



SOUTHERN PARK COUNTY FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Board of Directors' Meeting

2015.11.05 @ 7:01 pm

1) Introduction of Visitors

Bill Betz
Mary Curtis
Karen Frerichs

Deborah Maresca
MaryAnn Melvin
Ron Melvin

Donna Rodriguez

2) Attendees:

Board members present:

Ken Thomas - Chair
Flip Boettcher
Mike Parrish
Sandy Rucker – Treasurer
Steve Wilson
(Mike Brandt - Secretary to the Board)

Excused Board Member:

Department members present

Chief Aaron Mandel
Lieutenant Eugene Farmer

3) Call to Order:

Meeting called to order at 07:00 PM by Board Chair Ken Thomas.

4) Approval of Agenda:

Mr. Thomas moved to approve the agenda, second by Mr. Wilson; motion carried.

5) Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes from the 2014.09.22 as amended and the 2015.10.01 meetings by Mr. Thomas, second by Mr. Parrish; motion carried.

6) Director's Chief's and Committee Reports

a. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report is available at www.guffeyfire.net. Ms. Rucker congratulated Chief Mandel for keeping the expenditures within overall budget for year-to-date.

No extraordinary items to report this month and there are no requests for payment to review and approve.

b. Regulatory Matters

At December Board Meeting the following to occur:

Resolution to Approve Budget

- Resolution to Set Mill Levies
- Resolution to Appropriate Funds
- Resolution for Supplemental Budget (if needed)
- Approve next year's Meeting Schedule

No later than December 15th submit "Certification of Tax Levies" as well as items from December board meeting to DOLA/DLG, County Clerk & Recorder, County Assessor, County Treasurer and Board of County Commissioners.

c. Chief's Report

Incident responses

	Month	Year to Date
Traffic Accidents	2	18
Medical	2	39
Wild Fires	0	5
Smoke Reports	1	5
Structure Fire	0	0
Other	1	8
Total Calls	6	75

Summary

1. Listed S-91, B-93 and dropped the price on the Unimog to \$55,000 on Fenton Fire. Some interest in S-91 and Unimog
2. Black Mountain Family Reunion – Check issues.
3. Waiting on checks so didn't order boots, turnouts, etc. from Darley yet
4. Engine 9-1 pump serviced and tested. Diagnosed the foam system and we ordered the parts. Repair the rest in house. Repair parts will be \$641.50, Mr. Thomas moved to approve the purchase of a new foam proportioner, second by XXX; motion carried.
5. Moved Steve Taylor to reserves and Will Burkhart back to active duty.
6. Benefit for Cricket Buckley big success. Raised just over \$1,300.
7. Bus Extrication Class – Chief Mandel, Will Burkhart, Maria Mandel, and John Stride attended. Recommend purchase of corded Sawz-All in lieu of \$38,000 extrication package. There are cordless units in Rescue 9-1 now.
8. Community Paramedic meeting - \$500,000 to contract. Working on other options. Medical director would support having such a program. Other options include having South Park EMS absorb us into their system. May have access to community mental health program as well. Could join with South Park service. Medical director will not support a part time paramedic program as he feels they would not maintain a sufficient proficiency level. As discussions continue, Chief Mandel will keep us informed.
9. Sent 1 SCBA out for repairs. Waiting to hear on the status.
10. CMD-9 needs tires and front brakes – approx. \$1,500 expenditure. Mr. Thomas moved to approve the expenditure up to \$1,500, second by Mr. Wilson; motion carried.
11. Converted Brush 9-1 to Rescue 9-1. It is now outfitted for light rescue/extrication. Carries SCBA, basic extrication equipment
12. HumV has been recalled. Equipment has been removed. If the recall to the county is confirmed Chief Mandel recommends adding a 100 gallon tank to the command truck.

13. Found new engine in Kentucky. \$49,900, 4X4, 500 GPM pump, 500 gallon tank on a 1994 Chevy Kodiak chaise. If the budget supports such a purchase it is worth a trip to look at the vehicle.

d. Auxiliary Report

Davis Tilton has resigned as president and Susan Geiger resigned as Secretary due to family obligations. Vice President Steve Taylor is acting President, and the auxiliary is looking for volunteers to fill the positions.

The Auxiliary has acquired a 6x12 trailer and is awaiting finalization of the agreement between the Board and the Auxiliary.

7) **Old Business**

Election Requirements Follow Up: For a mail election the department would have to pay approximately \$5,000 to fund the mailing, TABOR declarations, and balloting. This would have to be accomplished at some time prior to the election. It is not budgeted at present. As a supplemental budget will be necessary for this year, some of the excess could be targeted for this expense.

Donna's research on the formation of the District ballot solely had a question on whether the District should be formed or not. At the time of the petition to form the District it only included the Petitioners. There was a hearing with the County Commissioners in 1986 regarding the district formation request.

