

**INTER-CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING AGENDA
7939 S. Turkey Rd., Morrison, CO 80465
August 1, 2018**

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Guests**
 - 3a. Acknowledgement/Introduction/Sign In-Sheet
- 3. President's Report**
 - a. Approve Absences
 - b. Protocol for Public Speaking
- 4. PowerPoint Presentation**
- 5. Open Discussion Q&A**
- 6. Adjournment**

**INTER-CANYON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES OF MEETING
7939 S. Turkey Creek Rd., Morrison, CO 80465
August 1, 2018**

1. Call to Order:

1A. The ICFPD Board meeting was called to order by Leslie Caimi at 19:01 hours at 7939 S. Turkey Creek Rd., Morrison, CO 80465

1B. Board Members Present:

Leslie Caimi, President

Karl Firor, Treasurer

Jennifer Volkman, Secretary

Kerry Prielipp, Director

Board Members Absent

Ralph Dreher

2. Guests Present

Chief Skip Shirlaw

Deputy Chief Dan Hatlestad

Please See Guest Sign in Sheet

3. President's Report

3a. Approval of Absences.

Ralph Dreher

3d. Protocol for Public Meeting.

Leslie Caimi welcomed everyone and thanked all for attending this evening. Leslie reviewed the Public Conduct section of ICFPD By-Laws. Leslie advised Public Comment will take place after the Power Point Presentation and explained the purpose of tonight's meeting is to gather input from the community as the Board considers a request for a possible mil increase.

4. Power Point Presentation

Chief Shirlaw began by asking how many people are here because they heard about the meeting on social media. Nextdoor, 8 – Twitter, none – FaceBook 4. Chief Shirlaw asked how many have been to the new ICFPD website. There were 5. How many received the Chief's letter via US Mail, there were 7.

Chief Shirlaw thanked everyone for being here, it is nice to have so many in attendance. Chief Shirlaw stated he sees a crisis coming up for the District and has requested the Board address these issues. At the end of the presentation, we hope to hear your thoughts, concerns.

Chief Shirlaw began the presentation by explaining all of the District stations were built by volunteers. Currently there is one paid Chief and one ½ time EMS Captain, the remainder of responders are all volunteers. We are an all hazard department and respond to all types of calls i.e., Search & Rescue, Hazmat, EMS, Fires, etc. We have paramedics on staff that will transport to the hospital as well.

We rely on our neighboring districts to assist with call response, we in turn help them. It is difficult to recruit volunteers. We are starting to see some young families move in. Five stations are strategically placed throughout the district. Chief Shirlaw referenced the District Map.

Funding for the District is primarily residential, there are only 13 commercial properties within the district. The District receives some EMS revenue, some grants, and a very small portion of the budget, under 3% comes from donations.

Chief Shirlaw reviewed Gallagher Amendment noting in 2017 the RAR (Residential Assessment Rate) went from 7.9 to 7.2 potentially causing an 18% reduction in the District's budget, however, the budget remained flat due to the increase in home values. In 2019 there will be another drop of the RAR to 6.1% or another 15% of the District's budget. Due to the Tabor Amendment the District cannot adjust to make up for the difference. The commercial percentage has not dropped, only the RAR is adjusted.

A number of Colorado Chiefs have tried to talk with legislation to get help. Legislators are not willing to do anything this year. We are not alone, Gallagher is hurting other districts like ours as well.

DC Hatlestad introduced himself and explained EMS has been a part of his life for 37 years, 25 of which have been with ICFPD. 77% of the time when you call 911 you want an ambulance to show up. It is part of the services we provide. A ¼ million dollar ambulance, supplies, medications that expire, etc. are all very expensive. EMS revenue has dropped by 60%, a significant impact to the District's budget. DC Hatlestad explained cars are safer, when we arrive on scene, the driver is standing outside of vehicle, which is great. In the past when we transported, auto insurance companies would pay full billing \$1500. The number of patients with medical issues has escalated dramatically. Transport percentages are up. There is an aging population in the District, more people are relying on Medicare. Medicare will pay only about \$300 of the \$1600 or so we invoice.

