

VILLAGE OF ANGEL FIRE
Wildfire Protection Committee Meeting Minutes
Monday, January 26, 2015 at 1:00pm at Village Hall

- I. Call to Order.** Chairperson Rick Sprott called the meeting to order at 1:04.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance.** The Pledge was led by Chairperson Rick Sprott.
- III. Roll Call.** Voting Members Present at the meeting were: David Hartson, Dan Rakes, Mark Rivera, Mike Clemmons, and Rick Sprott.
Staff Members and Council Liaison: Rick Tafoya, Andy Bertges, Burl Smith, and Brinn Colenda.
Members Excused: Scott Jones and John Goodson.
Visitors: Ernie Lopez, Michelle Duregger (new Chronicle reporter), James Marlin, Rogers Lanon, and Chuck Howe.
Voting Members present: 5; a quorum was declared.
- IV. Approval of Agenda.** Hartson moves, Rakes seconded, passed unanimously.
- V. Approval of Minutes.** Rakes moved, Rivera seconded, passed unanimously.
- VI. Old Business.**
- A) Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update: Chief Bertges provided information from Anchor Point consulting for a CWPP update. Proposed Tasks:
- Evaluate and update the WUI areas
 - Capture completed projects, identify and prioritize new projects
 - Make any necessary changes to firefighter resources
 - Reassess county and federal strategies
 - Update community hazard ratings as necessary
 - Integrate new fire behavior appendix based updated fuels and fire behavior
 - Coordinate and consult with stakeholders to ensure update is comprehensive and correct
 - Develop public outreach recommendations
- Fee for Basic Update: \$18,000
Optional Initial Response Plan - \$14,300. Optional "Time Until Fire Arrival" - \$3,700.00. Optional Custom Web Map Interface - \$26,000.00. Total Cost of All Tasks: \$62,000.
Committee members asked what required a 5-year CWPP update and Chief indicated that the State did. Members felt the cost was excessive and asked the Chief to find out what the specific CWPP update requirements are so that the committee or other less expensive resources could be used to perform the update if possible.
Hartson Moved that Committee recommend that the CWPP be performed "in-house" to the maximum extent possible in lieu on the contract proposal of up to \$62,000. Rakes seconded and committee passed unanimously.
Chief Bertges concurred with the motion and recommendation.
- B) Discussion and Committee Comments on Ordinance Draft: Sprott summarized the conceptual framework of the draft and how it addressed public input. Clemmons suggested and committee agreed that we should address any major issues during the meeting and allow the work group to address the more administrative written comments. Sprott suggested that many experts and organizations recommended a defensible space extending to 100 feet from a structure. Rivera stated that some 90% of lots in Angel Fire were $\frac{3}{4}$ acre or less so a 100 ft. perimeter would extend well beyond the property lines. Sprott expressed concern that residents might feel a 30 ft defensible space was protective when the circumstances on the property might require more. Rivera emphasized that a Village Forester would work with property owners to tailor fuel reduction needs to the property. Lopez explained the role of ladder fuels and other factors in wildfire and that a forester could help ensure variety in species, age, etc. to improve ecosystem health and fire protection. There was agreement that the work group should use the written comments and committee discussion to revise the committee draft ordinance for the next meeting.
- C) Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI) Permitting: Tafoya stated that the NMED Solid Waste Department had responded to the Village ACI registration form requesting additional information, primarily for the Operation Plan. Sprott said he had not had time to provide input so Tafoya will ask the Village Solid

Waste Department to follow up with NMED. Lopez said other forest officials have been submitting ACI approval documents with NMED and will provide contacts to Tafoya for possible assistance.

- D) Update on Potential Tree Harvester: Neither Colenda or Rakes were aware of any further contact with Rory Butler of Butler Company. Each will consult to ensure Mr. Butler is contacted so Resort and Village can determine if the Butler Company is seriously interested in timber operations in Angel Fire.

VII. New Business

- A) Village Forester Hire: Tafoya said he did not know if recruiting documents had been developed before he assumed his current duties. Sprott said he would forward the latest version. Clemmons asked Sprott to seek input from Dick Cook, Ruidoso Forester. Sprott noted that the CWPP update workgroup consisting of Bertges, Jones and Sprott had placed hiring a Village Forester as the highest priority. Clemmons supported hiring of forester, but expressed concern about immediate actions to recruit a forester based on the negative public reaction during earlier ordinance revision work last year. Sprott indicated that Councilor Germscheid had reservation about a forester who might be overzealous in tree thinning. Committee agreed there should be better education and outreach on the role of the forester and the fact that enforcing an ordinance would be a minor part of the position duties.
- B) Recommendations for February Council Meeting: Sprott suggested a brief summary of work status was appropriate. Committee concurred. Sprott will circulate report outline prior to February 10 Council meeting.
- C) Discuss Meeting Frequency and Week of Month: Committee decided to meet on second Monday of each month. Sprott will confirm room availability and advise committee.
- D) Open House: Clemmons and Smith recommended the committee discuss a spring Open House at the February meeting.

VIII. Questions / Comments from Audience Members

James Marlin supported a defensible space around structures adequate for fire protection.

IX. Adjournment

With no further business, Rakes moved to adjourn, Rivera seconded, passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:55.

Passed, Approved and Adopted on this 9th day of February 2015.



Recorded by Rick Sprott in absence of Scott Jones, Secretary



Rick Sprott, Chairman

ATTEST:



Terry Cordova, Village Clerk

