



**North Davis Fire District  
Administrative Control Board Meeting  
381 North 3150 West  
West Point City, UT 84015**

**August 6, 2018 – 6:00 PM**

Minutes from the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board Meeting held at 6:00 PM on August 6, 2018 at Station 41, 381 North 3150 West, West Point City, Utah 84015 with Chairman Gary Petersen presiding.

**Board Members Present:** Chairman Gary Petersen, Vice-Chairman Mark Shepherd, Howard Madsen, Nike Peterson, Tim Roper, Erik Craythorne, Jerry Chatterton and Scott Wiggill

**Board Members Excused:** David Nelson

**Staff Present:** Fire Chief Mark Becraft, Deputy Fire Chief John Taylor and District Clerk Misty Rogers

**Visitors:** Roger Hughes, Morgan Roberts, Cherie Higley, Kevin Higley, Clair Hamblin, Reid Child and Dennis Montgomery

**1. Call to Order:**

Chairman G. Petersen opened the Administrative Control Board Meeting and welcomed those in attendance.

**2. Invocation or Inspirational Thoughts:**

Chairman G. Petersen provided the invocation.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

**4. Citizen Comment:**

Chairman G. Petersen stated that anyone wishing to address the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board could do so either during the citizen comment portion of the meeting, or during the scheduled public hearings for the North Davis Fire District Property Tax Rate and Fiscal Year 2019 Budget. He then stated that because the Administrative Control Board will make decisions that will affect the entire community, it is important to hear and consider the thoughts and feelings of the public. Chairman G. Petersen asked that anyone providing comments to the board clearly state their name and address prior to giving any remarks. He then stated comments should be limited to two-in-a-half minutes.

Roger Hughes - [REDACTED]

Mr. Hughes stated that his son-in-law is a firefighter and that he understands the importance of firefighters and the difficulty of the job. He then stated that he can recall a public hearing which had been held prior the creation of the North Davis Fire District and the construction of the Station 41. During that specific public hearing, the majority of residents in attendances were against the joining of the district; however West Point City joined anyway.

Mr. Hughes stated that when West Point joined the district, residents were given two promises. First, by joining the North Davis Fire District, residents would gain faster fire response times. Mr. Hughes stated that he has not personally witnessed faster fire response times. When his neighbor's home caught fire, it was nearly 40 minutes before any water was put on the home. He acknowledged that there may have been extenuating circumstances as to why there may have been a delay with water suppression. Mr. Hughes then stated that the second promise made to the community was that there would be upfront costs associated with joining the North Davis Fire District, however it would save them money in the future.

Mr. Hughes stated that a home valued at \$300,000.00 in the service area of South Davis Metro Fire (Bountiful, Centerville, North Salt Lake, West Bountiful, Woods Cross and Unincorporated South Davis County), will pay approximately \$60.00 per year for fire protection. However, if the proposed property tax rate is approved, a home in West Point City with the same value will be assessed nearly \$200.00 for fire protection. Mr. Hughes asked why South Davis Metro Fire can operate with less property tax revenue but the North Davis Fire District cannot. He then stated that if the proposed property tax rate is approved, his home in West Point City will be assessed \$271.00 for fire protection; a 9.75% increase from the previous year. Mr. Hughes asked what services the residents of the North Davis Fire District receive that the residents of South Davis Metro Fire do not receive.

Mr. Hughes asked when the residents of West Point City will receive the benefits that they were promised when they joined the North Davis Fire District. He then asked where the "highly profitable" ambulance revenue has disappeared to. Mr. Hughes stated that if the North Davis Fire District cannot operate within budget, it should "go without and stop forcing a higher tax on residents". He asked that the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board not approve the proposed property tax increase and search for ways to cut spending.

Reid Child - [REDACTED]

Mr. Child stated that he agreed with Mr. Hughes. He then asked which of the members of the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board are elected officials. Chairman G. Petersen, Vice-Chairman Shepherd, Board Member Craythorne, Board Member Chatterton, Board Member N. Peterson, Board Member Roper, Board Member Madsen and Board Member Wiggill all raised their hands, acknowledging that they are elected officials. Board Member Craythorne stated that Board Member Nelson was absent from the meeting, however he is an appointed member of the board. Mr. Child stated that tax payers are paying the wages of the elected officials and as a tax payer of the community he expects equal and fair representation from each board member.

Mr. Child stated that he has a document indicating that Clearfield City and West Point City are ranked numbers one and two for the highest property tax rates in the Davis County. He stated having the highest property tax rates in the county is not something to be proud of. Mr. Child stated that the North Davis Fire District is overpriced, South Davis Metro Fire Department operates on 325% less than the North Davis Fire District. He then stated that he understands that more cities are encompassed within South Davis Metro; however, the North Davis Fire District recently added Sunset City into the district.

