

Minutes of a special work meeting held May 3, 2017 at Sunset City Hall, 200 West 1300 North, Sunset, Utah; Mayor Pro-Tem Bangerter presiding.

**SPECIAL WORK SESSION**

**Mayor and Council Present:**

Beverly Macfarlane	Mayor (via phone)
Chad Bangerter	Mayor Pro-Tem
Ricky Carlson	Council Member
Norm Noyes	Council Member
Jake Peterson	Council Member
Scott Wiggill	Council Member

**City Employees Present:**

Susan R. Hale	Recorder
Linda J. Youngdell	Treasurer/Office Manager
Jason Monroe	Public Works Director
Ken Eborn	Police Chief
Anthony Bott	Interim Fire Chief
Chris Whetton	Asst. Fire Chief
Tyler Argyle	Fire Fighter
Joe Maylin	Public Works Operation Manager

**Others Present:**

Mark Becraft	North Davis Fire Chief
John Taylor	North Davis Dep. Fire Chief
Gary Peterson	North Davis Fire District Chair
Mark Shepherd	North Davis Fire District Board Member
Neil Coker	Jeremiah J. Jackson
Michael Love	Janet Lujan
Shirley Griffiths	Joyce King
Wanema Butcher	

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Pro-Tem Bangerter. Mayor Macfarlane was contacted to attend via telephone. He announced this was a work meeting and the conversation would be between the Council, NDFD Members and the Department Heads. However, since the Council wanted all questions answered, a pad of paper was located by the sign in sheet and, if a resident's questions were not answered, the residents could write their questions down and hand them to Council Member Noyes so they could be answered.

- 1. Discussion with NDFD Board Members:** Mayor Pro-Tem Bangerter had the Department Heads and North Davis Fire District members introduce themselves. Mayor Pro-Tem Bangerter asked District Chair Peterson to tell them about NDFD. Chair Peterson said the North Davis Fire District was formed in 2005 with Clearfield and West Point cities. Each City gave up a certain percent of their tax rate to make up the rate the District would then run on. There have not been any tax increases to date and none contemplated in the future.

How Sunset would have representation on the North Davis Fire District Board was discussed. Sunset would have equal representation on the Board. Right now it is a 7-member board, with three from Clearfield, three from West Point and a Chair position that rotates between the two cities every four years. The Board would be modified to allow Sunset equal representation.

In discussing the annexation process, it was mentioned that Felshaw King is the Attorney for the Board, West Point City and Sunset City. Clearfield, as the governing body, would approve a resolution with the intent to include Sunset City in the District. If Sunset and the NDFD Board agree, the legal description of the District would change and it would be sent to the Lt. Governor by the end of December to be included in the 2018 tax rolls. Among all this happening, there would be public hearings.

If it is decided for Sunset to join the district, Sunset would not need to wait for the annexation process to be completed before being covered by NDFD. Taxation would not begin until January 1, 2018. Prior to that tax funding, Sunset could pay the District a fee based on the tax rate. The Interlocal agreement was mentioned and they would still exist. Sunset would probably not have a station in the City because Sunset is within the service area of Station #42, which is located in Clearfield. A city that is being annexed comes into the service area of the District and so would its equipment because it would take the added equipment to service the added area. The caveat to that is Sunset gains two ladder trucks, two brush trucks, five ambulances, etc. Sunset would become a part of the District; not purchased by the District.

When West Point and Clearfield joined as the North Davis Fire District, West Point did not have a fire department. A station was built in West Point to service the area that was outside the Clearfield Station's range of service. Clearfield supplied their equipment and West Point's contribution to the District is that the City has a lot of growth capability, so in assessed valuation and impact fees over time there will be a large contribution from the new growth. Funding is adequate for the area the District services now and as West Point grows the new taxable properties pay for the needed service growth. If West Point does not get new growth, the service area would not grow, therefore not requiring the added revenue.

The estimate for NDFD to receive in property taxes from Sunset is about \$169,000. It was asked if this is enough to fund the added service area of Sunset or if the rate would increase. The District believes the property tax would not increase for citizens because when a City is annexed into the District, the City normally gives up part of its tax rate. That \$169,000 plus the ambulance revenue would cover the added full-time ambulance and crew needed to service Sunset. With equal representation on the Board, Sunset would have just as much say in the decision as the other two cities. Sunset's representation on the Board would be equal to the other two cities; they just didn't know how the Board would be reconfigured at this time. When asked if there could be a tax increase, it was stated there is never a guarantee but the tax would increase not just for Sunset, but Clearfield and West Point as well. The other cities' representatives would be just as opposed to a tax increase as Sunset's representatives would be.

Whether or not Sunset would be required to decrease their tax rate the same as the increase would be to residents was discussed. It would be a Council decision. Sunset may not be required to, but that would be a good question for the City Attorney because there may be some action that needs to be taken.

