

MINUTES
of
Board of Trustee Meeting
WHITEFISH FIRE SERVICE AREA

January 18, 2017
Whitefish Fire Department South Station

CALL TO ORDER

On January 18, 2017, 7:00 PM, Chairman Bert May called the Meeting to order. Present were, Treasurer Doug Loy; Secretary Bill La Brie and Board Member Mark Carlson. Vice-Chairman Ed Lieser was absent. Also present at the meeting was a visitor Wally Sutton.

Mr. Sutton was in attendance to inquire about the procedure necessary to request annexation of his property located at 158 Sutton Place, Kalispell, 59901, phone number (406) 261-8354. Mr. Sutton explained that he boards other properties that already are part of the WFSA. Mr. Sutton was given a copy of the Petition for Annexation to Fire District form that he must fill out and present to the Whitefish Fire Department as the first step in the application process. Mr. Sutton was appreciative and left.

The Board Meeting Minutes for November 16, 2016 were reviewed. The minutes were unanimously approved. The Minutes will be forwarded to the Flathead Election Administrator for their records. It should be noted that there was **NO Board Meeting in December.**

Doug Loy reported that he had received a phone call from Roger Bergstrom regarding ice build up in front of the apparatus doors. Roger believes that heat from the building is escaping via the metal overhead doors thus resulting in snow melt which turns to ice. Doug indicated that his concern for personnel safety resulted in him making a unilateral decision to approve Roger contacting Dave Kauffman to order a load of sand/salt to be delivered and spread at the Station. Dave's charges will be reflected in Bergstrom's Invoice. The Board was pleased with Loy's decision. In the Spring/Summer, Overhead Doors will be contacted regarding the possible installation of insulation to resolve the problem.

Doug Loy presented his Treasurer's Report. He noted that once again the County had removed \$72.00 from WFSA Account without any prior notice or explanation. Doug indicated that when he received the Financial Statement from the County for December 2016, he contacted Mark Carlson and inquired if Mark had contacted County Commissioner Phil Mitchell regarding a previous similar situation. Mark indicated that he had and Mitchell had explained to him that there is a County Tax Review Board that examines financial records and reviews any complaints from tax payers. This Tax Review Board then acts on the matter and does not notify the concerned entity in question and has the authority to remove money and return it to the Tax Payer. The

WFSA Board is not happy with this procedure and feel that they should be notified about any complaints and the action taken by the Tax Review Board. The Board is not notified which property is in question. This is the second such incident, the first happening on October 31, 2016 when \$144.00 was deducted with no prior notice or explanation.

Treasurer Loy also reported that all outstanding bills have been paid. The WFSA is financially sound with adequate money to pay the next Fire Contract payment with the City of Whitefish. Treasurer Loy again pointed out the fact that on the October 2016 Checking Account Notice from the County, \$144.00 was deducted from the WFSA Checking Account on 10-31-2016. The only explanation on the form was "FCT-Flathead County Trea.--Abate 2016 RE TAXES TAX Revenue R.E. Taxes". This withdrawal was done without any prior notice or explanation from the County to the WFSA Board.

Treasurer Loy reported that on January 6, 2017 he wrote and presented to the Whitefish City Clerk, Michelle Howke, a check for \$141,467.00 as per the Contract with the City.

Board Member Carlson expressed concerns that Board Member Ed Lieser was again absent from the Monthly Board Meeting. A check of records disclosed that he had not attended a meeting since a Special Meeting called on March 31, 2016. The total number of absences from meetings is nine (9). It is unknown if Ed plans on filing for re-election in February 2017.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

William J. La Brie, Secretary