

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE JOINT BOARD OF THE
HAILEY / WOOD RIVER FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
HELD NOVEMBER 18, 2020
IN THE HAILEY MEETING ROOM**

The Meeting of the Joint Board of Hailey / Wood River Fire Protection District (WRFD) was called to order at 4:30 P.M. by Chair Jay Bailet. Also present were board members, Dennis Kavanagh, Sam Linnet, and Martha Burke. Staff present included City Administrator Heather Dawson, Hailey City Clerk Mary Cone, Hailey Fire Chief Mike Baledge and WRFD Fire Chief Ron Bateman.

[4:31:19 PM](#) Jay Bailet and Dennis Kavanagh, Sam Linnet are present

Ron Bateman, reminds Bailet that he is the chair person.

Open Session for Public Comments:

No public comments.

Consent Agenda

[4:32:17 PM](#) Kavanagh moves to approve August 12, 2020 minutes, Burke seconds, motion passed with Linnet abstaining.

[4:32:55 PM](#) Baledge may need to leave meeting without notice due to family emergency.

Old Business:

[4:33:43 PM](#) Baledge, we are continuing to work with Wood River well. A recent fire not so great but fire this week worked well. [4:34:15 PM](#) We are having a couple of issues, experiencing “pager fatigue” with the increased call volume, it has caused minor and larger issues. We are beginning to get “pager fatigue” as of December 1st, we will go back to Wood River tone and Hailey tone, and for medical calls another tone. [4:35:48 PM](#) In October, a fire, not a great response, some volunteers are turning off pagers if they are getting multiple pages in one night.

Bailet asks for Bateman’s report.

[4:36:32 PM](#) Bateman report, appreciates help that Hailey has assisted Wood River on, it has been very helpful to meet the needs of the community. Christian Ervin came on a recent fire out call, it was very helpful.

Questions? None

[4:38:05 PM](#) Bailet, after meeting with Mayor Burke, Dawson and Simms, Hailey not willing to dissolve the Hailey Fire Department. If cannot agree, not sure still need to chase our tail.

[4:38:53 PM](#) Kavanagh speaks, consolidation efforts seem to be ending. Want to hear others comments.

[4:39:33 PM](#) Linnets was not at the August meeting. February meeting was first meeting, at that time, we were discussing plans for consolidation. Feel like he is playing catch up again. Meeting conducted in August asking Hailey to dissolve its department. Not a lot of information provided, not sure where the breakdown has occurred. Not sure that dissolving the JPA today is appropriate. It does sound like there is a bit of a stalemate. Maybe more information next February meeting. [4:42:02 PM](#) Want a little more information why we are dissolving or moving forward.

[4:42:30 PM](#) Burke, in our February meeting, she thought we were on track again. At meeting with Bateman, he presented a letter dated Aug 17th, present history back to 1998 with Susan Baker. At the time we set up the JPA, elected officials and Wood River Board set up this board, wish of both boards was to consolidate. Bateman's letter does not state where we are today. Today we have increased collaboration, not sure if we have achieved any financial consolidation and don't know if it was ever Hailey's position to give up their Fire Department. Over the past 20 years we have made great strides.

[4:44:23 PM](#) What threw Burke off, was when Bailed, made a motion for his board to withdraw from the JPA, when the next chief would be selected by both fire departments. Then, Hailey was notified that Wood River would make their selection on their own. That is when she realized that the county did not want to consolidate. Burke, like Linnet, doesn't want to waste time, and if not the wish of Chairman Bailed, if still want to withdraw, we should agenda the item for discussion and talk about it. [4:46:19 PM](#)

Burke thought we would be able to move forward in consolidation efforts. Recent conversations with Baledge, it won't hurt Hailey to go back on our own. Continue to work in direction. If it is the wish by Wood River to withdraw, we should discuss it.

[4:47:35 PM](#) Bailed, not sure if we need to dissolve, but don't need 4 meetings per year, can still work together. Hailey is still administering the SAFER grant, worth continuing the JPA for that grant.

[4:48:39 PM](#) Dawson, question about the consolidation committee that was formed, haven't heard the progress of these forums. Any progress with those sub-committees?

[4:49:34 PM](#) Baledge was in 2 or 3 of these meetings then the virus hit, made progress before the pandemic, then the committees went by the wayside. One committee met in June, then it was difficult to get the members together after that.

[4:50:44 PM](#) Bateman, paid on call membership, had a Q&A with them for a couple of hours on training nights, Baledge's comments were accurate. Dawson asked what the topics were? Bateman he doesn't have all of the committee lists in front of him, not sure.

[4:51:50 PM](#) Linnet, haven't seen any reports, plans from either entity, proposal to annex into Wood River. Hard to make a decision on without details. Sounds like we are stalled and may need to reinstall effort, commitment. Open to receive information, what the consolidation option would look like. Want to see action item in February, topics and proposal in February.

[4:53:37 PM](#) Bateman, one of the committees will ultimately run this board. His letter was based on tons of research regarding the ESCI proposal that we spent \$47,000 on.

His desire, ultimately it needs to be done, need to choose a structure, one of ESCI's options was annexing into the district. [4:54:39 PM](#) Linnet speaks, Bateman's letter was the first information he has seen, he wants to see the options that were recommended by the consultant, feels like he needs to see that document. And to understand what that means. If annexation is the choice, does not have information why this would be the choice, cannot make a decision informally. [4:56:26 PM](#) Bateman found the document, Hailey has it. Bateman does not want to spend any more time if no one was interested in doing this. Linnet not sure how to make a decision today. No action item on the agenda today. Linnet does not know what the consequences are of Hailey annexing into Wood River District.

[4:58:44 PM](#) Bateman, Dawson has pulled up and displayed the feasibility study from April 2011. Can present in February, if don't want to annex into district, respect that. Linnet doesn't know what it would look like and doesn't want to make a decision without seeing documents.

[5:00:16 PM](#) Bailet would like to schedule February, will be another chair in February, happy to discuss in the meantime.

Linnet wants to make an informed decision, whatever that is.

Bailet, should we schedule the date for February meeting? Suggests Wed Feb 24th, 4:30 pm as next meeting.

Adjourn

[5:02:34 PM](#) **Burke moves to adjourn, seconded by Kavanagh, motion passed.**

Jay Bailet, Chairman

Mary Cone, Hailey City Clerk