

Cedar Mountain Fire Protection District
Minutes
December 14, 2021 Public Hearing 2022 Proposed Budget

This meeting was held in person and virtually via Google Meets

Board members present:

Chairperson Suzy Polnisch

Vice Chairman John Burrows – via google meets

Treasurer Sheryl Snow – via google meets

District Clerk Zach Hascall

Member and Commissioner Wade Heaton - via google meets

Meeting called to order at 6:16 pm by Suzy Polnisch

John Burrows makes a motion to go into and out of Public Hearing at the discretion of the Chair.

Wade Heaton seconds

All in favor, motion carries unanimously

Zach Hascall presents the proposed 2022 budget.

Total projected income for Fire Funds of Cedar Mountain Fire Protection District is

\$2,966,400.00

Total budgeted expenditures is \$2,929,725.00

Zach explains the overall increase in income and expenses. The district has increased EMS services and had growth in the wildland program which has the possibility of generating significant income to the district. On the expense side the growth of wildland services will result in added expenses in payroll and overall payroll increasing and a cost of living allowance of 5.9 percent which takes effect now in 2021. Payroll will always be the biggest expense related to the fire fees.

Total Snow Fees income is \$433,580.00 if all fees are collected.

Total expenditures are \$494,500.00.

Zach explains that the total snow expenditures are based on average of years 2021 and 2022 at the 9 to 14 foot snow levels. If this year goes over 14 feet there would be higher expenditures and would put the district in a deficit of approximately \$60,000 in this fund. There are reserves to cover a possible deficit. There is a board discussion regarding the possibility of the added expense if the deficit were to increase.

Wade Heaton says that if there was a higher level of snowfall this year it would probably put the district in a deficit of over \$100,000 and the board discusses past history of snow levels and Zach says that in the 40 year history there have been 2 or 3 years that were over 20 feet of snowfall and the averages have been coming down. Since the district has contracted for snow removal

over the past 8 years, there have only been a couple of instances where the snowfall went over 14 feet. The snow contracts increased this year and the board will need to adjust to those new contractor amounts and reserves but Zach says he feels that for 2022 the district is ok and there will be ways to adjust if needed.

Wade Heaton says that snow removal expenses and contracts continue to climb and there is a very good chance that in 2023 the district will need to increase the snow fee to cover those costs.

Dust Income from projected fees is \$303,600.
Total Dust expenses are projected as the same amount.

Zach Hascall says that 80 percent of the Dust category amount is to be used for the product and the remaining 10 to 15 percent would be used for water, preparation and application.

There are no further board comments

Suzy Polnisch calls the meeting into Public Hearing at 6:29 pm

Public Comments - there are no members of the public in attendance either in person or in the virtual meeting.

Suzy Polnisch calls the meeting out of Public Hearing at 6:29 pm.

Zach Hascall makes a motion to approve the 2022 Budget as presented to the board in the document that is titled CMFPD 2022 Proposed Budget.
Shery Snow seconds.

Wade Heaton requests board discussion of the 2022 proposed budget. He thanks Zach for all of his work and feels the budget is in a good place. He is very satisfied with the category of Dust and Snow however he has concerns regarding the Fire category. He says he has had a lot of conversations with members of the public and wishes that there were some involved in this meeting. The public has seen the budget and are concerned with the increase from 2021 to 2022. He feels confident in the concept and plan in the operational side related to revenue and income. However, he is fiscally conservative when it comes to public monies. He would rather see the numbers scaled back on the fire side, put the new plans in place, have some money in reserves and have a holdover at the end of 2022 for security and implement the more expanded plan in 2023 but he says he feels the plan will work and it is not being reckless with public funds.

Zach Hascall responds to Wade's comments. He says the district has shifted in the way it operates in the past 2 years. He feels the money that was spent in the last year was to keep the plan moving forward but doesn't think that any money spent was unnecessary in any way. Moving forward, the first quarter of the new year will reveal how divisions will perform and will be an opportunity for the board to be conservative. As income generation is proven and the wildland program is started in the summer, they will be able to spend as needed. Zach says that he would like to discuss cash flow and the peaks and valleys that have occurred in 2021. He suggests a goal of setting a minimum amount in the bank account to bring the reserve amount up

and use that number as a board to make decisions. He also says he believes in the plan the district has proposed and by the end of 2022 hopes to have good reserves and moving forward with the success of the new programs, which effected the 2021 budget, they will see the budgets for 2023 and 2024 become much flatter when it comes to expenses.

John Burrows says he would not be comfortable making any last minute adjustments to what has been presented but with respect to other comments from Wade and Zach, the board needs to stand ready to make adjustments if anything comes that doesn't reflect what has been proposed in the 2022 budget.

Wade Heaton says that the budget for 2021 was very aggressive and it worked. The income generation worked overall and doesn't feel the income projection for 2022 is any more aggressive than 2021 but says again he is very comfortable with the plan.

Suzy Polnisch says to reiterate what Zach has said in the past, these numbers are budgeted, especially when it comes to expenses and that doesn't mean they have to spend it. If revenues are not tracking then expenses can be adjusted accordingly and that is the intention to make sure the plan is on track.

Wade Heaton says for the public's interest, the following additional revenue streams have been the main cause of the change in the budget; EMS transfer program and expanded wildland fire medic program that will both have potential to generate significant revenue for the district.

Zach Hascall says that the new programs are not just to provide income, a lot of staff and equipment carry over to provide direct service to the district itself and the district is never at any disadvantage in providing these new services.

Motion to approve the 2022 proposed budget was made by Zach Hascall and seconded by Sheryl Snow prior to discussion
All in favor, motion carried unanimously.

Wade Heaton makes a motion to adjourn
John Burrows seconds
Meeting adjourned at 6:42 pm

Minutes approved by _____ January 11, 2022

Name and Title _____

Signed copy on file at 3620 Mammoth Creek Rd, Duck Creek Village, UT 84762