Mr. Child stated that last year residents within the North Davis Fire District experienced a 7% increase to property taxes, and this year residents within the district could experience an increase of 10%. He then stated that it is strange that for the past two years, the property tax rate of the North Davis Fire District has increased. Mr. Child expressed the need for the North Davis Fire District to reduce costs. He then stated over the past few years, construction has increased and the district should have large amounts of revenue from the collection of impact fees and such.

Chief Becraft stated that Mr. Child had exceeded the allotted two-in-a-half minutes. Mr. Child stated that the North Davis Fire District has a large amount of income and it seems to never be enough. He then stated that the North Davis Fire District must stop increasing taxes. Chairman G. Petersen thanked Mr. Child for his comments, he then informed Mr. Child that the two-and-a-half minutes he had been granted had been expended. Mr. Child firmly stated that he pays fees to the North Davis Fire District, therefore the Administrative Control Board would listen to him speak for a few more minutes. Chief Becraft asked Chairman G. Petersen if Mr. Child should be escorted from the meeting. Chairman G. Petersen stated no and permitted Mr. Child to continue to address the board.

Mr. Child stated that Clinton City has their own fire department and their property taxes are approximately 10% less than that of the North Davis Fire District. He then stated that Syracuse City also has their own fire department and they pay approximately 5% less than the district. Mr. Child stated that if the proposed property tax rate is approved, he will pay \$200.00 for fire protection and another \$400.00 for insurance. He then stated that it is wrong that it would cost him less for fire protection if he lived in Woods Cross. Mr. Child stated that Gold Cross Ambulance would be happy to take the EMS calls for the North Davis Fire District. Mr. Child firmly stated that the North Davis Fire District is not worth the fees which they assess. He then stated that he pays the North Davis Fire District \$200.00 to "stand around" in case that his home starts on fire. Mr. Child stated that he appreciates the board listening to his

comments. He then asked that the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board to consider the comments from the "overtaxed citizens of West Point".

Morgan Roberts - [REDACTED]

Mr. Roberts stated requested that the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board consider alternatives to increasing property tax rates. He then stated that on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the United States Fire Administration website a list of "Funding Alternatives" for fire and ems services can be found. Mr. Roberts stated that the North Davis Fire District could obtain alternative funding from Major Local Government Funding Mechanisms, Federal and State Programs, Private Sector Sources and the Wildland Firefighter program. Mr. Roberts stated Layton City participates in the Wildland Firefighter program with the Federal Government. Participating in the program provides additional revenue to Layton City. Mr. Roberts asked if a list of funding alternatives from the FEMA website (*attachment 1*) could be submitted for the board to review. Ms. Rogers stated yes, she then provided a copy of Mr. Roberts handout to each board member.

Chairman G. Petersen asked if anyone else would like to address the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board. He then stated the public would have another opportunity to address the board during the public comment portion of the meeting. Because no one else in attendance expressed a desire to address the board, Chairman G. Petersen closed the citizen comment portion of the meeting.

**5. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the July 19, 2018 Administrative Control Board Meeting**

Vice-Chairman Shepherd motioned to approve the minutes from the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board meeting held on July 19, 2018. Board Member Roper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**6. Consideration of Approval of the July 2018 Bills for the North Davis Fire District**

Board Member Roper motioned to approve the North Davis Fire District bills for July 2018. Board Member N. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**7. Consideration of Approval of the July 2018 Financial Report for the North Davis Fire District**

Chief Becraft stated that the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board had met approximately two weeks prior, therefore there was little new information. Chief Becraft then stated that the Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2019 is as expected. He then reminded the board that because of timing, some revenue such as ambulance revenue and expenditures showing in the Financial Report will be reversed into the Fiscal Year 2018. Chief Becraft informed the board that the Contender has been sold for \$30,000.00 to the City of Parowan.

Board Member N. Peterson motioned to approve the North Davis Fire District Financial Report for July 2018. Vice-Chairman Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**8. Discussion and Consideration of Approval of Resolution 2018R-07 of the Property Tax Rate for the 2018 Taxable Year for the North Davis Fire District and Requesting that Clearfield City Council as the Governing Authority Adopt a Resolution Certifying a Tax Rate for the North Davis Fire District and Providing for an Effective Date (Truth in Taxation Process)**

Chief Becraft stated that during several prior meetings of the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board, the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget, the need for additional revenue and the property tax rate had been discussed. He then stated that the increase of the property tax rate is to assist with inflationary costs, the increasing cost of health and liability insurance, but mostly employee wages.

Chief Becraft stated a citizen made a comment comparing the property tax rate of the South Davis Metro Fire to that of the North Davis Fire District. Chief Becraft informed the public that the property tax rate of South Davis Metro Fire is less than the North Davis Fire District because of several reasons. First, South Davis Metro formed their district approximately one-year ago. This year, South Davis Metro is only taxing for capital expenditure costs (buildings, ladder trucks, etc.). The cities encompassed within South Davis Metro (Bountiful, Centerville, North Salt Lake, West

Bountiful, Woods Cross and Unincorporated South Davis County) are being charged a contracted rate for operational and service costs. Chief Becraft stated the actual budget of South Davis Metro Fire is significantly more than that of the North Davis Fire District.

