



**NORTH DAVIS FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**
Station 41, 381 North 3150 West
West Point City, UT 84015
(801)525-2850 ext. 102

*Tim Roper, Chairman
Howard Madsen, Vice-Chairman
Erik Craythorne, Member
Mark Shepherd, Member
Jerry Chatterton, Member
Nike Peterson, Member
Gary Petersen, Member
Scott Wiggill, Member
Chad Bangerter, Member*

*Mark Becraft, Fire Chief
John Taylor, Deputy Fire Chief*

**NORTH DAVIS FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING &
LOCAL BUILDING AUTHORITY MEETING
August 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM**

North Davis Fire District Board of Trustee Meeting started at 6:06 PM. Public Hearings for the Property Tax Rate (Truth in Taxation) for Calendar Year 2021 and the adoption of the Final Budget for FY2022 were held. Members of public and Board of Trustees were permitted to attend the meeting in person at Station 41 or via Zoom.

Board Members Present: Chairman Timothy E. Roper, Vice-Chairman Howard Madsen, Scott Wiggill, Nike Peterson, Mark Shepherd, and Erik Craythorne

Board Members Excused: Jerry Chatterton, Gary Petersen, and Chad Bangerter

Staff Present: Fire Chief Mark Becraft, Deputy Fire Chief John Taylor, and District Clerk Misty Rogers

Visitors: NDFD Engineer Steve Harrington, NDFD Battalion Chief Mark Weekes, NDFD Captain Curt King (via Zoom), Reed Child, and Roger Hughes

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation or Inspirational Thought: Vice-Chairman Madsen
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Citizen Comment – No comment received.
5. Consideration of Approval of Minutes from the July 15, 2021 Board of Trustee Meetings
Vice-Chairman Madsen motioned to approve the minutes from the July 15, 2021 Board Meeting. Board Member Craythorne seconded the motion. The motion passed.
6. Consideration of Approval of the North Davis Fire District Bills for July 2021
Board Member Shepherd motioned to approve the NDFD bills for July 2021. Vice-Chairman Madsen seconded the motion. The motion passed.
7. Consideration of Approval of the North Davis Fire District Financial Report
Chief Becraft stated that Fiscal Year 2022 started on July 1, 2021. Revenue received in FY2022 that was for services prior to June 30th will be reversed to FY2021.

Board Member N. Peterson motioned to approve the NDFD Financial Report. Board Member Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion passed.

8. Presentation and Discussion of the North Davis Fire District Budget for FY2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022) and Property Tax Rate for the 2021 Taxable Year

Chief Becraft said we (administration and the board members) have been discussing the needs of District and crunching numbers for months. The paramedic program is putting a burden on the District and the surrounding cities. NDFD and the Board of Trustees has done our due diligence as far as costs to start up the program.

Board Member Shepherd stated that the NDFD tax rate was fairly straight forward. He said he looked at Clinton City's paramedic set-up rate which was approximately \$700,000 and they don't have nearly as many calls as NDFD does. He also said that the District is looking to rebuild Station 42 (Clearfield) because the current station has out-lived its life and was never meant to handle the number of calls that it's receiving. Board Member Shepherd stated that it is right thing to do for the residents and firefighters.

Chief Becraft also wanted to state that the general public typically doesn't understand that the District does not receive revenue sources from any type of sales tax and other revenues like a city does. The main revenue sources that the District receives is property tax and ambulance revenue which is slowly going backwards. He then said that the budgeted amount for ambulance revenue is rarely increased.

9. Truth in Taxation Hearing, Consideration of Resolution 2021R-13, Adoption of the North Davis Fire District Property Tax Rate for the 2021 Taxable Year

Chairman Roper opened the public hearing.

a. Public Hearing

Roger Hughes, 677 N 5000 W.

Mr. Hughes stated that he is frustrated with the fire district's lack of ability to stay within the budget. For the last several years residents have been given an average tax hike of 8% per year and this year it is an increase of 46.22%. It has been stated that the property tax increase is needed to train paramedics to take the workload from Davis County. However, the county is reducing their tax load by 3.68% and the District is increasing their rate by 46%. Mr. Hughes asked if the District will be picking up the medical calls, where is the revenue going? Also, with the ridiculous growth in the area, where are the impact fees and the monthly tax revenue being accumulated by the District going? Mr. Hughes stated that it does not make sense that the area is growing, revenues are increasing, taxes are being raised and still the NDFD is unable to balance or even stay close to their budget. When the fire district was first established, there were two purposes stated for their mission. One was faster response time and the other was it would save residents money in the long run. He wanted to know when this cost savings would be realized because to date it has cost residents a great deal every year. He's retired and lives on a fixed income and he just expects the District to do the same as he does when he's running out of money, he reduces his spending.

