

NEBCO Board Meeting
December 17, 2024

Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm by Mark Lorentz (Chairman)

MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Mark Lorentz (Chairman), Jim Wilkins (Vice-Chair), Kathy Wills (Treasurer), Chris Jones (Secretary) Craig Zelinski, Gary Sims, Buzz Vitali, Mike Hill

MEMBERS ABSENT: Steve Wolf

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Rob Taylor Fire Chief, Julie Bland-Board Clerk, Captain Andy Driggs
Paramedic/Firefighter

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

~Approval of the Agenda as written

~Motion to Approval of Agenda – Jim Wilkins

~Second- Chris Jones

~Yays-8 Nays-0

~ Motion passed unanimously

~Approval of the Meeting Minutes

~Motion to accept the minutes from the November 19, 2024 meeting as written-Gary Sims

~Second- Craig Zelinski

~Yays-8 Nays-0

~Motion passed unanimously

Chairman's Report- Mark Lorentz- Items to be addressed in agenda

Presentation of November 2024 Financials-Kathy Wills

Still monitoring the to and from amounts between Fire and EMS

No concerns

~Motion to approve financials as presented- Chris Jones

~Second-Craig

~Yays-8 Nays-0

Payoff on Station 1 – Will call the day of the payoff for exact amount.

First Western CD in the amount of \$250k due on the 23rd of December.

Rates currently being offered are 5.05% for 3 months and 4.4% for 9 months. There is also a checking account at First Western in the amount of \$1999.00. This checking account is not in use and is at risk of going into dormant status.

Motion to approve Kathy Wills to renew the First Western \$250k CD for 3 months at the 5.05% rate and close out the checking account- Chris Jones

~Second- Jim Wilkins

~Yays- 8 Nays-0

~Motion passed unanimously

New Ambulance to be delivered in fall of 2025. CD's due close to that time will be available for use to pay for the new ambulance along with the Equity account that the interest from CD's is currently being paid into.

Chief Report- Rob Taylor

Run number update-1024 calls between Fire and EMS. 874 EMS calls 407 were in NEBCO Fire District and 401 in Avoca Fire District.

Trauma Grant close out paperwork has been submitted and we are awaiting the \$6063.00 from the State of Arkansas. We will apply for the Rural Development Matching 15K Grant at next cycle for fire. NEBCO has applied for the \$1000k Arkansas Forestry Fire wise Grant. No updates have been received on status at time of this meeting.

The Pea Ridge Military Park has made us aware of a grant for up to \$30k for Wildland Preparedness. If that grant was to be awarded the funds will be used to convert the 863 back up ambulance to a brush truck.

NEBCO Fire Chief attended the Avoca City Council Meeting and the city is giving NEBCO \$19k this year and these funds will be put towards the power load system for the new ambulance that we will receive this year.

The delivery of a new ambulance was moved up to 2025 and the purchase of the power load system needs to be addressed.

~Motion to approve Rob to sign the contract for the new power load system for the new ambulance- Kathy Wills

~Second- Buzz Vitali

~8 Yays 0 Nays

~Motion passed unanimously

The issue of ordering another new ambulance for anticipated delivery date of 2027 was tabled until after the New Year.

New Fundraising Opportunities-Jim Wilkins

Jim spoke with Sunrise Honda and they offer a program that sells ATV's at cost for fundraising purposes. Cost would be \$6-14k depending on type of vehicle chosen.

Example a four wheeler purchased for \$7500 cost would need to have 500 tickets sold at \$25 each to make \$12,500.00. The Turkey Shoot goal for fundraising this year is \$30k. \$25k has been budgeted to purchase fundraising items.

Jim will also reach out to Polaris Dealer to see what programs they offer will be discussed again at January board meeting.

Jim also has a chance to purchase a bottle of 12 year Old Pappy Van Winkle Bourbon for \$1,100.00 + tax. This would be raffled off at \$20 at ticket and 250 tickets sold. Drawing to take place on Memorial Day Breakfast.

~Motion to authorize the purchase and subsequent raffle of bourbon- Gary Sims

~Second- Mike Hill

~Yays-8 Nays-0

~Motion passed unanimously.

Once tickets are printed for Pappy Van Winkle Bourbon the board will be notified so that can begin ticket sales.

Chili Cook-off Bourbon Raffle tickets still available.

Second Ambulance Station at Avoca

The building offered by the City of Avoca was toured. It will need quite a bit of work and there is still no answer from the City Attorney on the process.

At this time there are three options

Existing building in Avoca owned by the City that needs quite of work and could have structural issues

Purchase land by the Avoca Baptist Church near Andy Jack and 62. Will most likely need dirt work, septic tank and does not have water. Purchase price is \$95k per acre, \$175k 1.5 acre and 2 acres is \$180k

Purchase land by the Avoca Dollar General that needs less dirt work and has water, but will still require septic. Purchase price is \$130k for the acre.

The bid currently to put up building is \$140k.

The second station was tabled until January. Tasks to be completed by January Board Meeting, More information is needed from the City of Avoca on the existing building, inspections and appraisals and also direction from the City Attorney. For the two pieces of bare land, physical visits to both will be conducted and decision made on how much exact land will be needed, what needs to be done to each piece of property to make it usable.

Station 1 office remodel- Bid received for under \$100k. Buzz would like to make another bid (later recanted and would not be able to bid under \$100k)

Will obtain one more bid from a contractor in Gateway.

Tabled till other bids obtained.

2025 Budget- Updates made as requested at November meeting.

~Motion to approve the 2025 budget- Kathy Wills

~Second-Chris Jones

~Yays-8 Nays-0

~Motion passed unanimously

ERISA partners has submitted a request to fund the 401k matching for 2023 at 3% for 14 employees for a total amount of \$ 6,474.63.

~Motion to approve 3% 401k match-Mike Hill

~Second-Chris Jones

~Yays-8 Nays-0

~Motion passed unanimously.

Next meeting January 21, 2025 at 6pm

~Motion to adjourn 8 pm – Chris Jones


~Second-Jim Wilkins

~8-yays 0 -nays

Signed


Mark Lorentz Board President

Signed


Chris Jones Secretary