Chief Becraft stated that South Davis Metro Fire is not a good comparable to the North Davis Fire District, however the Weber Fire District is comparable. He then informed those in attendance that the Weber Fire District recently imposed a 35% increase for fire protection. Chief Becraft stated that Ms. Rogers lives in Western Weber County and her valuation is similar to that of homes in West Point City. However, with the 35% property tax increase that she incurred, she will pay approximately \$167.00 more per year for fire protection to Weber Fire District than a resident in West Point. Chief Becraft then clarified that Ms. Rogers will pay significantly more each year for fire service without having an actual fire station in or near her home or town.

Chairman G. Petersen stated that during previous meetings of the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board the district's needs, budget and property tax rate have been discussed. He then stated that the current taxing of South Davis Metro is confusing, that is why an explanation had been provided to the board in the previously. Chairman G. Petersen clarified that South Davis Metro has only begun to initiate taxing capabilities. He then stated that taxing for capital improvement items such as equipment, buildings, etc. is much different than costs associated with operational expenses such as wages, insurances, supplies, etc. Chairman G. Petersen stated North Davis Fire District cannot be compared "apples to apples" with South Davis Metro.

Chairman G. Petersen stated that ambulance revenue is accounted for in budget of the North Davis Fire District. He then stated ambulance revenue can be profitable and it can help offset costs in the budget. Chairman G. Petersen stated the ambulance revenue is profitable, however it is not as profitable as one would imagine. During Fiscal Year 2018 (July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018) ambulance revenues have decreased substantially due to the structure of Medicare, Medicaid, self-pays and Obamacare. Chairman G. Petersen stated that the North Davis Fire District has an obligation to treat all patients and transport as necessary. The district is paid a certain amount for Medicare and Medicaid calls, regardless of the supplies used, time it takes, etc.

Chairman G. Petersen stated that the increasing property taxes has not been a common practice for the North Davis Fire District. However, the time has come that the district is in need of additional revenue, mostly for the increase to employee wages. Chairman G. Petersen stated that is a high demand for Fire and EMS personnel all over the state of Utah. He stated the biggest reason that employees are moving from department to department are because of the wages being paid for Fire and EMS personnel. If the North Davis Fire District does not keep competitive with employee wages, the district will not be able to retain quality employees and the district will become a "training ground" for other departments. Chairman G. Petersen stated because of wages, the North Davis Fire District has lost numerous well trained and seasoned Firefighters and EMS personnel. He then stated that the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board and administration feel that it is a responsible action to become competitive with employee wages and retain the employees of the North Davis Fire District. Chairman G. Petersen clarified again that the proposed tax increase is strictly for wage increases.

Board Member Craythorne stated that a comment had been made regarding the use of Impact Fees to offset the budget. He informed those in attendance that the use of Impact Fees is highly regulated and they cannot be used for operational expenses such as employee wages and day-to-day operations. Impact Fees must be specifically used for "brick and mortar" expenses (buildings, ladder trucks, etc.). Board Member Craythorne stated approximately six to eight months ago, members of the board and administration noticed that the North Davis Fire District had been losing a significant number of quality employees to other agencies. On multiple occasions, employees were asked why they were leaving the district, in most cases employees stated that wages were the driving force behind leaving. Board Member Craythorne stated that the discussion of employee wages, needs of the district, the budget and the property tax rate have noticed on several agendas. He then stated that the Administrative Control Board strongly believes that the North Davis Fire District should not be a "training ground" for other agencies and that district should strive to retain employees.

Vice-Chairman Shepherd stated the budget of the North Davis Fire District is not full of "fluff". He then stated that Chief Becraft is held to a high standard and that he and administrative strive to keep the budget lean. The district follows a fleet replacement schedule and does not replace vehicles on a whim.

Board Member Roper stated that the safety of the firefighters is extremely important to the Administrative Control Board and that it is imperative that the firefighters are properly trained and supplied with safe equipment.

Board Member N. Peterson stated that investing in the education and safety of the firefighters is an investment to the community. She then expressed her appreciation to Mr. Roberts for providing the board with "Funding Alternatives for Fire and Emergency Services" (see attachment A). She then stated that some agencies have the capability and resources available to gain revenue from contracting with federal or local government for firefighting. However, due to staffing and other available resources the North Davis Fire District does not have the luxury to outsource firefighters for state or national fires. Board Member N. Peterson stated that sending the current resources and firefighters of the district away to fight wildland fires could put the district in jeopardy.

