

**Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting**

Special Meeting
December 17, 2007

I. CALL TO ORDER:

A special meeting was held at the City of Grand Junction Administration conference room, 250 N 5th Street, Grand Junction, CO and was called to order by President Stephen Grant at 11:30 a.m. The meeting notice was published in accordance to C.R.S requirements

II. ROLL CALL – Board Members:

Board present: President Stephen Grant, Vice-President Vicki Felmlee, John Mayerik, Treasurer, Harland Adams and Gayle Middlestaff, Board members, Larry Beckner, GJRFPD attorney. Members of Grand Junction City Council, City Manager, Laurie Kadrich, Assistant City Manager, Trent Prall, Fire Chief, Ken Watkins, Finance Director, Jodi Romero, City Attorney, John Shaver and City administrative and finance personnel. Public: Deborah Heidel-Davis, Scribe, Daily Sentinel representative and members of the public.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The only item on the agenda for this special meeting was to discuss with the City of Grand Junction on the future financial standing of the District to meet its obligations for payment of fire-fighting services provided by the Grand Junction City Fire Department. The agenda was approved by unanimous consensus of the Board.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

President Steve presented to City Council and staff, a brief history of the current contract between GJRFPD and the City of Grand Junction for fire fighting services. He also reported on the District's financial standing from the time the existing contract was signed up to the current time. It was noted that the District is currently up to date with payments to City for services. The major concern for the District is that in the foreseeable future the District will not be able to meet the payment obligations to the City of Grand Junction, mainly due to annexations of properties to the City and from the GJRFPD's boundaries thus reducing the District's property tax base. There is a large concern on the part of the District on the continuance of firefighting services being provided by the City of Grand Junction. The District Board wanted the City officials to be appraised of the situation and to discuss any possible alternatives that might be available.

The current contract has the service fees for firefighting based on a per call calculation that is complicated and the District would like to see this simplified.

The City Council and administration assured the District Board that the City would not eliminate fire and EMT services and they were willing to discuss adjustments to the service contract. Both parties reviewed the service fee calculation process, the District's continued property tax revenue decline due to the annexations by City of Grand Junction, thus reducing the taxable properties within the District. The City recognized that the tax revenue would drop and that the District would not be able to meet the on-going financial obligations to the City for service.

The main concept discussed as an alternative to the call per basis fee calculation was a service fee based strictly on available tax revenue received by the GJRFPD. Basically, whatever revenues are received by the District, with the exception of the Tabor reserves and a small operations reserve, would be directly passed to the City for payment of the firefighting services. Both the Council and the Board agreed to investigate this option. This would be looked at as either a change to the current contract or a provision in a new contract. The attorneys for the City and the District were directed to work together and to bring back to the Council and Board a draft of the wording for service fee rework. The Council and Board will meet to discuss contract revision or new contract in the future.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

It was the unanimous consensus of the Board members to adjourn the meeting. The next regular meeting will be held on January 22, 2008. The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS _____ DAY OF _____, 2008.

Stephen Grant
President

Attest: _____
Deborah Heidel-Davis, Secretary