8) **New Business**

a. Proposed 2016 Budget Hearing: copies have been presented and are available for review at the meeting. The changes agreed to at the 2015.09.22 meeting must be added to the budget proposal

b. Presentation on Potential Bike Race Fund Raiser – Deborah Maresca of Mountain Top Cycling started the Mountain Top Experience Ride which has grown from 40 registered riders in 2012, 2013 was 127, 2014 to 151, 2015 had 240 registered riders and if the trend continues will have 300+ for 2016. Considering a fall ride and looking for a sponsor for a fall 50-75 mile ride.

Proposal is to establish a 50-75 mile ride and use it for a fundraiser. Ms. Maresca would be willing to allow use of her facilities and insurance if the Department could supply 12-15 volunteers for her upcoming ride. Need rest stops every 15 miles. 12 to 15 Volunteers are needed to staff rest stations. Limited competition right now and having this as a donation to the fire department might make it more attractive.

c. Discuss Medical Billing Proposal – Chief Mandel and Lt. Farmer. At present the department is funded by property taxes – this is the only reliable funding coming in. To grow the department takes money which can be obtained via higher taxes, special event funding, impact fees, sending units out (dependent on national need) or medical billing.

If medical billing is established as an option then all users must be billed. If one is a taxpayer the district can forgive or pay the insurance co-pay. Every fire department that has EMS services in Colorado is billing. UPRAD is billing and is not breaking even on costs.

Most runs aren't *included* people. Billing must be fair and equal to all people serviced with the exception that included taxpayers can have co-pay forgiven. Last data shows that only 17% of our billable runs are in district. 31.6% are out of district people. 29.8% are unknown status.

What can be billed: transport, most assess and release, and traffic accidents. In 2 years there were 129 runs – 24 transports, 18 assess and release, 14 "other", 21 flight for life. Transfer to ALS. 80% of all calls are billable.

Where will the money go? The community is aging, so there will be more runs and costs will increase. More tourism will also make more runs. Medical supply costs are increasing faster than our incoming revenue.

Cost of billing is 15% of what we can collect and only when they collect. There is a \$554 cost to become a part of Medicaid/Medicare. There will be a time lag of 6 to 8 months to be able to bill. Average transport is \$1,200+ billable expenses and on average agencies generally receive only 50% of what they bill. Based on experience this would fully fund the medical program and may allow it to grow to support more EMTs and more training.

If we move to medical billing can expand EMT staffing and expand into Fremont County that is not supported today.

Proposed policy change is [attached](#).

Next step – send out information, request feedback, perhaps have a special meeting to discuss. Set up meeting Thursday, November 12.

9) Public Input

Bill Betz wants to set up a special meeting with the board and public to review the proposal to install an underground propane tank with input from the firm supplying the tank. Meeting is proposed for Sunday, November 22 at 4:00 pm.

10) Adjourn meeting:

Meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m. by Chairman Thomas.

Attachment 1

Southern Park County Fire Protection District (SPCFPD) - POLICY #071 MEDICAL BILLING POLICY

This Policy establishes the procedures to be followed for the invoicing and billing of medical services provided by the Southern Park County Fire Protection District.

DEFINITIONS:

1. **Inclusion** – Property or property owner who has elected to be included in the District and who is assessed a mil levy in accordance with Special District laws. The number 0020 will appear in the Tax Area block of the Park County Assessors' Property Detail Information schedule if the property is included in the District.
2. **Exclusion** – Property or property owner who has failed to request to be included in the District or specifically petitioned to be excluded from the District. The number 0004 will appear in the Tax Area block of the Park County Assessors' Property Detail Information schedule if the property is excluded in the District.

POLICY:

SPCFPD will enroll with an independent medical billing company that will take the information the district provides and bill those individual and their insurance company. The medical billing company will keep a percentage of what is collected as their operating fees. There is an enrollment fee with Medicare that renews every four (4) years. This billing pertains only to services performed by the SPCFPD; other Advanced Life Support Agencies, such as "Flight for Life", will bill in accordance with their own policies.

Recipients of medical services, and who have been billed for services in which their insurance company will not pay or there is an outstanding deductible, have the right to petition for a reduction or forgiveness of the debt. The individual shall provide that petition in writing to a medical billing subcommittee comprised of the Board Chair, Treasurer, Chief and an EMT. The subcommittee will review all petitions and provide their opinion to the BOD for a final decision. All income generated from billing for medical services will be put into a separate department account with appropriations of funds to be agreed upon by the subcommittee and presented to the BOD for a final decision.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The **District Board of Directors** will:

- Hear all petitions and appeals for debt forgiveness.

The **District Fire Chief** will:

- Enter the required information in a form/software as instructed by the medical billing company or delegate a member of the department to do so.

This amended policy becomes effective January 1, 2016, replaces the prior policy and remains in effect until changed or rescinded.

By Authority of the Board of Directors: *(The original "official" signature is on file at SPCFPD)*

Dated: *December 10, 2015* Kenneth C. Thomas