

CRAIG RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

December 11, 2023

Call the Meeting to Order

K.C. Hume called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. All board members present

Pledge of Allegiance & Moment of Silence

Approval of Agenda

JB Chapman made a motion to approve the Agenda. Rod Kowach seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

Approval of Minutes

Chris Nichols moved to approve the November 16, 2023 and December 7, 2023 - Board Workshop minutes as presented. Kowach seconded. Motion passed. (4:0).

Approval of Bills

Chapman moved to approve the bills for December 11, 2023 as presented (Fire Department bills in the amount of \$17,203.28, Haz-Mat bills in the amount of \$569.78 and Pension bills of \$0.00 for a total of \$17,773.06 Kowach seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

Purchase Orders

None

Budget Review

Nichols – Revenue 107%, Administrative 81.6%, Operations 72.4%, Capital at 25.1%, for a total expenditure at 71.58%. We are on track. Account balances; Pension \$4,277,852.00 Capital \$2,812,795 Operating \$254,649. Will do a supplemental budget at the next meeting.

New Business

Roof Repair – Hume – KC was out of pocket last week, the Insurance providers engineer, Justin Jennison, Marlin Eckhoff and Chris Nichols all met and discussed roof. Nichols said the engineer measured all of the beams looking for deflection. We pulled pictures, measured the dragon, showed snow on ground. Marlin talked about other properties with issues. Hume talked with our claims adjuster, June who has spoken with Brady (the engineer) who indicated that he had collected data, and she is waiting on him to submit a report to see if they will accept a claim. If so, they may pay a part of the claim. It is felt that it is worth the effort to try. Justin has indicated that our engineer is back in office and we are awaiting final drawings to order materials.

Budgets – Proposition HH was defeated. Governor Polis called a special session; new regulations have complicated timelines. We have reached out to SDA, they are working with DOLA on the updated timelines. Legislation lowers the residential property tax for next year and allocates a backfill. Will have to amend budget in January. Board is not comfortable moving into new year without a budget. Chief Mercer – Pension and HazMat are presented as read last month with updated year to date. Fire; updated year to date, increased foam, changed audit based on preliminary numbers, and added \$4,000 to gym expansion as per last month's discussion.

Hume read the resolution to adopt the Fire Budget. Nichols made a motion to adopt the Fire Budget. Kowach and Chapman seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

Hume read the resolution to adopt the Pension Budget. Kowach made a motion to adopt the Pension Budget. Chapman seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

Hume read the resolution to adopt the Fire Budget. Chapman made a motion to adopt the Fire Budget. Nichols seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

Tri-State ERP City/County JTC Attorney – Nichols – City and County are creating a MOU to use OJT money to hire an attorney for the PUC hearing to mitigate Tri-State tax impacts. They are obligated to provide support, trying to lessen the impact. Nichols read part of the agreement. Nichols said there would be agency representation for school district, fire district. The first hearing is around March 15th. More to come.

Auditor – Our auditor has retired. Tonya looked at new auditors with the help of our current auditor. Discussion was held on the two auditors and their background. Two letters of engagement were presented, one from Fiscal Focus Partners and one from The Adams Group. Nichols made a motion to engage with The Adams Group. Lowach seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

Board Member Appointment – Forgay has retired, as such we are required to appoint within sixty days. Held a workshop last Thursday to interview two parties that had submitted letters of interest. Had a great conversation with both. Open floor to the board.

Chapman – Would like to thank both individuals that stepped up for consideration, commend them both for that. The intention is for us to carry on. Feel we should reach out to the non-chosen party with a letter encouraging future effort.

Hume – Received letters of interest from Jimmy Bohrer and Mark Bangs. Had great conversations with both.

Nichols – Agreed, great conversations about issues in the future. Felt Mark Bangs was more in touch with future issues. Bohrer hit some issues, but Bangs was more in focus.

Kowach – Felt like both interviewed well. Tough decision. Mark had more insight. Good opportunity. Out to help community and department.

Chapman made a motion to select Mark Bangs to fill the vacated seat. Nichols seconded. Motion passed. (4:0)

Hume will reach out to both individuals tomorrow.

Correspondence

None.

Reports from the Chief –

Chief Mercer – We had 24 calls in November. 20 Fire, 4 EMS, and 0 HazMat. Rookie academy, Tane Otis has passed all, Mark Strecker is still testing. 2024 Rookie academy had 13 applications, 10 interviews, 7 sent to physicals, and are reaching out to finalize shortly. There are a couple of discussions with the officer corps first. Academy will start January 6th with 5-7 rookies. The Fleet is in good shape. E5, E6 and T2 have moved to the bays for roof repair. The gym expansion is partially complete. The electrician has submitted a bid to complete electrical today. Purchasing supplies and moving forward this year. The gas meter cover is finished, Atmos will help install Wednesday. EMS Conference is January 19-20 and will be all virtual for EMT CE's. There was a break-in at the tower two weeks ago. Damage to the door frame and broken locks, not a lot of damage done to the building. Thinking we need to add some security cameras. Work with the board about a way to move forward with that. Hume offered resources he has access to. Discussion held about gates being open for plowing.

Board Member Reports

Rod Kowach – Been busy, station is looking good. Tonya, thank you for what you are doing.

It's winter time, be careful out there. Thank you.

Chris Nichols – Looking at past budgets from 2020, more expenses have gone up. Inflation is bad. 2025 Unit 1 closure will impact us. Talk about ways to manage this. Ease into it and start planning on how to cut money out of the budget. Need to plant the seed now. Still rolling trucks. Doing a great job.

J.B. Chapman — Excited about incoming recruit program. Encouraging to see people coming on. Also excited for mid-year program. Important to focus on activity when people are interested.

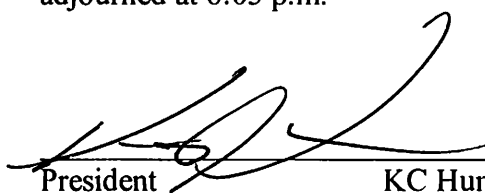
KC Hume — Really looking forward to Saturday. Thank you, Tonya. Doug Slaight, thank you. You had a rock solid career, and come to every board meeting. Thank you for remaining engaged. It means a lot. Lastly, Rod, JB & Chris, appreciate each of you. Relationships and support and solving future issues with less revenue, tasked with big responsibilities. Appreciate doing it with you.

Audience Comments

Doug Slaight – Here's to 2024 and Saturday night.

Adjournment

Hume entertained a motion to adjourn. Kowach moved. Nichols seconded. Motion passed. (4:0) Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.



President KC Hume



Secretary/Treasurer Chris Nichols