Board Member N. Peterson stated that the initial hiring, training and outfitting new employees costs the district substantially. If the district cannot be competitive with wages, the district will become a training ground for other departments and continue to lose money and experienced firefighters. Board Member N. Petersen stated that the district needs to invest in the firefighters of the North Davis Fire District. She then stated that North Davis Fire District had operated its first 10 years without a property tax increase. However, the time has come that wages are significantly lagging and there is a need for additional revenue for wage specific purposes. Board Member N. Peterson stated the budget committee has worked diligently to keep the increase as wage specific as possible. She then reminded those in attendance that each member of the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board will be assessed the new property tax rate just like everyone within the district and it too will affect each board members "pocket book".

Board Member Madsen stated that he has worked with a department that was known as a "training ground" for other departments. He stated a certification is a good starting point, but experience is needed to be truly successful. Board Member Madsen stated that he served 30 years for the Utah Department of Public Safety and he would not have considered himself "properly trained or prepared" after only one year of service. He then expressed the need to train and retain experienced, skilled and quality employees. Board Member Madsen stated that he fully supports an increase to the firefighter's wages.

Board Member Chatterton stated that firefighter wages and training have been discussed in great length during several previous board meetings. He then stated approximately one-year ago, his garage caught fire. The first North Davis Fire District Brush Truck arrived within approximately one-and-a-half minutes, the larger apparatuses arrived within approximately two-and-a-half minutes. Board Member Chatterton stated the North Davis Fire District is a professional department with caring fire chiefs, firefighters and employees. He then expressed his appreciation to the firefighters of the North Davis Fire District.

Ms. Rogers stated that there is a misconception that ambulance services provide a substantial amount of revenue for the North Davis Fire District. She stated while ambulance services do provide revenue to the district, however the North Davis Fire District and other agencies throughout the state only collect approximately 50% of what is actually billed. Ms. Rogers stated that the North Davis Fire District is busier than it has ever been, however ambulance revenue collection is lower than in previous years. Currently, the North Davis Fire District has less than \$1 million in ambulance revenue in Fiscal Year 2018, this amount is lower than what was received the prior fiscal year.

Chief Becraft stated that the between the amount self-pays and Medicaid calls, revenues are significantly lower than in previous years. Chairman G. Petersen clarified that for every Medicaid transport, the district receives a set amount of money which is significantly lower than the billed amount. Chief Becraft stated that the North Davis Fire District cannot deny service or treatment. The district must provide service regardless if the patient has insurance or if their bill is delinquent.

- a. Public Hearing – Chairman Petersen opened the public hearing for the propose property tax rate of the North Davis Fire District.

Reid Child – [REDACTED]

Mr. Child thanked the board for answering many of the questions which he and other members of the community had asked. He then stated that he is aware that raising property taxes will help to offset inflationary costs. However, he too has inflationary expenses such as food, fuel, health insurance, etc. that must be paid for. Mr. Child stated that Sunset City is paying thousands of dollars for services being provided to their city. He then stated that South Davis Fire may not be an accurate comparison, however when combining the tax rate for the North Davis Fire District and West Point City, it is the highest in the county. Mr. Child stated that inflation is expected, however people on social security and state and federal retirement programs typically only receive an inflationary increase of 1.5%. He then stated that according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics wage increases nationwide are approximately 2%. Mr. Child stated that the North Davis Fire District should keep wage increases to 2%, not 10%.

Clair Hammond - [REDACTED]

Mr. Hammond stated that understands that retaining employees can be difficult. However, because of property valuations if the North Davis Fire District approves the proposed property tax rate increase, his property taxes will increase nearly 15%. Mr. Hammond stated that many residents living in West Point City on a fixed income and it may be difficult for them to absorb a 15% increase to their budget. He then stated that a 15% increase to the budget seems excessive, however he does not know the specifics of revenues and expenditures for the North Davis Fire District.

Roger Hughes – [REDACTED]

Mr. Hughes asked if the Administrative Control Board has a plan to keep the operating costs of the North Davis Fire District within a reasonable budget. He then stated that it would be comforting to know that property taxes would not be increased every year.

Dennis Montgomery - [REDACTED]

Mr. Montgomery stated that he agrees with Board Member Chatterton, the employees of the North Davis Fire District are professional and he supports each of them. However, when combining the proposed 9% increase to property tax rate of the North Davis Fire District and the 7% increase to the property tax rate of West Point City, his budget will need to absorb a 16% increase. Mr. Montgomery stated that a 16% increase seems excessive. He then stated employee turnover could be reduced by requiring new hires to sign a contract stating that they will remain an employee of the district for a certain amount of time.

John Walsh – [REDACTED]

Mr. Walsh stated that the North Davis Fire District has a budget committee. He then asked who is part of the committee. Chairman G. Petersen stated the budget committee consists of the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Executive Secretary and the Treasurer of the district. He then clarified that the Treasurer of the district is an outside party. Mr. Walsh asked if the budget committee provides a report to the board. Chairman G. Petersen explained that before the budget is taken to the Administrative Control Board for approval, that the budget committee meets to review a draft of the next year's budget, discuss the needs of the district and make changes to the budget as necessary. Chairman G. Petersen then stated the budget committee doesn't provide a written recommendation of the needs to the board. After the committee agrees upon the needs of the district, a tentative budget is drafted. The tentative budget is the presented to the Administrative Control Board for their review, discussion and adoption.

