

**BELGRADE CITY COUNCIL
And
CENTRAL VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
JOINT MEETING MINUTES**

**COUNCIL CHAMBERS
November 16, 2015
6:00 PM**

Deputy Mayor Kristine Menicucci called the meeting to order. Council Members in attendance were: Anne Koentopp, Kristine Menicucci, Mark Criner and John Youngberg. Central Valley Fire District Board Members in attendance were: Joe Nelson, Ty Elliot, Mark MacLeod and Kent Marselis. Others in attendance were: City Manager Ted Barkley, Fire Chief Ron Lindroth, City Attorney Rick Ramler, Leila and Robin Pavolich, Jennifer and Dustin Pitman, Greta Bradford, Jean Korpi, Collin Brozka, Maximiliano Amenabar, Ivonne Angulo, Stephen McAdams, Jennifer Odden, Justin Monroe, Tim and Pam Doaln, Kathi Gregoire, Curt and Ruth Kermode, Jordan Harler, Josie and Nicole McAdams, George McAdams, Dave Smith, Anthony and Joanne Stratman, Briana Bittinger, Gil Moore and Jena Nash Reno.

Members absent were Mayor Russell Nelson, Council Members Brad Cooper and Ken Smith. Central Valley Fire District Trustee James Hall was also absent.

PUBLIC FORUM

Deputy Mayor Menicucci called 3 times for public comment. There being none, the public forum was closed.

INTRODUCTIONS

Fire Chief Lindroth reviewed the new Central Valley Fire District website and pointed out improved access to information for the public. He invited all council and board members to explore the website and provide feedback.

Welcome and Swear-in of Six Firefighters and Chaplain

Chief Lindroth administered oaths to 5 new volunteer firefighters: Collin Brozka, Max Amenabar, Dustin Pitman, Leila Pavolich and Stepehn McAdams. It was noted that Michael Cassou was not able to attend and would be sworn in at a later time.

Chief Lindroth also administered the oath to Tim Dolan, newly appointed Chaplain for Central Valley Fire District.

Chief Lindroth requested that the meeting break for approximately 15 minutes. During the break, both Mayor Nelson and Council Member Cooper arrived at the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Menicucci called the meeting back to order at 6:50 p.m.

DISCUSSION AGENDA

Consider Planning for Replacement of Fire Station No. 1

Chief Lindroth reviewed structural concerns with Station No. 1. He reported working with the Airport in obtaining a parcel of land for ease of access. They are working on a possible exchange of services to avoid purchasing the land. A meeting is scheduled at the end of November with the Airport Board to continue working through the process. The State Highway Department will also be brought in to make sure access is allowed. Lindroth expressed his desire to pay these expenses up front and not through loans. Approximately \$2.5 million has been set aside for this purpose.

Council inquired about plans for the existing facility. One option would be to turn it over to the City or sell it and split the proceeds. This includes the training facility across the street as well. The new location would be under the Airport Authority and is not currently in city limits. Future annexation is always an option.

Consider Water Mains and Capacity for Fire Protection

City Manager Barkley commented that the current economy is bringing this need to the forefront. It is a concern that buildings are requiring a level of fire protection without water service nearby. Extensions of water and sewer mains require significant planning, including annexing and growing the urban core that we have now. The capacity of our water system needs to be analyzed carefully for now and in the future. Barkley referred to the RFP recently advertised for City water & wastewater planning needs for the future. A fair amount of energy will be going in this direction.

Chief Lindroth noted that from the district's standpoint, commercial demands more services in view of capacity. They want to promote growth in the district, and commercial growth benefits both the district and the city, but it requires that the fire water be available. There are current areas that do not currently have adequate water supplies for fire protection. Even with sprinkled systems, the water supply is not adequate. DNRC has limitations on the size of allowed wells, and systems are expensive. We don't want to remove the incentive to annex into the City.

Barkley reminded the council of agreements such as a "Waiver of Right to Protest Annexation". It's not easily answered as to how to solve all of these concerns. Various ways of financing the costs was also mentioned. Council inquired about how the County is affecting the City by allowing the subdivisions the way they have in the past. Barkley noted that some candid conversations have occurred, but there are different growth principals and private property rights. The county approaches this very differently. Lindroth noted that the City has protected its development in anticipation of future annexation. If the city chooses not to extend into certain areas, can other utilities spread into those areas so that the District residents receive adequate fire water supply? This would need further consideration and analysis.

Joe Nelson noted this is very much a joint issue for the City and the Fire District including the City of Belgrade, River Rock, Landmark and the Four Corners utility district with a northern limit of Valley Center. Barkley noted that gravity and water pressure also plays a part in this.

Consider Level of Services / Quality of Services Provided

Barkley noted that from an economic development standpoint and the effect on tax payers, it is clear that the services received by City residents is quite a bargain. The amount of money paid for fire service is Bozeman as much higher, but the level of service is higher in Bozeman as well.

When Central valley is deployed and then another call comes in, it is then apparent that we are spread thin. Lindroth noted that 10-12% involves simultaneous calls. We are rapidly approaching the need to keep a 2nd company on duty, which involves up to \$800,000 per year. The decrease in property valuation plus saving for a new fire station, we are behind on having funds for a 2nd on-duty fire station. Staffing options will be explored including grant funding. Revenue from EMS transport is also being considered.

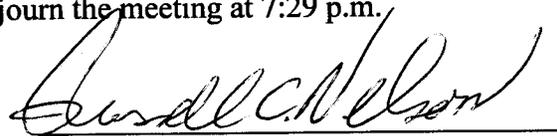
Council inquired about mutual aid and how this affects resources. Lindroth confirmed that mutual aid is very important to maintain between agencies. Council asked about the lower numbers in volunteers. Lindroth noted that scheduled call out is very well attended, but the unscheduled call out is poorly attended. He did not have an answer for what contributes to this lack of response. There has been a cultural shift, with a lower level of commitment to this type of service. One option is to explore the provision of daycare.

Consider Planning for the Future – Considerations of an Interagency Committee

Barkley discussed the plan to form a committee to work through the many issues facing the City and the Fire District. Planning regarding future Fire and EMS governance would be prudent at this time. He suggested the committee members to consist of Lindroth, Barkley, at least one Council member and at least one Fire Trustee member to be appointed. Meetings would be periodic. Additional Joint meetings may be scheduled as well. The committee group may be expanded to include a resident/citizen member after the key topics have been identified.

ADJOURN

Council Member Youngberg moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m.



Russell C. Nelson, Mayor



Susan Caldwell, City Clerk