

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Melody Harrison
Date: June 2, 2015
Re: Colorado River Fire & Rescue Water Billing

Purpose: The purpose of this agenda items is to discuss possible options for the monthly billing of the Fire Department.

Background and Discussion: Mike Morgan, Chief of Colorado River Fire and Rescue, recently contacted the town and asked about the monthly water billing for the Lakota Fire Station. He said that the other municipalities bill the fire department at lower rates than New Castle, and he said his board had asked if there were any options to lower the bill.

Staff reviewed the billing and the water use. CRFR purchased 7.5 taps at the time of their building permit. Those taps cost them \$90,000.00. They are being billed monthly base rates for those 7.5 taps. There are two meters on the property. One in the truck bay for filling trucks, and one in the building that services fixtures (kitchen and bathroom) and irrigation. The truck bay meter has exceeded 12,000 gallons once. The building meter has not reached 12,000 gallons in use.

Staff contacted The City of Rifle, and Rifle bills CRFR for actual water used. The Town of Silt does not bill CRFR at all.

Staff studied the building based on plans submitted at building permit, and there is approximately 7000sf of habitable space in the CRFR building at Lakota. This does not include storage or truck bay areas. Based on the EQR table in NCMC §13.16.060, 7000sf equals 2.33 EQRs.

Staff suggests three alternatives for the monthly billing for the Fire Department:

1. Continue to bill them at the 7.5 EQRs.
2. Consider billing them for 2.5 EQRs, based on the square footage of the building.
3. Consider billing them for actual water used (or no less than 1 EQR).

Request: The request to consider lowering rates comes from the CRFR Board through Chief Morgan.