

FINANCIALS

The financials were reviewed with the board. Total taxes received on December amounted to \$12,357.02. Other income, which was \$15,621.39 was interested earned and \$10,675.00 from the sale of a truck. Total amount at High plains Bank amounted to \$6,948,673.64. All accounts balanced with QuickBooks. Accounts payable was then reviewed with the board. Total payables amounted to \$34,264.53. Of this amount \$20,280 for turnout gear from Becker First Responder, \$3,063 for MSA flow testing by Curtis Tools and \$2,606.04 to Interstate Billing for truck repair. It was also noted that a check had been written for the ambulance subscription. Mrs. Rogers remarked that this was not the total amount that should be sent. She stated that family plans are \$50 and there are discounts for EMT's. It was decided to use the \$1,500 for a down payment. John Pachek will call Travis Freeman regarding the subscription. John Kopetzky moved to pay the invoices and this motion was seconded by Leroy Dilka. Mrs. Rogers wanted Loose to call Sprague about their invoice. Roll call was then taken.

John Kopetzky – Yes Pat Rogers – Yes Leroy Dilka – Yes Jo Rogers – Yes
Nathan Troudt – Yes

Motion carried to pay the bills for the month.

SECRETARY REPORT

Loose reported to the board that the mill levy's had been submitted to both Morgan and Weld County and that the budget had been submitted to DOLA. She also told that board that there will be a "backfill" from the state in the amount of \$34,590 and it will be received sometime in April or May and this is just from Morgan County. It was also reported that FPPA had received \$112,500 from the state for funding. Loose also reported that the 1099's would be sent out before the end of the month.

FIRE CHIEF REOPRT

John Pachek reviewed the Assistant Chief report with the board. To date there have been 10 calls for January. In 2023 there were 372 calls, 454 calls in 2022 and 434 in 2021. He also reported about Toys for Tigers, Santa Day and the Crisis Intervention Class using the community room February 22-24. He passed around the training schedule for 2024. He then reviewed the 2023 hours of the firemen with the board. The updated Personnel, Command Staff Hiring Process was also given to the board. The board will have election results at the February board meeting.

Discussion then followed on truck committee. Mrs. Rogers will check mileage on trucks. Mr. Dilka would like to get the truck committee together and move forward with Tender that needs replaced. It was suggested to get rid of two tenders, but Mrs. Rogers is not ready to do that. Mr. Dilka said that the truck can always be moved if needed. His idea is to have another bay

built at both Hoyt and Goodrich. John Pachek said that everyone has different ideas, not everyone is on the same page. Jake Lira stated that the Board needs to point out what they want to spec and then the truck committee could bring specs back to board. Mr. Rogers said that you need a reason to replace trucks. Mrs. Rogers stated that this can be prioritized.

Lieutenant Siedelberg then reviewed the "Personnel – Command Staff Hiring Process" changes with the Board. The changes had been marked in red. Training needs to happen with all firemen even if something happens. Mr. Rogers stated to take out Tuesday night trainings and insert instructed training instead. Michael stated that the Department wants everyone to succeed in everything. Mr. Kopetzky moved to accept the changes in the policy and to add Pat's suggestion and replace Tuesday night training with instructed training. This motion was seconded by Leroy Dilka and roll call was taken.

Pat Rogers – Yes Leroy Dilka – Yes John Kopetzky – Yes Jo Rogers – Abstain
Nathan Troudt – Yes

Motion carried to approve PERSONNEL-COMMAND STAFF HIRING PROCESS.

Mrs. Rogers then told the Board about Wish Week at the Wiggins High School. Mrs. Rogers moved to donate to this cause and take the money out of the Community Assistance Fund. This motion was seconded by Leroy Dilka and roll call was taken.

Jo Rogers – Yes John Kopetzky – Yes Pat Rogers – Yes Leroy Dilka – Yes
Nathan Troudt – Yes

Motion carried to donate to Wish Week at Wiggins High School.

Jake Lira then told the Board that someone had applied to become a fireman, but he had a DUI on his record from several years ago. Mr. Dilka said that the application/policy needs to be re-Nathan needed to vote to take that part out. The Command staff will work on re-writing the policy and present it to the Board.

Mr. Dilka then moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 pm and the motion was seconded by Mr. Kopetzky. Roll call was taken.

Pat Rogers – Yes John Kopetsky – Yes Jo Rogers – Yes Leroy Dilka – Yes
Nathan Troudt – Yes

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,



Val Loose
Secretary to the Board