

**Grand Junction Rural Fire Protection District
Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting
Grand Junction Fire Station No. 5
May 18, 2010**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:
Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

- II. ROLL CALL – Board Members:
Board present: Stephen Grant, President, Vicki Felmlee, Vice-President; John Mayerik, Treasurer, and Harland Adams, Christa Taylor, and Mary Vrenes , Auditor Public: GJ Fire Department Chief Ken Watkins

- III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:
The board reviewed the agenda items V. Felmlee made a motion that the Board approve the agenda with the additions. H. Adams seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.

- IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

- V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:
Minutes of January 12, 2010, V. Felmlee moved minutes be approved, H. Adams seconded, minutes approved 5-0.

- VI. FIRE CHIEF REPORT:
The City budget was amended March 3rd with 5.5 million in reductions. The cuts affected the Fire Department mostly in non-personnel accounts, including \$84,000 in equipment for the new truck that will be borrowed from other apparatus. The Department has \$340,000 for the station alerting system but \$200,000 of it is on hold until the 4th quarter. Seven people retired, but we lost 9 positions. Currently trying to figure out which to fill and which not to fill. John Howard the EMS chief was one of those who retired and his position is being filled with a captain for now. There have been some additions like Sarah Jennings from Neighborhood Services who was part of 12 that their job was eliminated and they were moved around. She is helping with the ambulance billing. Danni Ferguson who had been volunteering for a year is now going full-time as of June 1st and is also helping with ambulance billing. Currently The Department has a private contractor that does the billing and now the billing is being brought in house. This will take care of customer service issue and increase the collection rate.

As for grants, \$3.2 million was awarded for the 29 Road bridge project which is split between the County and City. We did not get the fire station grant that we applied for. The Department is applying for another grant for 800 Mhz radios for all the departments in Grand Junction and surrounding areas. Currently the Sheriff, Police, and the Grand Junction Fire Department have converted to the 800 Mhz, so they are applying for the grant to fund the surrounding areas.

Cooperation Plan with Clifton is continuing and at the end of April they had a joint training program with Clifton. Every couple months they will train together.

County Hazard Mitigation Plan was presented to you for your review and eventually an agreement to a resolution will need to be approved. This allows The County to apply for FEMA funds. Andrew from the County could come to the next meeting to address any questions.

The Ambulance contract is on its 4th year. The city made the decision to bid the service. We have discussed extending our contract, but they think there will be interest from other agencies to discuss the contract. What percentage gets paid and how much of it gets paid. Some insurance companies only pay a certain amount. We have some patients who pay on their own and some who have bad debt and aren't able to pay. On average about 43% gets collected this is without Medicaid and Medicare being considered. Our demographics are part of the issue because we have a lot of Medicare, Medicaid, and now self pays because of the economy, although the ambulance service is paying for itself. Many people don't know that we were one of the first departments in the State of Colorado to do EMS. We've been doing it since the 40's.

VII. TREASURER'S REPORT:

Payables – V. Felmlee moved to approve payables, and C. Taylor second. Motion carried 5-0.

Financials – John had to pay for Liability himself so that is why he is getting paid back such a large amount.

Property taxes and specific ownership taxes were down. We are \$61,000 under budget.

Auditor – Mary Vernes the auditor said there were no problems that arouse with the audit. Currently the board is within \$3,600 of the budget. Reserve for tabor went down \$300. The audit overall looks good and we will need to accept the audit and send it to the state. J. Mayerik moved that Mary Vernes submit the audit. V. Felmlee second. Motion carried 5-0

VIII. ATTORNEY REPORT:

IX. ACTION ITEMS:

I. DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Those on the board who came up for re-election will need forms signed. H. Admas motioned to keep same offices for S. Grant as president, V. Felmlee as vice president, and C. Taylor and H. Adams as directors. C. Taylor seconded and motioned carried 5-0.

II. OTHER ITEMS: None

III. ADJOURNMENT:

Adjourn at 7:30 p.m. H. Adams moved, and V. Felmlee second.

APPROVED AND ADOPTED THIS ____ DAY OF _____, 2010.

Stephen Grant, President

Attest: _____
Vicki Felmlee, Vice President