



NORTH DAVIS FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Station 41, 381 North 3150 West
West Point City, UT 84015
(801)525-2850

Timothy E. Roper, Chairman
Howard Madsen, Vice-Chairman
Erik Craythorne, Board Member
Mark Shepherd, Board Member
Jerry Chatterton, Board Member
Nike Peterson, Board Member
Scott Wiggill, Board Member
Chad Bangarter, Board Member
Gary Petersen, Board Member

Mark Becraft, Fire Chief
John Taylor, Deputy Fire Chief

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, March 18, 2021 (Amended)
6:00 PM WORK SESSION / 6:30 PM BOARD MEETING

Members of public were permitted to attend the meetings in person or via Zoom (link below). The Board of Trustees accepted citizen comments at the designated time via Zoom, email, or in person.

WORK SESSION 6:00 PM

Board Members Present: Chairman Timothy E. Roper, Vice-Chairman Howard Madsen, Jerry Chatterton, Mark Shepherd, Gary Petersen, Scott Wiggill, Chad Bangarter, and Erik Craythorne

Board Members Excused: Nike Peterson

Staff Present: Fire Chief Mark Becraft, Deputy Fire Chief John Taylor, District Clerk Misty Rogers, and Treasurer Nicole Nelson (via Zoom)

Visitors: JJ Allen – Clearfield City Manager (*in person*)

Chairman Roper welcomed those in attendance and then turned the time over to Chief Becraft.

1. Discussion of an Interlocal Agreement between NDFD, Davis County, and other Government Agencies within Davis County for the transfer of paramedic providers; and public outreach.

Chief Becraft said he had a meeting yesterday discussing paramedics with DCSO, City Managers, Mayors, Commissioners, and the County Assessor. He indicated that there were a few changes made to the agreement by Gary Crane but most of it was still the same as what the Board of Trustees had reviewed. He mentioned that he had met with each Board Member to make sure that he understood each Member's opinion on the matter. He said that the County has not offered to do anything different than what was discussed at last month's work session; however, they did state that as of January 1, 2023, Davis County would be out of the paramedic business and they mentioned that if we do not sign the contract, we would have to contract with another entity. Chief Becraft said Kaysville, Farmington, and South Weber have signed the agreement and he thought Syracuse and South Davis Metro would be signing soon. He was not sure what Clinton City would be doing. He said he was just waiting for direction from the Board as to what they wanted to do.

Board Member Craythorne stated that at the last work session he felt that the County was listening or were concerned about the Board Member's issues, but he said that feeling has completely gone away. He said they will be reducing their force by attrition so it may take some time. He said they have tentatively mentioned that they might look at reducing their property tax rate to help alleviate some things, but he said it's going to be two or three years down the road, and we may have new commissioners. He thought the days of negotiating anything with the County are likely over. He said his greatest concern would be that we wouldn't be prepared, and we wouldn't have enough money.

Board Member Shepherd said three cities have already signed on and he thought the likelihood of the County reducing taxes in the future is slim to none. He stated that Clinton would be facing an approximate 40% tax increase and we would as well. He said his question was who was responsible for the messaging of this matter. The County gets to reduce the levy which makes them look good to the taxpayers and they get to maintain their officers which looks good to the employees and taxpayers as well. He said the County will look really good in all of this, but the District will not and it's up to the Board to tell the residents why they were raising their taxes significantly. He said if we did not go along with the agreement, it would leave it up to the County to explain to the taxpayers why they were forcing the cities to do this. He said he thought we could accomplish this with a joint messaging, but the County does not want to do that.

Board Member Wiggill stated that he thought this entire matter has been personally mismanaged. He said if the County started charging a levy in 1979 and never made an adjustment and started pulling money from other places to cover the cost, that is a mistake on them. They are not going to come out to the public and say that they mismanaged this program from the start. He said at the last work session, he felt like the Commissioner was saying that they were in no way going to help us explain to our residents why they had to make this transition.

Board Member Shepherd said in a recent conversation with Commissioner Stevenson, he said his non-committal hope was with the relief funds that they were about to receive, their plan was to use those funds to make up the levy so at least for the next two years, we will not have that loss in what we would be paying to the County, but he could not commit to it. Board Member Shepherd said if we (the District) are forced it and said no to the agreement, that money will not happen at all. He said as much as he hated this, it was going to happen.

Board Member Wiggill said if the County was willing to use the relief funds, it answers some of the questions that they had in what they were willing to do to help this transition. He said it all came down to one thing, we are either in and we commit and build a paramedic program, or we find an entity that would take care of the paramedic services for our communities which will cost the District the same amount of money.

Chief Becraft made a comment that the residents won't know the difference between a paramedic and an EMT, but we will know and NDFD will finally have a fire-based EMS like the rest of the nation and it will be quality service.