DC Hatlestad continued, to provide ALS as a paramedic it is a challenge as a volunteer. It takes about 2000 hours to go thru the training or the equivalent of a full time year. It is challenging. Younger people want paid jobs rather than serving as a volunteer. DC Hatlestad noted the pie chart

in the PowerPoint, the wages and benefits at about 28% of revenue as compared with West Metro where it is 90% of revenue. The District did offer a pension for volunteers. The pension became financially unsustainable and for new members is no longer offered. Volunteers are incredibly valuable and will continue to be the number one service providers to you.

DC Hatlestad continued with the issues the District faces and stated the current trucks are 4 wheel drive, however, they are not designed for off road use. We need a truck that can move water into challenging areas safely. The reserves may be needed in the future if the mil does not pass. We are facing issues. Work day, weekday, daytime availability is a significant problem. We may have one crew transporting, and when a second call comes in, resources are very limited. The District currently has 2 wildland engines. There are 3 different trucks, engines, the 2 small brush trucks, 2 Type III Engines designed for wildland urban interface. The last 2 trucks are 20 years old and at the end of their useful life.

This station began as a single garage and has been added onto by volunteers over the years. There are electrical and plumbing issues, you can't drink the water, as the water is not potable. 2 stations have undrinkable water, 2 stations have water, and 1 station has no water at all. Exposure to carcinogens takes place in structure fires, permeating bunker coats, fire gear and skin. Best to strip gear, take a shower and wash gear. We have 2 showers in our entire district. We have no showers here in our primary station. Firefighters have a 9% higher risk of cancer diagnosis, 14% of cancer death. We owe it to our firefighters. These facilities were originally built as garages.

Chief Shirlaw cautioned the next round of Gallagher cuts will not support the future and may impact the service we are able to provide today. We are hearing of fire departments that are closing, selling trucks. Again, this is not effecting only ICFPD, all of districts in the state are facing this issue and are having to address it.

Chief Shirlaw continued by explaining the goals of the District. Next year we want to add 1 full time person and 1 half time person. A wildland expert that can go to homes to assist with mitigation, as well as be a certified AEMT to help response to medical calls. Paid staff can take on training planning currently handled by a volunteer. Our captain is putting in 20 hours a week on top of his full time job to ensure quality training. My number one concern is the safety of our firefighters. The half time position will be a floater to help in all of these areas. 4 people are needed to assure a response, with experience in EMS and command.

Safety is number one, vehicles are safer today. Right now we can only get 2 maybe 3 people in a Type III Engine. We do not allow people to take personal vehicles to calls on Highway 285 as it is unsafe. Nationwide, responders are being hit and killed on highways. The new truck can handle 5 people to respond to calls. The current truck goes about 15 miles per hour up hill, they are as DC Hatlestad indicated, passed their useable life. In 3 years we would like to replace 2 at \$400k each.

Chief Shirlaw stated we are thinking 5, 10, 15, 20 years ahead. We will hit 2 calls a day, we cannot handle 2 calls a day. We are a bedroom community. We will have to hire people. We need to prepare today for the future and hand off a well prepared District to those in the future.

We had a great run with grants, we were able to get an air compressor and an extractor to help clean carcinogens out of gear. Exhaust is coming into the bays and comes into the administrative offices at Station 1. Grants are competitive, we were successful in obtaining a loading system for ambulances. The District cannot rely on grants, they can run out in 2 years and negatively affect someone's job.

Chief Shirlaw advised nationwide volunteerism is down 15%. Currently we do have people stay overnight. They stay in bunks next to bays where firetrucks go out. This vision is what I've spoken with the Board about. We have to do something about these issues. Chief Shirlaw requested the Board look at mil increase and to de-Gallagher-ize in order to keep the RAR at 7.2% and prevent revenue from dropping further. The Board is looking at ballot language. The last mil increase was in 2008, since then the population is increasing. There are 80 to 100 homes coming in the Homestead area, an event center is coming in as well. We love it here, other people do too. We struggle to find volunteers. We do not have places to gather and provide outreach. We try to be creative and continually work at it. We get 2 to 5 years from our volunteers. The first year a volunteer comes on it costs \$12k in training.