Ms. Rogers stated the budget committee meets early in the planning process to discuss the budgetary needs of the district as well as review a draft of the upcoming budget. During the budget review process, the committee discusses and determines which items should be removed, added or revised. After the recommended changes have been made to the draft budget, it is presented to and adopted by the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board. Ms. Rogers stated that the budget committee and budget

document are transparent. She then stated that the budget committee works together with the board to produce a final budget in which the administrative control board reviews, discusses and approves.

Board Member Shepherd motioned to close the public hearing. Board Member Chatterton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Action

Mayor Madsen stated because Sunset City had not been annexed into the North Davis Fire District, property taxes assessed to the residents of Sunset City do not include taxes paid directly to the North Davis Fire District. Therefore, Sunset City pays the North Davis Fire District a contracted amount each month to provide Fire and EMS Services to their city. Board Member Madsen stated the North Davis Fire District cannot collect "tax base" from residents of Sunset City until it is annexed into the district.

Chairman G. Petersen clarified that the fees assessed to Sunset City are determined by the property tax rate of the North Davis Fire District. He then stated that the proposed budget is provided to the Administrative Control Board for discussion and review, a "formal report" is not actually provided. Chairman G. Petersen stated that the budget committee met in March to review and discuss the budget.

Mr. Walsh spoke out and stated that he is an accountant and he prefers that he make an educated decision by reviewing available and pertinent information.

Chairman G. Petersen stated that in the past, the North Davis Fire District has either accepted the certified property tax rate or maintained the property tax rate. He then stated that the proposed property tax rate is higher than anyone desires, however the North Davis Fire District is in need of additional revenue. Chairman G. Petersen that the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board would be acting irresponsibly by not providing a way for the district to operate effectively without cutting services. He then stated that the North Davis Fire District has and will continue to operate responsibly.

Chairman G. Petersen stated that the North Davis Fire District has discussed sending staff and equipment to assist with wildfires as a way to increase revenue. However, it has been determined that sending firefighters and equipment to assist with wildland fires, the North Davis Fire District would likely experience shifts not being adequately filled and the community could be in jeopardy. Chairman G. Petersen then thanked those in attendance for researching and providing the board with ways to generate revenue for the North Davis Fire District.

Board Member Craythorne asked those in attendance if they were aware of the salary of a new Firefighter/AEMT. Ms. Rogers stated with the current wage scale of the North Davis Fire District, a new full-time Firefighter/AEMT starts out earning \$11.80 per hour. She then informed those in attendance that a full-time firefighter works 2,880 hours per year, this means that a new full-time firefighter/AEMT earns approximately \$36,000 to \$37,000 annually. Ms. Rogers stated employees do receive a merit increase each year (budget permitting), and the typical merit increase is 2.5% to 3% depending upon the employee's evaluation.

Board Member Craythorne asked Ms. Rogers what the annual earnings would be for a full-time firefighter/AEMT if the proposed budget is approve. Ms. Rogers stated if the proposed budget is approved, a new firefighter/AEMT would earn approximately \$41,000 annually. Board Member Craythorne stated the North Davis Fire District needs to increase wages as a way to keep firefighters.

Chief Becraft stated that the wage study completed by the North Davis Fire District included wages from surrounding agencies such as Roy Fire, Weber Fire District, Layton Fire and South Davis Metro. He then clarified that the wages of the North Davis Fire District were compared to agencies with similar call volumes and certification levels. Chief Becraft stated that North Davis Fire District wages cannot be and should not be compared to the wages paid in the Salt Lake Valley.

Board Member Craythorne stated that he has a relative that was a firefighter and loved being a firefighter. But, because the employee could not financially provide for his family due to the low wages, the employee had to quit a job which he loved to find employment outside of the fire service.

Board Member Roper stated that it is rare for a firefighter to work only one job. Most firefighters must work two or more jobs just to provide for their family.

Board Member N. Peterson asked how long it had been since the North Davis Fire District had completed a wage study for full-time firefighters. Chairman G. Petersen stated the last wage study for full-time firefighters occurred nearly five years ago. Board Member N. Peterson stated that employees have received small merit increases, however they have not received a "cola" or substantial increase to their wage in several years. Because of this, the wages of the full-time firefighters have suffered and become one of the lowest in the area. Board Member N. Peterson then stated that the North Davis Fire District must be competitive with surrounding agencies which are comparable to the district. She then stated that detailed wage study information had been provided to the board in a previous meeting. Board Member N. Peterson stated the information can be found in the agendas and packets on the North Davis Fire District website. Ms. Rogers stated the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board discussed employee wages during the May 2018 board meeting.

