

IN A SPECIAL JOINT MEETING OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION AND THE RUTH TOWN COUNCIL ON JULY 11, 2019 AT THE RUTH COMMUNITY CENTER IN RUTH, NEVADA

The Following Were Present:

County Commission

- *Richard Howe, Chairman
- *Travis Godon, Vice-Chairman
- *Ian Bullis, Commissioner
- *Shane Bybee, Commissioner
- *Susan Lujan, Deputy Clerk

The Following Were Absent:

- Laurie L. Carson, Commissioner
- Nichole Baldwin, Clerk of the Board

Ruth Town Council

- Melissa Spear, Chairman
- Katelin Mason, Member
- Johnathan Dishong, Member
- Phillip Winsryg, Member
- Mary Sorenson, Secretary

Also Present

- Ralph McClintock, WPCFD Admin. Coordinator
- Caroline McIntosh, Great Basin College
- Terri Martinez, WPC Finance Dept.
- Justin Spear, Ruth VFD
- Kay McMurray, Ely Times
- Josh Romero, Ruth VFD
- Courtland Hall, Ruth VFD
- Mason Bostic, Ruth VFD
- Anita Wilson
- Kimberly Stewart, Ruth Resident

 Fire Commission Chairman Richard Howe called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. Commissioner Shane Bybee led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MOMENT OF SILENCE/SILENT INVOCATION

This was duly observed.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION & RUTH TOWN COUNCIL

DISCUSSION ONLY REGARDING THE NEEDS OF THE RUTH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT AND ITS FACILITY AS THEY RELATE TO THE FOLLOWING: STRUCTURAL REPAIRS AND/OR UPGRADES, EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL, AND/OR TECHNOLOGY

Fire Commission Chairman Richard Howe cited a list from the Ruth VFD that was handed out this evening, and the 10 bullet points were reviewed and discussed. WPCFD Admin. Coordinator Ralph McClintock advised he is aware of nearly everything on the list. Courtland Hall, Ruth VFD, explained this list had been prepared some time ago as a response to the Commissioners' request from the Fire Stations to list their needs. He added there's been no real changes except for the driveway, with respect to the snow removal.

1—Driveway replacement with drainage grate in front of Bays 1 & 2. Coordinator McClintock advised he's trying to get the driveway looked at by a contractor. Courtland Hall noted this is a safety hazard, and it needs to be done; kids ride their skateboards, etc., on it. Chairman Melissa Spear advised it's a nightmare getting into it during the wintertime; again, the snow removal issue was noted. A retaining wall and some rails are also needed there.

2—Garage doors for Bays 1 & 2. There is 1 garage door there but there's an opening issue with it. Maintenance did come and provided a temporary fix, it was noted. It was also explained the doors have even been driven through a couple of times. The doors should also have seals, as when it snows it's a real mess in there. Commissioner Shane Bybee asked about the garage door closures; they have one that moves, but it's very slow. White Pine Glass provided the current one; perhaps they would have another type that could be used instead.

3—Roof leaks over Bays 4, 5, & 6. Those have been repaired. It was noted that this building, the Community/Senior Center, also has leaks but following brief discussion it was felt those could be fairly easily repaired.

4—Compressor, Bay 1. It was noted this maintains the air for the fire engine; it's no longer serviceable, and Maintenance is aware of the problem. Court will get the specs for it; he noted it's fairly small, around 100 pounds. Coordinator McClintock noted it should definitely be here before winter.

5—Binoculars. Three trucks are missing binoculars; Court explained that they want to be far enough away from a semitruck, for example, to see what they're carrying in a fire situation. Also, wildland trucks need them to spot fires. There was a discussion of cost, after which Chairman Richard Howe suggested an amount "not to exceed \$600.00" since the radios appear to be running \$250 each unless they're on sale. Coordinator McClintock suggested calling the manufacturer director and purchase 7 pairs, since McGill VFD needs them and others might also. If we let them know it's for a VFD, we could even negotiate for a better price.

6—SPO2 Monitor. ?

7—Wildland fire gloves. Commissioner Ian Bullis felt we were okay on the fire gloves at this point; there are many wildland fire people coming in.

8—Oxygen bottles. There's an O2 filling station at Station 1, it was clarified by Coordinator McClintock.

9—ID tags for turnouts. Court felt they would need a minimum of 15, one for each Firefighter. Coordinator McClintock would like a list with everyone's name on it for the turnouts.

10—Internet. Court advised they can't do anything about that right now, but HughesNet is a 2-year contract. Commissioner Ian Bullis didn't feel that would be a great choice, but Maintenance is backlogged right now so there are some things the Board is putting out to bid due to time issues and urgent need; this could be bid out.