Reid Child, 4674 W 650 N.

Mr. Child stated that he "echoes" what Mr. Hughes said. He is frustrated with the District and West Point City with how the budget is determined. He said you decide what you need or want and then you raise the taxes but the rest of us don't have that luxury. We can't go to our employer and say we have things to do this year and ask for an increase for a certain amount. Mr. Child asked why the District can't ask for a reasonable amount to deal with inflation like the rest of the people have to do? You're being compensated for growth with impact fees and more homes paying into the system. Mr. Child stated that the Board of Trustees doesn't see a lot of the public's faces because they are beat down, they aren't listened to, the board's minds are already made up and what he or anyone else says doesn't matter and it's frustrating.

Board Member N. Peterson asked the Chairman if the board could respond to the comments. Chairman Roper said they could but just needed to close the public hearing first. Board Member N. Peterson motioned to close the public hearing. Board Member Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion passed.

b. Action

Chairman Roper stated that this year has been very interesting. In 1978 the paramedic levy was put into place by Davis County. Since then, it has never been raised to fully fund the paramedic program. The change to the paramedic service is affecting many entities, not just North Davis Fire. The District has to raise the paramedic levy in order to get the support and equipment needed to serve the community. Station 42 in Clearfield is inadequate. It doesn't have male or female bathrooms which has been a difficult situation. The District just went through a year where substantial cuts were made to the budget to make it through the difficult year. However, the ultimate goal is that we do not continue to cut the budget for the safety of our residents.

Board Member N. Peterson wanted to add that the paramedic levy that Davis County has in place was never increased and the county has been subsidizing the program with their general fund. As they have increased taxes over the years, a portion of that has gone to maintain the paramedic program. When the county decided to divest itself of the program, NDFD and the surrounding cities asked the county to reduce their taxes by the full amount that it cost to operate the paramedic program because each entity would need the revenue to startup and sustain the program. The county's response was that they had other needs within the sheriff's department and they were choosing to keep that amount in their budget. Board Member N. Peterson stated that she didn't agree with the county because it left the burden on the District and surrounding cities to cover the cost of the paramedic program.

Chairman Roper also mentioned that the Board of Trustees did set up a meeting with the Davis County Sheriff and County Commissioner Curtis Koch to discuss the matter and how they thought it should be handled.

Mr. Hughes asked about the additional revenue that would be received from responding to paramedic calls. He also asked if that revenue had been figured into the budget. Chairman Roper stated that revenue for paramedic calls had been figured into the budget. He then said that the District must send some firefighters to paramedic school and also purchase additional equipment.

Board Member Craythorne asked Chief Becraft if paramedic service is a billable item. Chief Becraft answered yes, it is billable but state law only allows the ambulance provider to charge the paramedic fee. If a paramedic is in the ambulance their fee is added to the base charge. However, if it is a Medicare and Medicaid call, it won't matter because Medicaid and Medicare are only required to pay a set rate no matter the supplies used and actual cost of the call.

Ms. Rogers also wanted to add that a collection average is only about 48% or less which was a state average.

Vice-Chairman Madsen mentioned that they (Sunset City) have been with the NDFD for four years, and they are still receiving money from ambulance bills prior to joining the District. He said insurance is slowly catching up and paying those bills but it takes a long time for payments to come in.

Board Member N. Peterson wanted to clarify that the District pays \$90,000 to \$100,000 a year to the Davis County under the old model for them to provide paramedic services. That fee to the county for paramedic services will go away. She then stated that the offset is that the District will now employ nine additional firefighters/paramedics and incur the costs that go along with that. It's not a windfall

for the District, but it helps cover the costs of the additional personnel. This was the District's only option since the county decided to no longer provide this service.

Chairman Roper stated that the Board of Trustees looked at the option of having another city provide the paramedic service to the District. However, the cost was the same so it was determined that it would be best for NDFD to provide our own paramedic service.