Concerns that residents had at the previous Council meeting were brought up, with the first one being response times. The whole City of Sunset falls within the parameters stated in NFPA 1710, which is 3.75 miles as the crow flies. Station 42 would have a six man crew, which is three ambulances out, or if it's a fire call it would be a 4-man ladder and an ambulance out. Even now, with the interlocal agreements, if there is a fire call in any of the communities there is automatic aid where all the fire departments are paged at the same time.

It was asked if there was any thought of having a station in Sunset when the I-15 interchange is done and buildings are built near it. Those buildings would all be brand new protected buildings and they're in a CDA area whose tax rate does not justify a \$3 million station for those protected buildings. As an example, the new Smith's in West Point is all sprinkled and not going to burn down and those are the types of buildings that will be built in MIDA. All of this is conjecture because they can't say what will happen in 7 or 8 years. The District collects impact fees to fund future service for new growth.

Dispatching calls was then discussed because it was mentioned during the previous meeting that calls from Sunset are dispatched through Davis County and those calls would then need to be routed to Clearfield Dispatch. If a medical call comes in, it goes to Davis County dispatchers, who get on the radio and relay information to Clearfield Dispatch, but the responders hear it on the radios they carry and are already en route when the call is paged out.

The next concern brought up was local control. There would be representation from NDFD Department Head meetings, they will participate in Fun Days, they will have Santa come around on a fire truck and they will hold an Easter Egg Hunt. It needs to be understood that Sunset will not be losing a Fire Department, they would be gaining a Fire District and they would participate in all Sunset events just like the Sunset Fire Department does now. The District also has a successful public education program. They go into Elementary Schools with a couple of clowns and teach the kids about fire safety. One example of the success of the program is last year there was a fire in a garage, the kids were in the family room and when they realized what was going on, one of the children put his hand on the door and remembered from the clowns that if the door is hot not to open it. He probably saved the lives of his family by not opening that door. The District has an active CERT training program and help train CERT members in Clearfield and West Point, so they would do the same with Sunset. The CERT program is not incorporated into the District; it still belongs to Sunset. The District would do building plan reviews and business inspections initially and annually.

Response times were again discussed, with traffic, how busy Station 42 is and if calls would come from the West Point Station being concerns and, for some citizens, what they would

consider a decrease in service. If Sunset were to join the District there would be three ambulances staffed with six firefighter/EMT's at Station 42. If it happened that they were all out on calls, Clinton would be the next one out; not the West Point station because Clinton is closer. That is why the interlocal agreements are in place. When a fire call comes in from anywhere in the District both District stations respond. When asked about the District's ambulance service, it was advised all of the District EMTs are Advanced EMTs, plus they have a transport ventilator for patients with a trachea. The full-time EMTs are required to go through trainings while on duty and there is another medical training the second Wednesday of every month for the part-time EMTs that might not have gotten the training while on duty. All members of the Department are required to attend the monthly fire training as well.

The time was turned over for any unanswered questions the Department Heads or residents in attendance may have. Police Chief Eborn commented that he knew how the Fire Department is feeling because he has been through this very thing a few years ago. None of the surrounding cities could see any benefit for their residents in providing police services for Sunset, so they declined. If there would have been an entity to consolidate police services for Clearfield, Clinton, Syracuse, Sunset and West Point into a unified police department, he would have been all for it.

Interim Fire Chief Bott said State Statute says EMS must meet or improve on current services and that includes dispatch and response times. He said Sunset's current response time is 2 minutes and 40 seconds and asked how NDFD would match that response time. NDFD Chief Becraft responded that National Fire Protection Agency states 5 minutes for the first arriving unit for EMS and Fire. Asst. Chief Whetton clarified they received their information from the Utah Bureau of Emergency Management Services. Int. Chief Bott said when Sunset Fire began ambulance services they had to meet or improve current services and Sunset was being served by Clinton's ambulance. Clinton's station was manned 24/7 so that is why Sunset's station had to be manned 24/7 to receive the ambulance license. He advised a representative of the State Bureau of EMS will attend the Council meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> to speak on that State Statute.

Neil Coker was the only member of the audience who had a question so he was allowed to ask it. He said the property tax would be approximately \$87 per \$135,00 residence and asked if the City would be willing to lower their tax rate that much to compensate for that plus the amount to compensate for the loss of ambulance revenue. He also wondered what the ISO rating was for Clearfield and West Point. The North Davis Fire District rating is 4, which includes both cities and that is also what Sunset's rating is. They had already addressed the property tax issue earlier in the meeting; they have not decided if Sunset's tax rate will be decreased yet.

Council Member Noyes explained the Council is looking into this because the budget is falling short. They didn't just decide to get rid of the Fire Department; they are looking into this as one way to make budget. They are trying to look at all options and still be able to provide all the services a City is required to provide.

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Mayor Pro-Tem Bangerter believes they need to ask the legal opinion of City Attorney King for the response time issue Int. Chief Bott brought up and for the annexation process.

The District members were thanked for their time and discussion.

Council Member Noyes made a motion to adjourn. Council Member Carlson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Council Members Carlson, Noyes, Peterson and Wiggill voting yes.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Approved – June 6, 2017

/s/Beverly K. Macfarlane, Mayor

/s/Susan R. Hale, Recorder