Mr. Reid Child asked how the North Davis Fire District is using the revenue being received from Sunset City. Chairman G. Petersen stated the previous Sunset City Fire Department had one ambulance manned by two personnel. The fee the North Davis Fire District receives from Sunset City is used to pay for the ambulance and two additional personnel per shift to be stationed at Station 42 in Clearfield. He then stated the hiring of additional firefighters and increasing staffing at Station 42 allows the North Davis Fire District to respond to more calls. He then stated that the North Davis Fire District responds to nearly 4,000 calls per year.

Chief Becraft stated that Station 42 in Clearfield is one of the busiest stations in Davis County. Deputy Chief Taylor stated that Station 42 in Clearfield runs approximately 2,600 calls per year (average of 7.1 calls per day). It is likely that Station 42 is one of the busiest stations (not departments) in the state.

Board Member Chatterton stated several years ago, Davis and Weber Canal had issues with infrastructure and were in need of additional revenue. They too had not increased their property tax rate over the years, therefore residents were hit with a large increase all at once. Board Member Chatterton stated that maybe the district should have raised property tax rates "a little at a time" instead of one large increase. He then stated that just like each member of the community, each member of the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board will also experience the same property tax rate increase if the proposed property tax rate is approved. He then stated that as a board, they agree that the North Davis Fire District needs to hire and retain trained employees and firefighters.

Chairman G. Petersen stated that the board members have reviewed and discussed wages and the budget during several prior meetings. He stated that he understands that people may disagree with the property tax increase. However, the community may feel differently if they listened to the same information that had been presented during prior meetings.

Vice-Chairman Shepherd stated that he appreciates the public's comment and the interest. He stated that public finance can be difficult to understand and entities do not receive additional revenue just because property values increase. For example, if home values increase the property tax rate for an entity decreases unless the property tax rate is maintained or increased. Vice-Chairman Shepherd stated health and liability insurances continue to increase along with everyday operational costs.

Chairman G. Petersen stated an inflationary component is not built into the budget process. If revenues do not keep up with costs, the Truth in Taxation process must be completed and the board must consider maintaining or increasing the property tax rate.



Vice-Chairman Shepherd stated that Clearfield City and Sunset City are nearly are built out and the district cannot count on "new growth". The growth will likely come from West Point. He then stated that the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board will continue to plan for the future.

Chairman G. Petersen stated that the North Davis Fire District plans for the future. The district has a fleet-management and capital improvement plan. The plans have been thought out, however the plans can change service oriented.

Ms. Rogers informed those in attendance that the North Davis Fire District does not receive funding from sales tax and other revenues like other entities. The majority of revenue the district receives is from property taxes and ambulance revenue.

Chairman G. Petersen agreed with Ms. Rogers, he then stated that the district does not receive class c road funds or franchise tax. Someone in attendance asked if businesses pay a fee to the North Davis Fire District for fire protection. Chairman G. Petersen stated businesses pay property taxes (100% value for a business, 50% for residential) for fire protection. If a new building is constructed, an impact fee is collected. Someone in attendance then asked if the North Davis Fire District receives revenue from Freeport Center. Chairman G. Petersen stated yes, Freeport Center does provide a significant amount of revenue to the district.

Board Member Shepherd motioned to approve Resolution 2018R-07, the Property Tax Rate of 0.001205 for the 2018 Taxable Year for the North Davis Fire District and Requesting that Clearfield City Council as the Governing Authority Adopt a Resolution Certifying a Tax Rate for the North Davis Fire District and Providing for an Effective Date. Board Member Chatterton Seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Board Member Roper – aye

Board Member N. Peterson - aye

Board Member Chatterton – aye

Board Member Craythorne - aye

Vice-Chairman Shepherd – aye

Chairman G. Petersen - aye

**9. Discussion and Consideration of Approval Resolution 2018R-08 the Adoption of the North Davis Fire District FY2018/2019 Final Budget and Appropriating Funds for the Purposes Set Forth Therein for the Period Beginning July 1, 2018 and Ending June 30, 2019**

Chief Becraft stated that administration and the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board have reviewed, discussed and trimmed the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Final Budget (July 1, 2018 – Jun 30, 2019). He then stated that administration is comfortable with the proposed budget, he then requested that the board approve the Fiscal Year 2018/2019 Final Budget.

a. Public Hearing - No Comment

Board Member Shepherd motioned to close the public hearing. Board Member Craythorne seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Action

Board Member Craythorne motioned to approve Resolution 2018R-08 the Adoption of the North Davis Fire District FY2018/2019 Final Budget and Appropriating Funds for the Purposes Set Forth Therein for the Period Beginning July 1, 2018 and Ending June 30, 2019. Vice-Chairman Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Roll Call Vote

Board Member Roper – aye

Board Member N. Peterson - aye

Board Member Chatterton – aye

Board Member Craythorne - aye

Vice-Chairman Shepherd – aye

Chairman G. Petersen - aye

**10. Consideration of Resolution 2018R-09, A Resolution Approving an Automatic Aid Agreement with Weber Fire District**

Chief Becraft stated the agreement being presented to the board is the same auto-aid agreement as in the past, the only change to the agreement are the dates within the agreement. He then stated that the North Davis Fire District has a great working relationship with the Weber Fire District and they assist one another with an auto-aid.