We did consider an increase to 4 mils, it did not feel right at \$115 per year for those on fixed incomes. 3 mils at \$86 per year allows us to move toward year 10. Imagine if the RAR drops to 6.1. DC Hatlestad stated, understand the point about inflation and housing prices. Inflation and housing prices have not been reflected in our income. The equipment we purchase goes up, cost of medications goes up the same as your medications go up. We have worked over the past few years to communicate through social media, events and mailings. Survey results indicated 97% people said wildfires are our greatest threat. Wildfire is a huge risk. 81% of those who responded indicated they would support a 3 mil increase. Many of you have attended events around wildfire. The current fire in California has burnt 1200 homes and both firefighters and citizens have died. DC Hatlestad closed with the statement "we want to continue to serve at the best level possible".

5. Open Discussion Q&A

The first question was does Tabor limit your mil rate?

Response: The District de-Bruced and is not required to return revenue.

Chief Shirlaw thanked everyone again for attending and stated we are interested in what you have to say. This department belongs to you. We want to hear your expectations, where we can improve, and your concerns. Please visit our website, check social media and contact Kelley Wood with questions or for information.

Leslie Caimi asked for people with questions or comments to please introduce yourselves.

Larry Wilson

Comment: Larry indicated he has seen Station 5, it is basically a garage and very small.

Response: Chief Shirlaw agreed it holds 1 truck, one of the Type III engines.

Don Walls

Question: What % of calls increased, relate to traffic on 285 or people who are not residents of the district?

Response: DC Hatlestad explained auto accidents are in decline, which is good news. However, auto insurance covers the full cost of an accident, a revenue positive situation.

Pat Vick

Question: Maxwell Hill – What can be done about the neighbors who do not understand the concept of mitigation? If their house burns down, it effects ours.

Response: Chief Skip Shirlaw advised ICFPD does not have legal ability to tell any resident what to do with their property. We cannot spend time on mitigation without paid help. We can speak with neighbors to try to provide education. We are working with the Ready, Set, Go Program, providing information about mitigation and preparing property. Chief Shirlaw encourages residents to engage those neighbors in conversation about mitigation. One of the best things is when people see a property mitigated as it open the property up and you start to see wildlife and sunlight. Engage neighbors in conversation in a positive way. You can refer your neighbors to us. There is an email on the website under the Ask a Firefighter tab.

Patty Lawrence

Question: It is a small % of homes, but for new homes, does the County require mitigation?

Response: Chief Shirlaw confirmed yes new home construction as well as extensions. Generally if a building permit is required.

Question: I know you did a survey, when was the survey?

Response: Chief indicated October or November last year. DC Hatlestad added of about 2200 homes, there were 400 responses or 15% completed. There was an excellent response.

Anneka Moresco

Question: The person you hire, would that be someone you could call and ask about mitigation?

Response: Chief Shirlaw confirmed yes.

Question: Would you charge for it?

Response: Chief Shirlaw indicated no, there would not be a charge. Chief Shirlaw sees it is a chance for increased mitigation to engage with the community. When asking for mil increase, Chief Shirlaw does not want to ask for more money. DC Hatlestad asked if Anneka is referring to a mitigation plan. The response was yes. DC Hatlestad advised the Colorado State Forest Service provides that service. Chief Shirlaw added people will more likely call if there is no charge.

Deborah Kelly

Comment: Homeowners insurance, insurance companies are coming out to inspect property and saying 100 feet around the house, no trees.

Response: Chief Shirlaw agreed, insurance companies actually drop some properties. The District is working with ISO on an audit to try to help out.

