

**Oak Creek Fire Protection District February 22nd 6:30 p.m.  
131 E. Main St, Oak Creek**

**AGENDA**

Notice is hereby given that **Regular Meeting** of the District Board, of the Oak Creek Fire Protection District, Routt County, Colorado, will be held on Tuesday, February 22, 2022.

**Agenda is subject to change up to 24 hours before scheduled hearings**

This special board meeting will be held in person and via zoom conference. If any member of the public wishes to join this via zoom meeting please contact the Fire Chief via email ([chief@oakcreekfire.org](mailto:chief@oakcreekfire.org)) or via telephone at 970-761-8141

**Call to Order:**

Roll Call: Ryan, Doug, Tim, Mike

**Approval of Minutes:**

Review and consideration for approval from several past meetings. SDA has informed department that board members do not need to be present in order to approve minutes.

- **August** meeting minutes: Brady provides overview. Ryan offers floor for discussion; motion to approve; seconded and motion approved.
- **December** meeting minutes: Brady provides overview. Ryan offers floor for discussion; motion to approve; seconded and motion approved.
- **October** meeting minutes: Brady provides overview. Ryan offers floor for discussion; motion to approve; seconded and motion approved.
- **February** meeting minutes: Brady provides overview. Ryan offers floor for discussion; motion to approve; seconded and motion approved.

**Financials:**

- **Review and Approval of Current Financials**

Brady: update on Wildland and Structure funds; have replenished residual funds; well posed with hiring currently, still searching for engine bosses for wildland team. Karrie confirms fiscal health. Money is being spent, but loan is covering necessary expenses. Trying hard to make sure cash flow isn't extended. Line of credit for approximately \$.5 million so that we can better manage cash flow in future. Karrie mentions next year we will not have capital out like in 2021. Came in at end of year \$5k over in ambulance fees. Ryan moves to approve current financials; motion to approve current financials; seconded and motion approved.

- **Review Status of Grants**

Should hear about SCBA grant within the week; grant submitted for bunker gear.

**Old Business and Chief's Report:**

- **Temporary housing**

Man camp was purchased; approached by Lucky 8 Ranch, who currently has conditional use permit from county to house something like man camp; Lucky 8 insurance would drop in half if OCF is more able to respond, so agreement to host man camp in exchange for location for man camp is in the works. Current permit onsite is good for 2 years; power hook-up is available, water will need to be shuttled in, propane will be needed. Will know more in a couple weeks after site visit. Location is approximately 8 miles from town; having crews removed from public eye is a good thing. Potentially 4 weeks before man camps may be installed.

- **New career firefighters**

Hired 2 new personnel; started training 2 weeks ago; one individual bought a house nearby, the other is commuting.

- **Open positions for officers**

Advertising for training captain and additional officer; competing against everyone for positions.

- **Bullet proofing of vehicles**

Have agreed to bullet proof chase truck and engine. Chase truck should be done this week; Ryan suggests trusting One Off with mechanics, used to perform maintenance for County vehicles. Kellner is weary of some of the work being done.

- **Engine/Tender loan**

Loan has been funded; we have tender, in service now. Gear and services are taking very long time; equipment is trickling in; have about \$100k to spend on gear and equipment. Karrie and Brady working on classifying budget to better track what is going toward tender.

- **Wildland team and equipment**

11 offers, 12 total including Rob; potential engine boss applicant, which is great for deployment. Update on Garrett's deployment status and his likely return after deployment (Garrett is engine boss); equipment is going through check status, rebuild is happening on one engine (\$2-3k); at end of day, 4 reliable engines; one chipper available for potential chipping program; contract with Gates is \$100k; ski hill contract \$250k remaining, half paid in April half paid in August; Brady explains wildland crew time share between deployments and mitigation; adding mitigation projects into the pipeline through community outreach events; working with SPOA to explore Firewise cert, chipper program, participate in CWPP process queued up county.

- **Community involvement**

Lingering calls; concerted effort to attend local events; trying to be more present for community.

#### **New Business:**

- **Review and Approval of Wildland Engine Lease**

Contract for wildland engines has been sent to Board; is now with an LLC, rather than an individual... 3 partners in company; Bridget is not longer the majority, so takes away potential COI with relationship to OC; Brady will let Karrie take on all financial management to further avoid appearance of COI; because relying equipment for mitigation and wildland work, we need to lock down long term contract beyond one-year limitation; would like to extend the contract for 3 years; goal for wildland is to have reliability (Brady breaks down contract terms); how do we develop a business plan that allows us to become autonomous and purchase our own engine, and is that something we want to do? What happens if they go away? Mention from Board that we should become autonomous, that we can stand on our own. Ryan agrees that contract has helped us spring board, but we need to have a plan in place as soon as we can to become self-sufficient; doesn't want it to sneak up that in 3 years, we don't have a plan in place; still onboard, just don't lose sight of future and have ducks in-a-row for future; Brady is working on plan with finance firm (Jim) to develop CIP for future financial purchases. Ryan makes motion to approve; seconded and motion approved.

- **Long response time to Oak Creek remedies**

Takes approximately 12 minutes avg to respond from OC; Brady ran numbers from last year, 66% are OC, 34% are Stagecoach, highest percentages are Sunday, Thursday and Friday, between 9am – 4pm; don't have enough data to predict where/when next call will come from; staff is at Stagecoach; how do we resolve response time issue? Build new station? Drop modular office in Stagecoach and remodel HQ in Oak Creek for staff base? Ryan mentions need to direct focus engines/ambulances... let them see us; will be a challenge having them in OC because main station is in Stagecoach, but bringing up stats that is over half in OC, do what you can to focus patrols to area where having most calls. An effort needs to be made to “fly the colors” so folks in town see emergency responders; gives perception of presence and is more satisfying to community. Brady concerned about ability for FFs to train outside of station, also fuel and wear and tear costs going back and forth; at 66% we need to do something for response time; how do we effectively get crew at OC more time? Kellner asks what cost to change out OC HQ... Brady responds \$300-\$400k? Kellner asks if OCFPD could get a home for employees to help keep folks closer in OC area and decrease response times? Brady responds this would be like volunteer model of folks responding from home, which was slower than current response time from Stagecoach. (Ryan suggests installing a pole to expedite response time.)

- **Need for a training tower**

Revolving door department; newcomers want new challenges and training opportunities, and more “action”; also need a place to practice training. Training tower costs about \$600k; if we remodel office HQ, perhaps piggy-back training tower expense. What about Steamboat's training tower? Not an option, too far away.

- **Affordable housing**

Potential FFs asking about housing; 75% of people will utilize temp housing; OCFPD owns piece of land; help come up with plan to develop affordable housing... good state funding potentially available for affordable housing; we need to be able to secure space for our folks in the future for affordable housing. Should we look at our land to help support affordable housing? If we have the ability to do what we can with the land we own and possibly partner with anyone, best way to go about it. Ryan mentions that we have a long list of wishes and need to prioritize what we want to do first.

- **District board election**

Adam and Nick are interested in joining board; no other interest, so we don't need to go to election unless we get 3 interested parties. Election would be a big deal.

- **District board meeting schedule**

Would like to shift meetings to 1x/month to shorten board meeting time. Also, we can set a schedule to have date predetermined for planning purposes. **Third Tuesday of the month**, beginning in March.

**Community Input:**

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 8:07pm.