

NEW HARMONY VALLEY SPECIAL SERVICE DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTROL BOARD MEETING

August 16, 2023

**NEW HARMONY FIRE STATION
1388 South Old Hwy 91**

Meeting Minutes

I. Open Hearing: R C. Huckaby

- a. Meeting called to order 7:40 pm.

II. Attendance:

- a. Board Members Present: Clay Huckaby, Chairperson; Scott Pace, Vice Chairperson; Eric Kerns, Member; John Southwick, Member; Cathye Huckaby, Board Clerk/Office Manager.
a. Board Members Absent: Darren Adair, Treasurer.
b. Fire Department Present: Jim Banks, Fire Chief.
c. Community Members Present: Tamra Banks, Fire Association.

III. Reading and Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes – Clay Huckaby.

- a. Members had the opportunity to review the July 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes. No changes were requested. (See Attached).

Motion: A motion was made by Eric Kerns that the July 19, 2023, Meeting Minutes be approved as reviewed. The motion was seconded by John Southwick. Motion carried unanimously by all present.

IV. Financial Report: C. Huckaby

- a. No Report. Reviewed at Mid-year Budget Public Hearing prior to this meeting.

V. Mill Rate Increase Determination Discussion/Motion: R C. Huckaby

- a. Chairman Huckaby presented the Board with a) a summary of the meeting he has had pertaining to the TNT process and the Washington County meeting he attended regarding the one percent increase on taxable items for EMR use only. The Board then used the CTR program to determine the amount increased revenue needed and the effect on the community so TNT notices can be mailed. Several things were taken into consideration including: the purchase of a new truck; the need for new tires on several vehicles, the age of most of our apparatuses; the increase in operating expenses, the number of residences now compared to the year 2000; the lack of rate increase in the last 23 years; the increased number of emergency callouts, the increased number of certified & Firefighters I & II; the need for EMR licensing, and EMR equipment. The following scenarios were discussed in detail:

Scenario #1:

Increase Budget by \$50,000 per year. Based on an average house appraised at \$756,000. Household tax would increase from \$131.00 to \$193.00, an increase of \$62.00 per year or \$5.16 per month.

Scenario #2:

Increase Budget by \$25,000 per year. Based on an average house appraised at \$756,000. Household tax would increase from approximately \$131.00 to \$162.00, an increase of \$31 per year or \$2.60 per month.

The discussion between not wishing to drastically increase a tax on the community and needing to have a budget that is sustainable drew a good discussion. The fact that this year the district may have to pull from their limited reserves to meet basic budgetary requirements, coupled with the likely hood of

apparatus failures and having never previously increased the mill levy rate swayed the discussion to scenario #1.

Motion: A motion was made by John Southwick that the Board include in the Truth in Taxation process a yearly budget increase of \$50,000 per year for NHVSSD. Based on an average house appraised of \$756,000. Household tax would increase from approximately \$130.98 to \$193.00, an increase of \$62.00 per year or \$5.16 per month. The motion was seconded by Eric Kern. Scott Pace opposed the motion, R C Huckaby supported the motion. Darren Adair was absent. Motion passed.

b. The Smoke Signal postcard informing the community about the TNT Meeting October 18, 2023, will be mailed out this week.

VI. Board Members Reports:

a. Eric Kerns/Cathye Huckaby CIB Truck funding/closing. Removed from agenda (See Local Building Authority Meeting Minutes.)

VIII. Presentation of Grants/Drove/Webpage: Clay Huckaby

a. Grant Update.

- Dept. Forestry CWDG Grant (\$53,000) Chipping Denied 1st Round; Second round is open for resubmission for 2nd Round.
- FEMA Grant (\$15,000) Replace Engine -Under Review.
- FEMA Grant (\$20,000) Extractor – Under Review.
- FEMA FP&S Grant (\$50,000) – Chipping Fire Mitigation - Under Review
- SAFER Grant (\$162,000) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response – At 1st level Review.
- *DNR Grant (\$9,780) PPE's Boots – Granted, Reimbursed and Received.*
- *DNR Grant (\$8,200) Drone – Granted, Reimbursed and Received.*

IX. Chief Report: Jim Banks.

- a. Callouts are down in the 2nd quarter; however, much higher than this time last year (89 currently vs 42 last year.)
- b. Chief met with Cedar City Fire Chief Phillips regarding mutual contracted services. He is not opposed to having further discussions.
- c. The Chief has also met with Commissioner Iverson, Hurricane's Fire Chief and Apple Valley's Fire Chief.

X. Office Manager Report- Cathye Huckaby.

- a. CNA Surety bond was renewed for \$50,000 per member, a cost of \$175. per year
- b. CIB, Atty Chamberlain, and the district have a zoom meeting Thursday August 17, 2023 to finalize escrow on the purchase of the Fire Truck. R Clayton, Eric Kerns, Jim Banks, and Cathye Huckaby will attend.

XI. Board Members Comments:

- a. No further discussion.

XI. Public Comment:

a. Fire Association Update: Tamra Banks. The Association is now familiar with the TNT process and anticipates fielding questions regarding the mill rate increase. They will refer folks to the October 18th meeting.

XII. Meeting Adjourned at 8:40pm

Motion: A motion was made by Eric Kerns to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by John Southwick. Motion carried unanimously by all present.

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Attachments

ACB-FB Meeting Agenda 8-16-2023

Utah Public Notice of Meeting 8-14-2023, 8/8/2023

ACB-FB Meeting Minutes 7-19-2023