Board Member Shepherd mentioned there were some comments mentioned on Sunset's page last week that residents were saying they should be taken into Clinton because Clinton could give them better service than what we were providing. He said this would be an opportune time to inform our residents that we were doing this for them and inform them of our call rates and other positive things we were doing for them.

Chief Becraft said he is seeing a bigger picture when they talk about the west Davis corridor and the west exploding. He stated that our communities were building high density housing and Sunset was building a five-story building and this was going to be a busy station.

Board Member Bangerter said he has noticed, in general, that elected officials were just bad and it's amazing to him that some of the Sunset residents were still bad-mouthing the District. He said the facts prove that Sunset is much better protected now than they ever were due to the growth and establishment they were going through. He said that yes, we could fight the County and say no, but it is not going to benefit our residents in the long run. He stated that we needed to make this happen and we needed to educate our residents.

Board Member G. Petersen said the writing was on the wall and we needed to move forward. The District needs to plan on paramedics, but he still questioned signing the agreement. He liked the fact that there was some innuendo about some financial help, but he did not see a problem in delaying signing the agreement for 30 days to see what kind of financial help the County were willing to give. He said this did not mean that he wanted to delay in budgeting for paramedics and planning appropriately. He also wanted to know how much of an impact this would have on our surrounding cities and if they were going to plan on using sales tax or relying on just property tax to help fund the program. As far as messaging, he said the County may not want to participate, but there might be something we could do with the surrounding cities.

Board Member Chatterton said he was not sure how much it will help, but as growth occurs, there's going to be more people that will pay into the fund with property taxes. He stated that the costs are going to be the same whether we get our paramedics or contract out so we may as well have it in-house so that we have control over it. He mentioned that he was not happy with the County Commissioners because he didn't think they were partnering with us but fighting against us for their own survival when re-election comes up. He also said we needed to be careful with our messaging because it could backfire on us. He wanted to find out what the surrounding cities were doing and try to learn from them and maybe incorporate some of their information.

2. Discussion of the future needs of NDFD, including but not limited to the Capital Improvements Plan, growth, personnel, and tentative budget for FY2022.

Due to lack of time, the Fire Chief said he could discuss item 2 during the regular meeting.

Board Member Shepherd made a motion to adjourn the work session and move into the regular meeting. Board Member Chatterton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Scheduled Board Meeting – 6:30 PM

Board Members Present: Chairman Timothy E. Roper, Vice-Chairman Howard Madsen, Jerry Chatterton, Mark Shepherd, Gary Petersen, Scott Wiggill, Chad Bangarter, and Erik Craythorne

Board Members Excused: Nike Peterson

Staff Present: Fire Chief Mark Becraft, Deputy Fire Chief John Taylor, District Clerk Misty Rogers, and Treasurer Nicole Nelson (via Zoom)

1. Call to Order

2. Invocation or Inspirational Thought: Provided by Board Member Craythorne

3. Pledge of Allegiance

4. Citizen Comment

5. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the February 18, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting

Board Member Wiggill made a motion to approve the minutes from February 18, 2021 Board of Trustees Meeting. Board Member Madsen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

6. Consideration of Approval of the North Davis Fire District Bills for February 2021

Board Member Madsen made a motion to approve the North Davis Fire District Bills for February 2021. Board Member Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion passed.

7. Consideration of Approval of the North Davis Fire District Financial Report

Chief Becraft mentioned that we were on target with property taxes and always watching ambulance revenue which may be running a little behind, but will property come in on target. With everything we have been experiencing, we are up on impact fees. We have been watching wages closely because there has been a lot of call-back and overtime.

Board Member G. Petersen made a motion to approve the North Davis Fire District Financial Report. Board Member Chatterton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. Discussion & Consideration of Resolution, 2021R-02, A Resolution Approving an Interlocal Agreement Entered into Jointly Between North Davis Fire District and Davis County, and Several Other Governmental Agencies Within Davis County Regarding Paramedic Services and Providing for an Effective Date

Board Member G. Petersen said he wanted to see what happens in the next 30 days and was not sure that he was ready to sign the agreement. He wanted to reiterate that he did not feel the Commissioners were being fair on

this matter. Because of their prior inability to hold the levy and costs and backfilling it with general funds, they cannot do a reduction and send more permanent money our way which will make us have to have an increase. They do not want to reduce it further because they do not want to go through attrition with their force which is their own management decision. If they are going to give us a date that they're ending the program and we have to ramp up, they are forcing us to spend those dollars when they're not willing to release those dollars. It's a management decision on their part and they should be the ones eating the costs and not forcing us to pay for it. He also said he understood that we needed to move forward and do what's right for our citizens.

Board Member Wiggill said he agreed with everything Board Member G. Petersen said and agreed that the County was not being fair. He commented that we did need to have a lot of questions answered, but he didn't think our not passing the Resolution tonight would have any bearing on matters.