Comments: Deborah commented on the fantastic response provided by ICFPD for EMS in our neighborhood. Station 3 is very special, the station was built where she and her husband were married.

Ken Morrow

Question: As a former chief, how about merging with other districts?

Response: Chief Shirlaw thanked Mr. Morrow for bringing the question up. We have been working on this, merging is a very long process. The West Metro and Wheat Ridge merger was a 4 year process. We have been communicating with other districts. To merge requires a vote with every district, mills are all different. We can also work under an IGA (Inter Governmental Agreement). Each District has different medical providers, directors, and philosophies. We do see this as the future, it makes sense. There will be many options to consider, i.e. will it be EMS only, where would we put fire stations. It takes \$1 Million per year to keep one ECFR Station running with 2 paid people. We want to make sure we have a say as to where stations will be located and staffed, we want coverage here. They did not in the past, but Chiefs are meeting and talking today.

Pat Vick

Comment: It is good you are working together.

Response: Chief Shirlaw advised we are on 6 day auto aid with Indian Hills Fire. On calls involving cardiac, structure fires, etc., surrounding districts are all automatically toned. It is most important to focus on the closest resources. Dispatch has combined into one center.

Scott Larson

Question: if able to enact 5 year plan, how will that effect service during the remodel?

Response: Chief Shirlaw responded great question. Construction would happen in stages. Administration can be moved to another station. Construction will not affect service, there will be no interruption.

Nancy Gains

Question: Is the number a forever number. What is plan for Gallagher?

Response: Chief Shirlaw indicated there are options, one is a sunset. Elk Creek Fire is facing a sunset. A sunset is an increase for x amount of time, not a good option for ICFPD. This would be a permanent increase. The other portion of the ballot would be to de-Gallagher-ize. ICFPD would stay at 7.2 RAR and no longer drop down.

Mike Swenson

Question: It is unfortunate about the sunset issue with Elk Creek Fire. ISO rating, the data was helpful to understand the impact of the service level of the fire district. If the level of services doesn't stay at a certain level, the ISO rate increases and insurance costs go up. What are the ICFPD ISO numbers?

Response: Chief Shirlaw advised 4, 8b, 10w, based on distance to station, hydrant and formula on how fast is water available and how much. We can use cisterns, but cisterns must be 30,000 gallons or more. ISO is changing the system to try to give the entire district a 4, so it moves from 4 to 4x and 10w. The "w" means water and gives a better rate. We are working to lower the rating, on Jennings Rd. we are adding 40,000 gallon in cisterns. There is also a water shuttle formula to help areas farther out. Chief Shirlaw added if the District built a station near Kuehster Rd, it would help. Adding additional engines will add a point as well.

Patty Lawrence

Question: Do any of the plans include cisterns over the next 5 years?

Response: Chief Shirlaw indicated the District currently provides for 1 or 2 cisterns every year in its budget. The District must obtain an easement from the property owner, there has to be enough land as a 20,000 gallon cistern is as long as this room and is very large. There has to be accessibility for fire trucks to fill from the cisterns without snow plowing, so in winter, access location is tricky as well. The District has put cisterns on Murphy Gulch, Brookmont Dr., Kuehster Rd., Jennings Rd. We always looking for opportunities to place cisterns.

Rich Crawford

Question: There is a cistern on our property, what is capacity?

Response: Chief Shirlaw stated we do know where the cisterns are and can provide information on cisterns. Chief will look up the information for Mr. Crawford. When needed we will pull from several cisterns with several trucks shuttling water. Ponds can be challenging based on depth.

Neil Cyrus

Comment: Insurance companies are willing to come out to your property and advise what trees to move. Mr. Cyrus stated he was a volunteer back in Iowa. The mil in Iowa was 23.56 total, there is a lot of farm land. Are there a number of million dollar homes in the District?

Response: Chief Shirlaw replied yes. The total mils are 78.56 here, a big difference as the total includes schools, county, roads etc., and the fire portion is 10.56.

