

**CASCADE RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
COMMISSIONER'S MEETING MINUTES
April 13, 2023**

Commissioner Larry Scarborough called the commissioner's meeting of the Cascade Rural Fire Protection District to order at 5:34 p.m. at the 109 East Pine Street Fire Station.

The following Cascade Rural Fire Protection District officials were present: Commissioner Larry Scarborough, Commissioner LaDawn Saxton, Commissioner Mike Arnold, Fire Chief Steven Hull, Emergency Medical Services Director Keri Rueth, and Secretary / Treasurer Pam DeChambeau.

Mike Arnold made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, and LaDawn Saxton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Scarborough opened the public hearing and stated the hearing was to consider public comments on the proposed ten percent (10%) increase in emergency medical services fees. Stated the notice of the public hearing was published for two weeks in The Star-News on March 30 and April 6, 2023. Stated no members of the public were present and no written correspondence has been received commenting on the proposed increase. The emergency medical services schedule of the fees was reviewed. Larry Scarborough closed the public hearing.

LaDawn Saxton made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2023 regular Commissioner's meeting, and Mike Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Larry Scarborough made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report and payment of the bills dated April 13, 2023, and LaDawn Saxton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Steven Hull reported on receiving a spreadsheet of information to calculate the average assessed value of homes within the fire district. Confirmed forwarding the final 2023 legislative report and bills signed into law from Practicing Attorney Bill Gigray.

Keri Rueth reported receipt of the State of Idaho Emergency Medical Services Agency License #4710 effective through April 30, 2024, and reported the renewal inspection is scheduled for next Friday, April 21, 2023.

NEW BUSINESS:

Steven Hull reported thirty-three (33) incidents for the month of March 2023, and reported the average for March is twenty-seven (27) incidents. Presented and reported on detailed information from the incident reporting software. Reported on meetings attended about needed additional funding for the emergency medical services. Reported

on the Emergency Medical Services District current tax levy rate of .012 percent and the maximum statutory tax levy rate .02 percent. Reported on Practicing Attorney Bill Gigray recommending dissolving the current Emergency Medical Services District and forming a new emergency medical services district to obtain a tax levy rate of .04 percent with the ability of a tax levy rate of .06 percent with a two-thirds super majority vote. Reported the Valley County Commissioners would not be the board of commissioners for the new emergency medical services district. Reported on receiving a payment in lieu of taxes, a one time payment, in the amount of \$250,000 from Valley County for the needed additional funding for the contract to provide emergency medical services. Reported the intent of the request for more funding was to use it for wages for staff. Presented and requested an approximate twenty-five percent (25%) increase in wages for Paramedics / Firefighters and for Emergency Medical Technicians / Firefighters, and an approximate fifteen percent (15%) increase for the administrative staff. Reported a total increase in the approximate amount of \$60,000 for the next six months. Reported the remaining \$190,000 will provide the funding for the next two years, to September 30, 2025, for the proposed wages presented. Reported on the increase in wages being a good use of the dollars. Discussion followed on establishing a structured payroll system and offering a higher starting wage when an applicant has experience. Larry Scarborough made a motion to accept the payroll structure as displayed to us today with a starting date of April 1, 2023, and Mike Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried. Steven Hull reported the amendment to the 2022-2023 budget for receipt of the \$250,000 will be on the next regular commissioner meeting agenda Thursday, May 11, 2023.

Keri Rueth reported on the Emergency Medical Services Sustainability Task Force, a comprehensive group of subject matter experts working together to find solutions to the challenges facing those who provide the emergency medical response throughout Idaho. Reported on the group presenting to the Idaho Legislature to request to designate emergency medical services as an essential service in Idaho. Reported on representatives collecting data and on completing an eighty-five (85) question questionnaire. Reported designating emergency medical services as an essential service will mean the ability to obtain state and federal dollars to help supplement the 182 emergency medical services agencies in the state.

Mike Arnold made a motion to approve the agreement to provide adequate fire protection for real and personal property located at 143 Pointes Road, for Roger and Linda Wilson, for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, in the amount of \$77.60, and LaDawn Saxton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mike Arnold made a motion to approve the agreement to provide adequate fire protection for real and personal property located at 300 and 310 Fairview Lane, for Manuel and Claudia Dominguez, for the period January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, in the amount of \$290.86, and LaDawn Saxton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Keri Rueth reported on and presented a past due emergency medical services billing for incident 22-184, in the amount of \$1,275.00. Mike Arnold made a motion to reach out to the patient one more time and then send the past due emergency medical services billing

for incident 22-184 in the amount of \$1,275.00 to the collection agency, and Larry Scarborough seconded the motion. Motion carried. Keri Rueth reported on and presented a past due emergency medical services billing for incident 21-199. Larry Scarborough made a motion to send the past due emergency medical services billing for incident 21-119 to the collection agency, and LaDawn Saxton seconded the motion. Motion carried. Keri Rueth reported on and presented a past due emergency medical services billing for incident 22-322. LaDawn Saxton made a motion to send the past due emergency medical services billing for incident 22-322 to the collection agency, and Larry Scarborough seconded the motion. Motion carried. Keri Rueth reported on and presented a past due emergency medical services billing for incident 22-037 in the amount of \$275.00. Mike Arnold made a motion to write-off the balance due for incident 22-037 in the amount of \$275.00, and Larry Scarborough seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pam DeChambeau reported on the request for a discount in the emergency medical services billing in the amount of \$5.89 which is the amount of the credit card fee charged when paying by credit card. Mike Arnold made a motion to discount the emergency medical services billing in the amount of \$5.89, and LaDawn Saxton seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Larry Scarborough, no; Mike Arnold, aye; LaDawn Saxton, aye. Motion carried.

The date to hold the budget public hearing for the year October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2024 was discussed. Larry Scarborough made a motion to hold the budget public hearing on Thursday, August 10, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. at the 109 East Pine Street Fire Station, and Mike Arnold seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mike Arnold made a motion to adopt the new emergency medical services fee schedule effective May 1, 2023, and LaDawn Saxton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the commissioner's meeting of the Cascade Rural Fire Protection District adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Pamela J. DeChambeau
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved:



Larry V. Scarborough
Chairperson