

RECORD OF MINUTES
Elk Creek Fire Protection District
Regular Board Meeting
January 12th, 2023 In person and via Zoom

Director Pixley called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors to order on January 12th, 2023 at 18:26 hours.

ROLL CALL

Directors Present:

Greg Pixley
Kent Wagner
Sharon Woods
Melissa Baker
Chuck Newby

Also Present:

Jacob Ware, Fire Chief
Barbara Stockton, District Administrator

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge during Pension Board meeting

AGENDA

All board members reviewed the Agenda. No additions or deletions requested to the Agenda. **MOTION** to approve the Agenda. (Director Wagner seconded by Director Baker) **MOTION PASSED**

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION to approve the December 2022 regular meeting minutes. (Director Woods seconded by Director Baker) **MOTION PASSED**

FINANCIAL MATTERS

MOTION to approve the December 2022 expenses. (Director Wagner seconded by Director Baker) **MOTION PASSED.**

OLD BUSINESS

1. Outreach Committee Update. Board members and the public reviewed a demonstration of the updated website. The new site complies with the required accessibility guidelines and can be easily updated by multiple people. The intent is to launch the new site by the end of January.
2. Consolidation Committee Update
 - a. Survey Results - Board members and the public reviewed a presentation from Turns Corps with the results of the public survey about consolidation. 711 voters within the ECFPD filled out the survey. 64% of those surveyed believe there is

an increased fire risk. 65% believe there is not enough financial resources. 58% believe ECFPD is fiscally responsible. 75% would support a tax increase. 74% would approve a mil levy increase. 42% voted definitely yes would approve an increase the mil levy increase. After additional information was provided, the survey results showed that the 42% definitely yes increased to 50%. The overall approval had a 5% increase after some education. Reasons that were shared against: Taxes are already too high and concern about a decrease in service. Overall, the survey results showed a larger portion of the community returned the survey than anticipated. In addition, it there is significant support for ECFPD within the district.

- b. Board members reviewed the Turn Corps Contract to continue with the community relations process. The first step is to get feedback from the public. This contract would be the next step to develop the education to the community. **MOTION** to approve the proposal from Turns Corps. (Director Woods seconded by Director Baker)
Director Newby - No - see attached "Statement Opposing Approval of a Contract Based on the Turns Corps Updated Proposal of 12/28/22"
Director Woods - Yes
Director Wagner - Yes
Director Baker - Yes
Director Pixley - Yes
MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

1. DEO announcement - Our last Designated Election Official (DEO) was pro bono and had limited time to offer in the election process. In an effort to ensure the election runs smoothly and timely, ECFPD would like to engage with Circuit Rider of Colorado to be our DEO. The fee was included in the budget for 2023. **MOTION** to approve the contract with Circuit Rider of Colorado for position of DEO for the upcoming election. (Director Woods seconded by Director Wagner) **MOTION PASSED**
2. 2023 Election - **MOTION** to approve the Election Resolution. (Director Wagner seconded by Director Woods) **MOTION PASSED**
3. **MOTION** to schedule a Special Meeting Work Session during January of 2023 for the purpose of:
 - a. Developing a Policy-Level Strategic Plan that defines the major strategies and objectives for the ECFPD during 2023
 - b. Identifying the personnel, facilities, apparatus, and other resources necessary for achieving the major strategies and objectives from item #1
 - c. Developing an Action Plan that contains the timelines, milestones, and deliverables necessary to communicate the major strategies and objectives from item #1, to the ECFPD Fire Chief and to the broader community for the Purpose of. (Director Newby seconded by Director Pixley)

Director Woods - no - because we do not know, what we do not know. At this time, we have no idea if we will have an election in 2023. If it would include the consolidation, if it would include a mil increase. Developing a strategic plan would be premature.

Director Wagner - yes

Director Baker asked for clarification on who would be leading the Strategic Planning Session. Director Newby shared it would be an informal discussion without a specific lead.

Director Baker - No

Director Pixley - Yes

MOTION PASSED

CITIZEN ISSUES

1. Citizen presented several items of concern
 - a. The majority of the Elk Creek Board and the Public are in the dark about the specifics of the consolidation, yet the board is being asked to spend taxpayer money for “community relations services” “in case there is a question or questions on the ballot in the future election. {Turn Corps proposal 12/28/2022}”
 - b. The level of Services established by the ECFPD must be maintained or increased with consolidation. Neither North Fork or Inter-canyon have rotating, full-time staff. Without an immediate increase in staff upon consolidation, I find it certain to believe the Elk Creek Station 1 will be called upon daily to provide engine, ambulance and utility vehicles in response to tones originating in the far reaches of the former North Fork and Inter-Canyon Districts leaving Elk Creek Station 1 understaffed.
 - c. Using taxpayer money to campaign for a tax increase - is it legal? Is it legal, but odious?
 - d. Recalculate CRFF (out-of-district firefighting reimbursement by the State of Colorado) for 2022 to represent monies to ECFPD that are income.
 - e. Items that may derail the consolidation questions - prepare in advance how to respond to the strong opinions of various groups
 - f. Best case for support for consolidation and mill levy increase is realistically about 66% based on recent mill levy successes by Platte Canyon and Elk Creek FPDs. The 80% support level reported by Turns Corps is, in my opinion, an artifact of supporters being most likely to respond to the somewhat laborious questionnaire.
 - g. What happens to Turn Corps after Jul 31st?
2. Citizen shared appreciation that the transparency notification had been corrected on the website. However, the elections are not matching up and need to be addressed.
3. Citizens asked for clarification about the need for Friends of Elk Creek for the potential upcoming election since Turns Corps would be developing education strategy. It was shared there would be a need for Friends of Elk Creek if either a mill increase or consolidation are included on the upcoming election. A consultant hired by the department cannot campaign. Similarly, the Department cannot campaign. Both Turns Corps and Friends of Elk Creek would need to exist. Each service a different need.
4. Citizens shared encouragement for the Department to share information on an operational plan as it pertains to consolidation.

5. Citizens expressed support for a strategic planning session and encouraged the Board to pick one or two items of focus for the discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION (Director Woods; seconded by Director Wagner) to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION PASSED.**

The meeting of the Board of Directors concluded at 20:21 hours

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF THE ELK CREEK FIRE PROTECTION**

DISTRICT

BY: /s/ Melissa Baker
Secretary of the District.