Chairman G. Petersen stated the North Davis Fire District participates in mutual and auto-aid agreements with other agencies. The agencies work together and assist one-another as needed.

Board Member Craythorne motioned to approve Resolution 2018R-09, A Resolution Approving an Automatic Aid Agreement with Weber Fire District. close the public hearing. Board Member Chatterton seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Roll Call Vote:

Board Member Roper – aye  
Board Member Chatterton – aye  
Vice-Chairman Shepherd – aye

Board Member N. Peterson - aye  
Board Member Craythorne - aye  
Chairman G. Petersen – aye

**11. Fire Chiefs Report**

Chief Becraft provided the following information to the board:

- Pierce Contender – The Contender has been sold to another entity for a fair price.
- Tour of Utah – North Davis Fire District will assist Clearfield City with placing the American Flag on SR-193 near 1000 West. Vice-Chairman Shepherd stated that the North Davis Fire District will use the ladder truck to drape the American Flag over the road on the Tour of Utah Route.

**12. Other:**

Board Member Chatterton expressed his appreciation for the members of the community who provide comments to the Administrative Control Board. He then stated it was unfortunate that the residents who provided comment to the board did not stay and listen to the remainder of the current meeting or attend prior meetings.

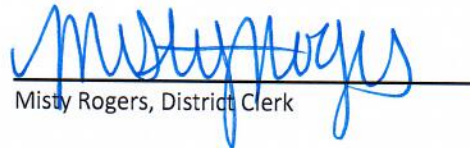
Board Member Wiggill stated that it is unfortunate that no members of the community attended any of the North Davis Fire District Administrative Control Board meetings where wages and the budgetary needs of the district were discussed. He then stated it is also unfortunate that no-one has called to ask or called and to ask questions before the public hearing. Chairman G. Petersen agreed.

**13. Motion to Adjourn**

Board Member Shepherd motioned to adjourn. Board Member Roper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Passed and adopted the 15<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2018.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Petersen, Chairman

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Misty Rogers, District Clerk



FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY UNITED STATES FIRE  
ADMINISTRATION

*Funding Alternatives for Fire and Emergency Services*

*Major Local Government Funding Mechanisms* The wide variety of local funding approaches found in practice - and it is truly a very wide variety - can be grouped into several major categories.

Taxes - These include general property taxes, local income taxes and general sales taxes used to fund most local services, but also transient taxes, and other taxes earmarked specifically for fire and EMS services.

Borrowing - In addition to the familiar bonds used for purchasing capital equipment and facilities are "certificates of participation" (COPs). They operate much like home mortgages and are used to purchase equipment and facilities when the local jurisdiction is not allowed to use the more conventional debt instruments.

Leasing - Another way to avoid a large capital outlay, especially for apparatus is a leasing arrangement, often with a right to purchase at the end.

Benefit Assessment Charges - Administered somewhat like property taxes, these charges factor in not only size and type of property but also "benefits" from being close to fire stations, having reduced insurance, having special services available, etc. These charges are a way to get around property tax limitations and also can improve the equity of charges for fire protection.

Fees - These include small revenue producers such as fees for permits for new construction, special events and operating hazardous functions, to fees for inspections and violations of codes, to fees for special services for which charges were not made in the past, such as pumping water out of a basement or rescuing a boater or hiker, to fees for virtually anything a fire department does. Perhaps the most lucrative new category of fees are those for emergency medical service transport and emergency medical care.

Strategic Alliances- Fire departments are forming alliances with other agencies to provide all the fire protection and EMS care in neighboring jurisdictions, or to provide selected services for parts of jurisdictions, or to provide special services such as training, hazardous materials responses, and heavy rescue either under an annual contract or with a fee per usage or per student. These arrangements are mutually beneficial to both the departments or agencies involved.

Cost Sharing and Consolidation - Many fire and EMS departments are joining together to pay for new facilities or services to reduce the burden on each, especially where the facilities or services

are not frequently used. Also, some fire and EMS departments are joining together to form single departments to save costs and improve service delivery.

Fines and Citations - Fire and EMS departments are charging fees for negligent fire, actions inconsistent with the law and failure to comply with codes.

Sales of Assets and Services - Some fire and EMS agencies sell used equipment or services to produce much needed revenue.

