

**District 4 Meeting with Kurt Kastein – “Issues that Affect You”**

**May 18, 2006**

**7:00-9:00 p.m.**

**Cool Beans Café, 1721 W. Harmony Rd., Suite 101**

- 1. Regarding the Soapstone Natural Area, were there any water rights that went along with it in the trade from the Turf Farm?**

**Response:**

The 440-acre sod farm has various water rights including ditch water and well water. When the sod farm is traded to the State Land Board for its 3,873 acres at Soapstone, the water rights will be included in the trade (in other words, the Land Board will receive the 440 acres and associated water rights). The City will be acquiring any surface or sub-surface rights to water that the Land Board may have on the 3,873 acres, but those acres are not irrigated.

- 2. Are there any volunteer opportunities for citizens with Emergency Management or Emergency Preparedness?**

**Response:**

At this time the Office of Emergency Management does not have any opportunities for volunteers within its division. We direct any potential volunteers to the volunteer bureau at FirstCall211. This process allows the individual to be screened for skills and utilize opportunities that may arise through that agency.

- 3. Within the PFA, what percentage of the money is spent fighting fires, and what percentage is spent on emergency medical?**

**Response:**

The Poudre Fire Authority’s equipment and staffing levels are designed around providing community fire protection. Therefore 94% of PFA’s budget is targeted for this purpose. This system has resulted in keeping a low community fire loss, at less than average cost with an Insurance Services Office (ISO) rating of 3 (the best in Northern Colorado).

The PFA can leverage these resources by providing other community services such as emergency medical services (EMS), hazardous materials response, and fire safety inspections for every business in the community. Since there is a citizen need and expectation that the PFA will respond to medical emergencies, we strive to provide the best service possible. We provide basic life support while Poudre Valley Hospital provides advanced life support. These are complementary emergency medical services and we work on a coordinated approach to community EMS with the hospital.

Since 63% of our calls are EMS related our current strategic plan identified an EMS coordinator as a top priority to improve our services, protect our firefighters, and help with interagency coordination. The cost for this program, including medical supplies and training is \$144,462, or .78% of total budget.

**4. How long ago did voters approve the purchase of the land to build a new library on downtown?**

**Response:** Voters, in November of 1996 approved funding for land for a Downtown library as part of the Building Community Choices program. Land for a Downtown library was purchased in 2001. Funding from Building Community Choices was collected over several years.

**5. On the June 6<sup>th</sup> Work Session agenda there is a reference to Cargill Rezoning. What is that?**

**Response:**

This is a request by the property owner to rezone 29.5 acres located on the north side of Drake Road, approximately ½ mile east of Timberline Road. The site currently contains the Cargill canola research facility and test fields. It is in the T - Transition District. The requested zoning for this property is LMN - Low Density Mixed-Use Neighborhood.

The proposed rezoning is consistent with the City Structure Plan. No specific development is proposed with the rezoning at this time, but the rezoning is sought because no development is allowed in the T-Transition District. No new permanent structures can be constructed on any land in this district unless and until rezoned.

Cargill has gone before the Zoning Board of Appeals for approval of variances for a couple of expansions: one in 2001 and one in 2003. These expansions were allowed according to Section 1.6.5 of the Land Use Code.

Once the property is zoned LMN-Low Density Mixed-Use Neighborhood District, the existing use will be classified as an Existing Limited Permitted Use and will still be subject to the requirements of Section 1.6 of the Land Use Code with regard to new buildings or expansions. Once zoned however, the applicant can go through the Basic Development Review process for proposed expansions, additions or new structures. Basic Development Review does not require a public hearing.

The rezone request received a positive recommendation from the Planning and Zoning Board in May and was approved on consent by Council on June 6. The second reading before Council will take place July 18.

**6. Why are Police officers allowed to take their vehicles home at night?**

**Response:**

Since 1974, Police Services employees have been allowed to take their assigned vehicles home. The clear understanding is that while taking them home, they have the responsibility to both enforce the law and respond to emergent calls as they go. This has been a great addition to our police force or a, “force multiplier”.

In essence, it increases the number of officers available to respond to an emergency, stop a DUI driver or make another traffic stop if it need be done. It has been done hundreds, if not thousands of times, over the years. During these times when we are not able to add more officers, due to economic concerns, it is essential to have the availability of all our officers, sometimes on a moment’s notice.

In other fleet plans that use a “pool” type application, the officer has to drive to the station, load a vehicle with his/her equipment and then respond to an emergency. When time is critical, as it was during the flood of 1997 and the riots over the past years, the time lost equates directly with the loss of life or increases in property damage.

Another cost benefit to our taxpayers is the extended longevity of the vehicles. This one to one car plan allows us to keep vehicles two or three times as long as pool vehicles. They do not wear out as fast and they are far safer to drive with better maintenance. This is a direct cost savings. The reality is also that in a pool plan, we need to keep many cars to be able to deploy with proportional staffing. Parking is an issue, locker space and many other rarely considered issues do become major problems.

The major cost is in the purchase of the vehicles on a one to one basis. This was born in 1974 and we have kept up with it. Even if we were to abolish the plan, we still must pay the leases and then the increased maintenance of pool vehicles. It is a benefit to our citizens and our officers to have the one to one plan.

**7. When will they widen Taft Hill Road from Horsetooth to Harmony?**

**Response:**

The Taft Hill widening from Horsetooth to Harmony begins June 5, 2006 and will be completed by the end of November 2006.