

Stillwater County Fire Council Meeting

Columbus

Nov 20th, 2018

Present:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Duane B | Molt |
| 2. | Carol A | DES |
| 3. | Bryan B | Park City Fire |
| 4. | Rich C | CFR |
| 5. | Cody Brumfield | Stillwater County R&B |
| 6. | Nick Jacobs | CFR |
| 7. | Travis Hansen | CFR |
| 8. | Larry Elder | BLM |
| 9. | Terry Brumfield | CFR |
| 10. | Chris Southworth | Park City Fire |
| 11. | Wes Leuthold | Molt Fire |
| 12. | Bill Pronovost | DES |

Meeting was called to order at 11:40 by Bryan Bartholmew

Introductions were made

Bryan went over his notes from the last meeting as minutes were not available.

Old Business:

Auto Aid updates: Auto aid has only been used a few times since the policy went into play and so far, it seems to be working ok.

Chris Southworth had a few questions regarding it. One was, that in one case there was a page for a structure fire in PC. It took multiple pages to get a response from PC Fire and it was then that PC Fire asked Columbus to be paged. In this case shouldn't have Columbus been paged right away? The fire ended up a post on the stove that was taken care of by the resident, but the "system" didn't seem to work as intended.

There was discussion about the positive sides of Auto aid, but it was suggested that we review the calls and see if there needs to be some refinement and potential more training about getting it done right. It's a start, so it will get better with time, but to review it and tweak it where needed wouldn't be a bad thing.

There was no other old business.

New Business:

Interstate Closure Report: There is a consulting company doing some study work for MDOT regarding the installation of gates in the area for closing the interstate. There was discussion about getting them any information regarding closures resulting from MVC's and fires.

There was discussion regarding where the gates may be possibly located, the response time and policies of getting them closed and issues like that. Chief Cowger voiced a concern that depending on the location of the gates, incases of semi's spun out and closures due to accidents that in many cases by the time the process was gone through to get eh gates closed, the incident mis mitigated, or that even if gates were closed then you still had traffic to contend with that was beyond the gates, still necessitating resources to divert traffic through Park City or Columbus.

Bill Pronovost brought up the idea of staged closures, starting with the effected area then moving outward if the incidents escalated or weren't resolved quickly.

There was a motion made to send a letter from the Fire Council to the LEPC committee and consulting firm, recommending a staggered approach to the closures. The motion was made by Rich Cowger and was seconded by Terry Brumfield. The motion passed, and Rich will draft up a letter and send it out to everyone to review then get it to the LEPC committee.

IamResponding: Several departments use this system already within the County. Carol has proposed that she can pay for the system out of either Burn Permit funding or County wildland taxes and make it available to everyone so that we are all using the same system. Everyone still has their own management of the system, that doesn't change. The biggest advantage that would have is that now dispatch would have a screen to see who's on call and if anyone is responding and it would help with the auto aid situation. There was discussion about departments approving it, or their boards. It was mentioned that there was not need to wait, departments that wanted it can do it, if some don't that is their choice. The cost for everyone was \$2400 annually so if some don't want to be included then the cost will go down. There was a motion made by Duane to ask the commissioner to move in favor on this and there was a second by Terry Brumfield. Motion was approved.

Railroad crossing in Columbus: After the train derailment in Columbus Bill has been working with both MRL and Stillwater Mine to see about getting the 3rd crossing by the BMR site back open as an emergency crossing. There is some positive progress being made on this.

Round Robin –

Carol Arkell mentioned that she will be on vacation following the meeting.

Larry Elder from BLM mentioned some positional changes at BLM. I He also mentioned it was Smokey the Bears 75th anniversary. He is available to help out with any public education needs we may have and that they will be doing a booth at the Home Show in Billings.

Molt – Duane mentioned that Molt will be having its chili supper the 9th of December at 5PM

Next meeting January 15th, 2019

Lunch will be provided by Columbus

Meeting adjourned at 1244.