Fire Commission Chairman advised this is for discussion only, and urged the Town Council members to voice their concerns. Member Phillip Winsryg advised a known drug dealer lives here, plus there are speeding issues on the streets in Ruth. He knows the Sheriff's Dept. is underfunded and understaffed but also felt Ruth has been neglected and they need some help. Chairman Howe indicated there are 3 Deputy Patrol officers who cover 8,000 square miles daily; it's difficult to be covering everything at once. Commissioner Ian Bullis added that Lund also has issues. Following a brief discussion with WPC Sheriff Scott Henriod, Commissioner Bullis suggested perhaps the officers could drive on a rotation basis regularly, rather than waiting for a callout. Member Winsryg noted that the patrols were increased; but as for the speed limits, there are 3 of them in their town. Commissioner Bullis suggested a digital speed limit sign might slow people down. The signage would also give law enforcement something to back them up with respect to speed and other violations. Chairman Melissa Spear noted there are quite a few homes in Ruth that are severe fire hazards, plus she chases kids out of those places almost daily. She asked about the process; Chairman Howe advised the County has taken care of 2-1/2 houses here in Ruth and a couple in McGill, as well. He added it costs around \$26,000 to demolish a house; there are so many blighted homes in White Pine County, and only so much funding to do it with. Although the Building Inspector can tag a house, we have no Compliance Officer to do those kinds of things. He added we're trying to do as many as possible, but our County budget allows only a couple of homes to be demolished at a time. He recommended that the Ruth board members get a list of those houses and then work with the Building Inspector to prioritize them. Once the Building Inspector condemns them, he noted, they are boarded up. Commissioner Shane Bybee advised there's a State law that spells out what you're allowed to do when the house is on private property; if their taxes are current, for example, then we don't have much leeway to go after them. Chairman Spear also inquired about abandoned vehicles; if they aren't licensed, the Sheriff's Dept. comes to look at them. But if the plates are up to date, there was some discussion as to what might be done about those. Commissioner Ian Bullis asked if Ruth has a Homeowners' Association; the Town Council stated that they don't want one. Chairman Howe explained that the Board can't take action on anything being discussed during the Town Council meetings; it's over 5 miles away from Ely, which is the County Seat. These meetings are just to gather information, hear concerns, and help determine what the County Commission can do to help. Chairman Spear added that she would like the Fire Commission to go to #12 Sunshine in Ruth and look at the gutter there; it's been at least 7 years with no repairs or changes, and it's a safety hazard. Secretary Mary Sorenson noted several work orders have been submitted on it; there's fear of a small child falling in there. Trucks even park over it to keep kids and toddlers away, it was noted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Fire Commission Chairman advised that the Board has been to Lund and now Ruth; McGill is scheduled for July 16th and Baker on July 31st. He emphasized that the Commission is committed to the outlying areas, and Coordinator McClintock is the "go-to guy" if the VFD's have questions or concerns. He noted this is a transition period for everyone, and urged people to ask questions when they arise.

Member Winsryg asked if there's a different way to submit their requests regarding street signs and other things; Chairman Howe advised that Secretary Sorenson turns in Work Orders, which is the proper process. Commissioner Shane Bybee noted that Sheriff Henriod had done a survey in McGill pertaining to traffic signage, and that could be done here, too. It was advised that should go on the County Commission agenda so it could be addressed.

During the discussion, it was noted once problem areas are identified and prioritized, they could be given to the Sheriff's Dept. and Maintenance for further action/discussion. Chairman Howe agreed, and suggested for their roads, find out where people are speeding the most and note the street and location where they would like the signage to be.


Mr. Justin Spear hopes that the Commission takes to heart what Court Hall is trying to do with the aprons and driveways and everything at the VFD. The Fire Station sits lower than the apron, and for 6 years he hasn't been able to get it fixed due to the cost. Commissioner Ian Bullis felt there was some discrepancy, as the Board has been assured by the paid staff that they've been giving the stations everything they need. Court Hall noted that for safety equipment, turnouts, etc., that much was true. Commissioner Bullis noted that a lot of money has been saved by doing what the Board has done so that things could be done to help the outlying Fire Depts. Commissioner Travis Godon agreed, that now there is over \$3 million available for us now to get our outlying stations up to speed. Commissioner Shane Bybee noted that the proper grade of materials needs to be applied to fix the apron issue, for example. He continued to note that the bathrooms in the Lund VFD haven't worked in years, and the McGill VFD was actually built WITHOUT any bathroom facilities. We need our stations to be brought up to speed for everything they need, such as doors that would actually accommodate the trucks, bathroom facilities, etc. Chairman Richard Howe added that contractors have been so busy we can't pin them down to do work for us; however, if a package deal were presented, it might make the jobs more favorable for them. During the discussion, Commissioner Bullis clarified that of the \$3 million, there is actually only \$100,000+ that may be spent this year. We need to ensure the needs get included into the budget, as we aren't legally allowed to spend all the money we have at this point. Commissioner Godon added that if there are any concerns, people need to contact Coordinator McClintock and give him all the specifics, since he can't do anything without the details. He added that Coordinator McClintock is doing great that way. Commissioner Bullis added that prior to Coordinator McClintock coming on board, people were saying they didn't know who to go to with their problems, but he is available to hear people's concerns. Coordinator McClintock commented that the Ruth VFD is doing very well, and that they're on top of things. He also confirmed that radios and pagers are coming in for the different departments who have requested them. Court Hall advised that they need to see all that we have right now, and then they could better determine what they would need.

ADJOURNMENT – THE JOINT MEETING MAY BE ADJOURNED BY AN APPROPRIATE MOTION OF THE WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION

At 7:48 p.m., Chairman Richard Howe entertained a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Ian Bullis made the motion; Commissioner Travis Godon seconded. Motion carried.

WHITE PINE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSION
STATE OF NEVADA

BY:



CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


WPC CLERK OF THE BOARD