

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF
CARBON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP
Tuesday, March 25, 2008
Rawlins City Hall, Rawlins, Wyoming**

A workshop between the Board of Carbon County Commissioners (BOCC) and the Rawlins City Council to discuss fire protection and extrication commenced Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at the Rawlins City Hall in Rawlins, Wyoming. Attending the meeting were Chairman Terry Weickum, Commissioners Jerry Paxton and James Elliott; County Clerk Gwynn Rothenberger; and County Attorney Cindy DeLancey.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Weickum called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and called for introductions. Present were County Commission Chairman Terry Weickum; Judy Dixon, City Council; Rawlins Mayor Ken Klouda; Patty Schuler, City Council; Steve Kovachevich, City Council; Jim Wells, City Council; Louis Espinoza, City Council; Jerry Paxton, County Commissioner; James Elliott, County Commissioner; and DeBari Martinez, City Council. Chairman Weickum announced that City Attorney Dan Massey, County Attorney Cindy DeLancey, County Clerk Gwynn Rothenberger, and City Clerk Marla Brown were also present.

EXTRICATION AND FIRE PROTECTION

Chairman Weickum stated one of the reasons the county wanted the workshop called is because there are issues with extrication and fire protection that the Board wants to clarify. He added that he feels the County and City Fire Departments have equal ability and he would like to see the departments develop reciprocal respect for each other. Chairman Weickum wants to walk away tonight with an agreement on who will cover certain areas of the county and that as the policy makers, the City Council and the Board of County Commissioners should be able to do this. He stated the two areas that require clarification are extrication and the buffer zone agreement the county has with the city.

Chairman Weickum asked for clarification that the buffer zone memorandum of understanding (MOU) was only to cover building permits and subdivisions and not to cover anything with fire protection. Attorney Massey stated there was an ordinance passed extending jurisdiction and there was a MOU only taking jurisdiction within a one half mile limit for sexually oriented businesses, zoning, and building permits. According to Attorney Massey, the city has been granted authority by Title 18 to have concurrent jurisdiction for one mile for subdivisions and that the MOU is for clarity. Attorney DeLancey concurred with Attorney Massey's statements.

Chairman Weickum stated the second issue is areas of obligation for extrication. He stated the county would like to propose to the city that a very clear and concise zero point be established. Chairman Weickum stated that Rawlins should be that zero point and the county would be first responder with the city second responder north and east of Rawlins with the city as first responder and the county as second responder south and west of Rawlins. He justified these directional suggestions as the county has departments north and east of Rawlins to assist. Mayor Klouda asked for clarification that south would mean Highway 71 and Chairman Weickum confirmed and added that the Baggs Fire Department may need assistance off the Interstate toward Baggs.

Councilman Martinez would like a policy made by the City Council and the BOCC as the policymakers and that this be given to the fire departments and no negotiating would be done outside the established policy. Chairman Weickum agreed and stated there should also be assurances that each department will back each other up when necessary. Commissioner Elliott stated he feels these boards have the power to make the policy but also have the responsibility if something goes wrong. He stated the policy is necessary for clarity for dispatchers also to establish a clear line. Mayor Klouda added that he feels both departments are filled with professionals and he has no doubt that whatever the city and county decide to do the departments will follow it.

Chairman Weickum asked the City Council members how they feel about the proposal. Councilman Kovachevich asked for input from the firefighters as they are the individuals having to implement the policy. Councilman Martinez clarified the coverage areas and stated he feels it is fair. Commissioner Paxton suggested calling a recess to allow the City Council to confer with

their fire personnel about the county's proposal. Councilwoman Schuler agreed the fire personnel should have input. Mayor Klouda added that this must be a living document and flexible in the future with the goal that emergency response is the bottom line. There was discussion about the ability to amend the document after one year. Councilwoman Dixon questioned the consistency of coverage in all directions as north and east include all the individual fire departments where west and south only have the county and city departments making the coverage leaner. Chairman Weickum stated that part of the consideration in the county's proposal is that many of the departments north and east are county departments. Mayor Klouda stated if the proposal is accepted, the city may need to approach Wamsutter about sharing coverage.