Mr. Child asked how many people does it take to answer a call? An ambulance will have to attend so why not have a paramedic be on that ambulance?

Chief Becraft answered that with the NDFD's call volume that wasn't a viable option. With the amount of ALS calls that require paramedic response, the District does not have the personnel to do that. It would be very counter-productive. The paramedic program that the District will provide will allow for a paramedic unit to go from one incident to the next. All of the fire chiefs in the Davis County have agreed to follow the nationwide and statewide protocol which is two paramedics and increase the level of service being provided to the community. The new model will provide four more paramedics throughout the county.

Board Member N. Peterson motioned to approve Resolution 2021R-13, adoption of the North Davis Fire District Property Tax Rate of 0.001540 for the 2021 Taxable Year. Board Member Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Roper (<i>non-voting</i>)	Vice-Chairman Madsen – aye
Board Member Craythorne - aye	Board Member N. Peterson – aye
Board Member Wiggill - aye	Board Member Shepherd – aye
Board Member G. Petersen (<i>excused</i>)	Chad Bangerter (<i>excused</i>)
Board Member Chatterton (<i>excused</i>)	

10. Consideration of Resolution 2021R-14, Adoption of the North Davis Fire District Budget for FY2022

Chairman Roper opened the public hearing.

a. Public Hearing – No comment received.

Board Member Craythorne motioned to close the public hearing. Board Member Shepherd seconded the motion. The motion passed.

b. Action

Board Member Shepherd motioned to approve Resolution 2021R-14 adoption of the North Davis Fire District Budget for FY2022 Year. Vice-Chairman Madsen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Roll Call Vote:

Chairman Roper (<i>non-voting</i>)	Vice-Chairman Madsen – aye
Board Member Craythorne - aye	Board Member N. Peterson – aye
Board Member Wiggill - aye	Board Member Shepherd – aye
Board Member G. Petersen (<i>excused</i>)	Chad Bangerter (<i>excused</i>)
Board Member Chatterton (<i>excused</i>)	

11. Motion to Adjourn

Board Member N. Peterson motioned to adjourn and move into the special meeting of the Local Building Authority of NDFD. Board Member Wiggill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Board Member Shepherd was excused.

12. Special Meeting of the Local Building Authority of NDFD - 6:40 PM (immediately following the item 11 of the Board of Trustee Meeting)

Board Members Present: Chairman Timothy E. Roper, Vice-Chairman Howard Madsen, Scott Wiggill, Nike Peterson, Mark Shepherd, and Erik Craythorne

Board Members Excused: Jerry Chatterton, Gary Petersen, Chad Bangerter, and Mark Shepherd

Staff Present: Fire Chief Mark Becraft, Deputy Fire Chief John Taylor, and District Clerk Misty Rogers

Visitors: NDFD Engineer Steve Harrington, NDFD Battalion Chief Mark Weekes, and NDFD Captain Curt King (via Zoom)

1. Public hearing to receive input from the public with respect to (a) the proposed issuance of not more than \$11,000,000 of lease revenue and refunding bonds and (b) any potential economic impact that the improvements, facility or property financed in whole or in part with the proceeds of said bonds may have on the private sector

Chairman Roper opened the public hearing – No comment received.

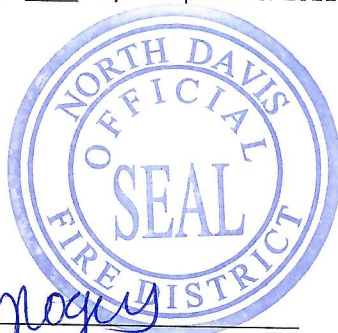
Board Member N. Peterson motioned to close the public hearing. Board Member Craythorne seconded the motion. The motion passed.

2. Motion to Adjourn as the Local Building Authority of North Davis Fire District
Board Member Wiggill motioned to adjourn the LBA of the NDFD and readjourn into the Board of Trustee Meeting. Vice-Chairman Madsen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

13. Adjourn

Vice-Chairman Madsen motioned to adjourn. Board Member Wiggill seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Passed and adopted the 16 day of September 2021



ATTEST:

Misty Rogers
Misty Rogers, District Clerk

Timothy E. Roper
Timothy E. Roper, Chairman