

MINUTES

Whitefish Fire Service Area
Trustees Meeting 3/15/22
Fire Station #22

Call to order: 6:30pm

- Present: Mark Carlson, Dennis Oliver, George Losleben, Ed McGrew, Molly Miller
- Guests: Joe Perry, Becky Briber, Scott Miller, Tristan Thomas

Approval of 2/15/22 minutes, with the following amendment:

- *Mark Carlson announced that Jimmy Deats had resigned his seat, effective immediately. New trustee Molly Miller will fill out Deats' term on the Board through May and begin a new term in June 2022.*

New Secretary:

- Molly Miller voted and approved to take over Secretary duties from Ed McGrew

Public comment:

- Tristan Thomas, owner of Star Meadows Ranch, had attended The Homestead fire meeting and was opposed to the proposal presented to create a new rural fire district with a fire station at Star Meadows Rd and Farm-to-Market Rd
 - Discussed possible recourse with county commissioners
 - Not within WFSA control
- Scott Miller, former recruiter for career and volunteer firefighters, had read the agenda in the newsletter feed
 - Regarding the Fire Station 22 dormitory, recommended trailers or pre-fab housing big enough for a family as a recruitment draw
 - Regarding rate increases, suggested trustees develop a 5- or 10-year plan to explain increases; favors forming a district

Current business:

- Bills paid:
 - 2938 USPS \$182.00 (P.O. Box)
 - 2939 NWE \$394.52
 - 2940 FEC \$106.00
 - 2941 Big Drift \$500.00

- 2022 budget process
 - Is there a way to put financials online for greater transparency; can bill paying happen offline?
 - County controls budget/bank account; WFSA has an allocated fund
 - Balance of working fund sufficient to cover remaining tower repair costs
 - Working Fund Balance: \$231,053.82
 - Capital Improvement Fund Balance: \$856,477.20

- Steering committee report
 - Purpose originally to compare fire service costs across other fire service areas and districts
 - Ed McGrew investigated and no further action required
 - New charter to prioritize AP Triton Study recommendations regarding WFSA and develop appropriate implementation strategies
 - Work is still in process after initial meeting; priorities to come

- Carnegie Mellon study follow-up
 - Discussed whether we need follow-on data regarding optimal Number of Lives Saved per station location or whether that data was analyzed in original study

- The Homestead long-term plan
 - Covered above under *Public Comment: Tristan Thomas*

DEFERRED until Steering Committee Report 4/19/22

- Fire Station 22 dormitory
 - Hire architect to design addition to fire hall?

- Coordinate with City regarding Master Plan, personnel, equipment and funding
- 2022 homeowner fees
 - Raise rates?
 - Other funding models, e.g., forming a district
- Cistern for Fire Station 22
- County Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) as part of education/PR effort?

Adjournment: 7:33pm