

Los Pinos Fire Protection District Regular Board Meeting

November 12, 2024

Regular Board meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Preston Rea, Chelsea Hamilton, James Brown, Jim Owens, Josh Lorenzen, Don Woodmansee, Tom Arthur, Scot Davis, and Brad Egger.

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the September 9, 2024 board meeting, seconded and approved.

A motion was made to pay the bills, seconded, and approved.

Public comment: None.

SUIT: Still in process.

Oxford Grange: Tom has spoken with Tracy a couple of times and they have the lease on their agenda to discuss it. She will get back with any updates.

CO Trust: Chelsea gave an update that due to the September interest rates we will be leaving the funds in the Allspring account due to the interest rate currently being higher than the ColoTrust Plus account. The ColoTrust Edge account is outperforming the Plus account, and we are looking for approval to move the funds to the ColoTrust Edge Account.

A motion was made to move all the funds from the ColoTrust Plus account to the ColoTrust Edge account, seconded and approved.

A motion was made to appoint Chelsea to work with Laura on our accounts to move funds when the interest rates change and to make the Board aware of it at the following meeting, seconded and approved.

Chief Egger: Policy Update: None.

Maintenance: The electrical panel at Station 2 is complete. The shop generator is complete. Will be replacing a door on the north side at Station 4.

Events: High School football standbys on Fridays. Southern Ute Health Fair on November 8th at the Casino, and Halloween Carnival at the Casino October 31st. applied for the head coach

Chief Owens:

The new utility is up and running. Dan and Dean have put the new logos on most of the vehicles. The tender repair came back to about \$15,000 more than the original bid due to having to redo the outside plating because we were off on a couple of fittings.

We are auctioning off a 2006 Ford truck and a motor for \$700. It will be up for auction for 28 days.

Durango Helitac is interested in leasing Station 3 and moving their base from April through October. They would like a 5-year lease and the option for another 5-year lease. Chief Owens provided the board with a map showing two spots for putting up two helipads, possibly making a road up the west fence line, expanding the front pad for the parking lot and a security fence around their helipads. We would give them one bay and the office space. They will be putting together a proposal and may have one next month.

Chief Davis: Volunteers: We currently have eight volunteers. We have four that will be doing JPR's for Fire 1 on November 16th.

Drone: No update.

Fire Chiefs Report:

We are at 851 responses this year; we are up 14% on our volume from last year.

A couple of things to point out in the September P&L is we are generally close to having collected all the property taxes we should have by now and being \$1 million plus behind is interesting. Simcoe is \$11.6 million behind in paying property taxes in oil and gas so that could be why we are so behind, and they are supposed to have that paid by the end of 2024. We hope to see that property tax number increase by the end of the year.

We should see some FEMA deployment revenue. We sent one crew down to Florida. They were there for about a week. They were released today. We are paid 24 hours a day. We are making \$190 an hour on the ambulance. We will probably be a little over on our auditor line item. They have merged with another company out of Wisconsin, so we should be getting a new engagement letter at the beginning of the year. We are at 70.25% on our expenses. We are getting close to rounding out for the year on our capital. The ambulance hopefully will be getting done this week and we should wrap up the final expense on the tender. We will probably come under the \$520,000 we budgeted and am guessing it should be around \$475,000 - \$500,000.

Wildland Update: We have both crews out. One crew is in South Dakota and the other is in Wyoming.

2025 Preliminary Budget: The revenues were reviewed. We have a 28% decrease in property tax revenue which is just over \$2.8 million. There was a 45% drop in oil & gas. As far as expenditures we have our insurance costs have increased for worker compensation, health insurance and the building and apparatus. The workers' compensation could increase 15% due to the 3-year look back period on claims. Health insurance is looking at increasing 25% which is partly due to claims. We are looking at different options to see if we can save money. The dispatch line was increased due to our dispatch being currently in disarray. We spoke with Central dispatch and have a quote of \$33,000 annually. We are budgeting \$176,000 for Capital Outlay some of the items include a flow test machine, coded fuel dispenser, and converting Medic 84 into a plow truck.

An SDA presentation regarding the future of Property tax was shared with the Board. We can plan on seeing a decrease in the RAR percentage when we budget for next year anticipate that into the 2025 property tax year. Hopefully we see a bump for when we go into the 2026 property tax year. Still some unanswered questions.

As far as the revenue side of things; something to think about for the future.

How do we continue to generate revenues for our District. Do we go after a sales tax increase, community paramedicine? Talking with other districts and are in the same boat as we are.

A sales tax increase is more palpable than a mill levy increase. Everybody pays into this.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35

Minutes approved by _____, President.

Preston Rea

November 12, 2024, Regular board meeting at 6:00 p.m. Station#1, 275 Browning Avenue, Ignacio, CO