Board Member Wiggill made a motion to approve Resolution, 2021R-02, A Resolution Approving an Interlocal Agreement Entered into Jointly Between North Davis Fire District and Davis County, and Several Other Governmental Agencies Within Davis County Regarding Paramedic Services and Providing for an Effective Date. Board Member Craythorne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Roper (non-voting member)
Board Member Bangertter - Yes
Board Member Chatterton - Yes
Board Member Shepherd - Yes
Board Member G. Petersen - No

Vice-Chairman Madsen – Yes
Board Member N. Peterson (excused)
Board Member Craythorne – Yes
Board Member Wiggill – Yes

9. Discussion & Consideration of Resolution 2021R-03 Approving a Contract with PNC Equipment for the Lease Purchase of 1 750-Pierce-Custom Enforcer PUC and Providing for an Effective Date

Chief Becraft said the contract was in place and he recommended putting more money down. He said it falls within the CIP and the payment schedule for our fleet.

Board Member Wiggill said if we have already received the maximum discounts that we can, rather than putting more money down, we should probably review using the money for other matters.

Board Member G. Petersen asked if we did put more money down, where would the money come from. Chief Becraft answered that in the CIP, it is listed as an engine with the equipment and the equipment is \$90,000 to \$100,000. We have budgeted \$800,000 but it is more expensive. He said they went out and priced the equipment and it was better to spend the money out of the general fund for the equipment than it was to have it come with the engine from the capital projects fund. He also said that right now we have more commercial impact fee money, and he did not want to spend it all, but wanted the Board to know it was an option.

Board Member Chatterton made a motion to approve Resolution, 2021R-03, Approving a Contract with PNC Equipment for the Lease Purchase of 1 750-Pierce-Custom Enforcer PUC and Providing for an Effective Date. Board Member Bangertter seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Roper (non-voting member)
Board Member Bangertter - Yes
Board Member Chatterton - Yes
Board Member Shepherd - Yes
Board Member G. Petersen - Yes

Vice-Chairman Madsen – Yes
Board Member N. Peterson (excused)
Board Member Craythorne – Yes
Board Member Wiggill – Yes

10. Discussion & Consideration of Allowing the Fire Chief to Enter into a Contract with a Public Relations Firm to Assist NDFD with Public Education for Upcoming Changes and Needs of the District

Chief Becraft said due to the previous meeting with the County, he didn't have a money figure or contract for a public relations firm to present tonight so he said he's not asking the Board to enter into a contract tonight.

Board Member Wiggill said the District was unique in that we only have property taxes to rely on where other cities have other funds to rely on. He said we needed to look for a company that understood our situation that would give us information to convey to our residents. He knows there will be a lot of negative people and that is when we needed the facts and data.

Chief Becraft asked for some direction from the Board. Board Member G. Petersen wanted to know what a professional service could do. He wanted to know if a company could give the Board a presentation and then they as a board could make a decision.

Vice-Chairman Madsen stated that he disagreed with Board Member G. Petersen, but he did agree with Board Member Wiggill's comments. He then stated that if Board Member Wiggill would make a motion, he would second the motion to allow the Chief to hire a public relations firm for their experience.

Board Member G. Petersen stated that before a public relations firm should be hired, the Board of Trustees should know what they plan to present to the public. He wanted to ensure that the message provided to the public was the intention of the board. Board Member G. Petersen again expressed his desire for a public relations firm provide the board with a presentation before they were hired.

11. Fire Chiefs Report

Chief Becraft reported on the following:

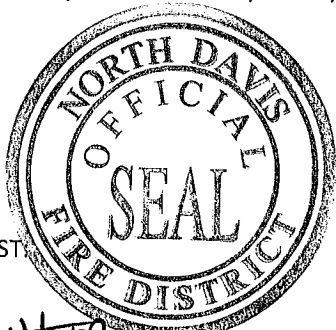
- a. procurement committee and received bids They have met as a for an architectural, engineering and construction management firm and narrowed it down to one which is Blaalock Partners who have built fire stations all over the state. He said he would bring numbers back to the Board.
- b. Chief Taylor has already submitted for a Safer Grant. If we receive it, it will fully fund six firefighters for three years.
- c. We have also submitted for an AFG Grant for air packs for \$300,000.
- d. He is still talking with the County and Mayor Craythorne regarding the annexation of the unincorporated area.
- e. He has been in contact with Clearfield City and Chief Bennett regarding dispatch conversations and the possibility of a county-wide rollout of possible virtual dispatch.
- f. Chief Taylor will be meeting with Bridgerland Technical College next week to sign a contract with them to allow their students to participate in ride-alongs with the District. This will help in building a good relationship with them.

12. Other

13. Motion to Adjourn

Board Member Shepherd made a motion to adjourn. Board Member Chatterton seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Passed and adopted the 20th day of May 2021



ATTEST

Misty Rogers
Misty Rogers, District Clerk

Timothy E. Roper
Timothy E. Roper, Chairman