Comment: Mr. Cyrus stated in Iowa we stretched our dollars and raised money to build our department, a small part came from taxes.

Response: Chief Shirlaw stated the District has done fundraisers, fundraisers equal about 3% of our budget. The flea market raises about \$4k. Chief Shirlaw stated it is a good point, yes, many of the departments do spend time doing fundraisers. Chief Shirlaw would rather see firefighters training rather than fund raising for 3% of the budget. Donations will provide a set of bunker gear, nothing substantial.

Larry Wilson

Question: Are we sure we want just a 3 mil and not a 3.5 or 4, or a difference of \$30 per year.

Response: Chief Shirlaw noted it gets us what we need sooner, however, for residents in our district 3 mils is better. We can help those where more money might be a stretch. We have really looked at the numbers and debated the issue. We are not sure we will be successful at 4.

Mike Reddy

Question: This vote takes place in November, how can we help make this happen?

Response: Chief Shirlaw stated good question. The District can talk to the community now. The Board will meet at the end of August. After a Resolution is approved, ICFPD can no longer promote this mil. Chief Shirlaw indicated he has met with residents to put together a group to help campaign. Maybe do some mailers and community meetings, etc. We need residents willing to engage in the process, please let the Chief Shirlaw know before you leave if you are willing to help.

Question: Who writes the blue book?

Response: Chief Shirlaw indicated the District will write the pro. We do not know where the con side comes from. We have contacted legal counsel.

Comment: We either pay the tax or we pay the insurance.

Response: Chief Shirlaw agreed, 6 – 7 years down the road we will have to consider selling a truck and/or letting go of a part time position.

Tracey Hofeditz

Question: At least a 3 mil will be requested, is there any continuing debate by the Board?

Response: Karl Firor responded we are yet to get information as to specific costs to redo firehouses. Numbers are expected in the next 2 weeks. That is a substantial number and we are waiting for the number to have a handle on personnel, equipment and infrastructure. There is still some due diligence.

Comment: Mr. Hofeditz noted it is a strong case.

Response: Chief Shirlaw added we really wanted to get your feedback, these elected officials work for you.

Question: What about the de Gallagher-ization, is that a legal process?

Response: Chief Shirlaw confirmed yes, de Gallagher-ization is a voter issue. Genesee Fire got approval to de Gallaher-ize. Karl added it is a legislative issue. Chief noted the ballot is hard to read but this is what it is. There is a fantastic video on Gallagher on our website, please check it out.

Question: can you de couple the mil from the de Gallagher-ization?

Response: Karl confirmed it is best as one question, seems to be the template.

Comment: We would like it to be easy for people to say yes. Agreed.

Response: Chief Shirlaw stated he would like to see people keep the momentum going.

Question: Please clarify is it a board discussion to separate the issues? Concern is it will be confusing.

Response: Chief Shirlaw advised the model has been successful, communication is the key. We are using the same law firm who represented Genesee Fire.

Miki Reddy

Comment: All of the questions were great and Ms. Reddy stated she learned a lot. These questions with the answers would be helpful on the website.

Response: Chief Shirlaw indicated there is a Q&A on the website and tonight's Q&A will be added. There will be a link on nextdoor.com as well. Great job everyone.

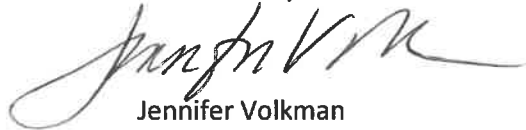
Chief Shirlaw thanked everyone for coming, turn out exceeded expectations. Please email us, email Kelley, stay after. This is our department and we want to keep doing this together.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2032 hours.

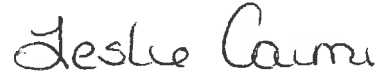
Minutes by Kelley D. Wood, District Administrator

Submitted by:



Jennifer Volkman
Secretary

Approved by:



Leslie Caimi
President

Attachments:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Power Point Presentation
3. Guest List