Councilman Martinez clarified that any changes made to a MOU would need to be made by the City Council and the BOCC, not the individual fire departments or just one entity. Councilwoman Schuler asked if the proposal eliminates the mile marker scenarios. Chairman Weickum stated that it would as Rawlins is the zero point.

RECESS

Chairman Weickum called a recess at 6:24 p.m. and reconvened at 7:11 p.m.

EXTRICATION AND FIRE PROTECTION

Mayor Klouda discussed mutual aid on fire protection also needs to be considered later. He stated they have received input from their fire chief and asked that he speak about his thoughts on the extrication issue. City of Rawlins Fire Chief Scott Hannum stated that a couple of weeks ago he met with County Assistant Fire Chief Brian Hightree to discuss the existing response areas and a proposal. He then met with Candi Hofmann, Ambulance Director, Memorial Hospital of Carbon County and stated he feels if given the opportunity, the three of them can come to an agreement. Mr. Hightree stated he is still willing to come to an agreement. Chairman Weickum stated that the BOCC previously asked that the MOU be written months ago and the process failed. Mayor Klouda stated he understands that the men are now willing to come to an agreement. Councilman Kovachevich stated the current process basically works other than individuals who do not know much about it, putting their fingers in it.

Commissioner Paxton stated he believes in empowering the individuals who actually carry out the policy but he agrees with Chairman Weickum as the BOCC asked the two departments to come to an agreement and if they had done that, the workshop tonight would not have been necessary. Councilman Kovachevich asked what stopped the process and Commissioner Paxton replied that the individuals that now say they can come to an agreement stopped the process by not ever coming to an agreement. Mr. Hannum disagreed and Councilwoman Dixon stated the agreement in place appears to be working. Mr. Hightree stated the existing agreement does not work and that is why the county has made tonight's proposal. Mr. Hannum stated that after direction from the BOCC the groups were to meet, however that meeting was never setup and he does not feel the failure is on his or Mr. Hightree's parts. There was discussion that the City Council and BOCC need to discuss the issues further.

RECESS

Chairman Weickum called a recess at 7:18 p.m. and reconvened at 7:25 p.m.

EXTRICATION AND FIRE PROTECTION

Attorney Massey stated that the recess allowing the BOCC and the City Council to discuss these issues was deemed inappropriate per Wyoming statutes and public meetings laws. Councilwoman Dixon asked why the current plan does not work. Commissioner Paxton suggested that the county draft a MOU and propose that to the City Council for their review with their fire personnel. The draft MOU can then be used to negotiate certain points. He added that hopefully this will assist in making the decision in a more timely fashion.

Mayor Klouda asked if the proposed MOU would include the proposal by the county tonight and Commissioner Paxton answered yes and included that there would be additional points to be made in the MOU also. Mayor Klouda added that he would like to see both fire departments report on the agreement within six months of its adoption. Mayor Klouda asked if the MOU would be for extrication only or if it would include mutual aid fire protection. There was discussion about what the MOU would include and Commissioner Paxton replied mainly

extrication would be included in the MOU.

Councilwoman Dixon discussed the homes that join the City of Rawlins and who would respond to those in case of a fire. There was further discussion about response times and fire protection and who is in charge in certain areas. Discussion also ensued about figuring out why the agreement has not been hammered out already. Chairman Weickum stated how important he feels that a policy be made by the policymakers as the alternative method of coming up with an agreement has not worked. Councilman Martinez agreed and Councilwoman Dixon asked that small details be addressed in the proposed MOU. Commissioner Paxton suggested covering fire suppression and extrication in separate agreements.

Mayor Klouda stated he would like the county to propose an agreement and he challenged the firefighters to get their professional input to the City Council or BOCC so it may be included in the MOU.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Weickum adjourned the meeting at 7:41 p.m.

-s- Gwynn G. Rothenberger, Carbon County Clerk

Approved this 8th day of April 2008.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CARBON COUNTY, WYOMING**

-s- Terry Weickum, Chairman