Subscriptions - Most commonly used for emergency medical services, this is essentially a form of insurance in which a household pays a fixed fee per year, such as \$35, and then does not have to pay anything additional for emergency medical service or transport it uses during the year. A major variation is where the subscription prevents any out-of-pocket expenditures beyond the subscription fee, but the local agency is free to charge the subscriber for fees that can be recovered from medical insurance or homeowners insurance. In either method, those not subscribing pay the full amount charged.

Impact Development Fees - New developments can be required to pay for the impact they have on capital purchases such as new fire stations and their full complement of equipment. Thereafter, the provision of services is paid the same as for existing development. There are a wide variety of miscellaneous other funding sources described in the text. There also are organizational approaches that can be considered when rethinking approaches to funding fire and EMS services.

**Federal and State Programs** In addition to the above sources in which the local government obtains funds from its server population through taxes or other approaches, local fire and emergency medical agencies also can obtain considerable funding from state and federal programs. Often the federal programs flow to the local level through state programs. Many states provide direct funding of EMS squads, especially in rural areas. Many states offer grant aid and low interest loans to fire and EMS departments for capital improvement projects. On the other hand, some states have no funds for local programs. The report lists the funding available at the state level for each state. Among the state and federal sources identified were the following:

Fire Insurance Surcharges - These range from a fraction of a percent to a few percent of fire-related premiums to pay for fire and emergency medical services programs. Local agencies do not tap into the surcharge funds directly, but rather through a variety of state programs.

Vehicle-Related Fees - Vehicle registration and traffic citations may have fees added to help pay for emergency medical services, which often are needed to assist victims of traffic accidents.

Special State Grant Programs - Many states have crime, health, or fire programs in which grants are given to local governments for specific public safety purposes such as new arson control

initiatives or improving the quality of emergency medical services. Often the grants are competitive.

**General State Revenues** - Many states allocate part of the taxes they raise to help support the local fire service, especially rural and volunteer fire agencies or those agencies considered most in need.

**State Provided Services** - Many states provide services that can be used in lieu of local services and funds, such as training of firefighters, regional hazardous materials teams and technical assistance programs.

**Federal Grant Programs**-There are a wide array of special purpose programs across the federal agencies. Some programs are not specifically earmarked for fire protection or EMS but can be used for those purposes, such as community block grants for improving cities, crime control initiatives (which often can be used for arson and juvenile firesetting programs), military surplus vehicles, and others.

Fire departments and EMS agencies in states without funding may wish to consider what other states are doing, and decide whether to approach their own states for funding. The taxpayers pay for these services one way or another, but some approaches may be more palatable or more equitable than others.

**Private Sector Sources** Career and volunteer fire and EMS companies raise a significant amount of funds from the private sector. Many fire departments are increasingly using private donations, sometimes by setting up non-profit foundations. Among the private sector sources are the following:

**Private Foundations** - Some communities are fortunate to have local foundations whose funds can be used for providing special public safety services, starting new services, helping low-income areas or other services allowed by their charters. Some national foundations also contribute to fire and EMS services.

**Corporate Donations** - Both volunteer and career departments have been successful in soliciting grants and services from local and national corporations. These sources may be involved in safety (such as insurance companies, manufacturers of fire-related equipment, manufacturers of products involved in fires), or may just be interested in good public relations and in doing community service (such as fast food restaurants).

**Public/Private Partnerships** - Many fire and EMS departments have been successful in public/private partnership ventures including co-development, sharing of resources and cost tradeoffs.

**Miscellaneous Fundraising Ideas** Fire and EMS departments all across the country are using innovative methods to raise much needed funds. Many volunteer agencies rely on these types of

funding methods to support their organizations and operation. This section includes information on:

Direct Solicitation - Volunteer departments often take the straightforward approach of door-to-door solicitation or direct mail solicitation.

Fundraising Events or Drives - Volunteer departments have raised funds through bake sales, barbecues, carnivals, dinners, picnics, casino nights, sporting events, and a wide variety of other fundraising methods.

Sale of Products of Services - Fire and EMS departments can raise funds through sales of products, such as photos or calendars, as well as services, such as rental facilities and car washes.

Other Important Information This manual includes a special section on developing grant requests and proposals, to assist fire and emergency medical service agencies in preparing appropriate documentation in pursuit of grants from government and private sources. This manual also includes a section on Managed Care and its effects on the funding of fire and emergency medical service agencies providing EMS and transport services to their communities. Managed Care has the potential to change the way EMS billing and EMS services are done by fire and EMS agencies in this country.

Providers of fire protection and emergency medical service should consider the wide variety of ways available to fund services and perhaps to improve the equity of paying for the service. Citizens often balk at new fundraising mechanisms, and need to be brought into the discussion of the purpose and mechanism of the funding at the earliest opportunity. Changing the way public safety is funded can profoundly affect the way government is viewed, and change the unwritten contract between a government and its people on major issues such as representation and the purposes and goals of government.