

BIG MOUNTAIN FIRE DISTRICT (BMFD) BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES OCT 25, 2017

CALL TO ORDER: 7:59 AM

ROLL CALL: Paul Okerberg, Paul Silverman, Phil Waddell, Glenn Nye, Jay Johnston

GUESTS: Chief Ben DeVall; CPA Myra Appel; Subdivision 2 HOA representative Bob Lund

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve minutes of September 27, 2017 meeting was made by Phil Waddell and seconded by Glenn Nye. Motion passed unanimously.

FIREFIGHTER REPORT - Chief Ben DeVall:

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- BMFD is now using the Image Trends patient care reporting system. Most of the staff has had the opportunity to write a report, and so far the new system has been successful. Chief DeVall has maintained close contact with Image Trends, and a procedure has been implemented to insure Image Trends knows when they are billable.
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- Chief spent five days on the Sprague Fire working as the Planning Section Chief for a Type 3 organization. He worked with DNRC, USFS, Flathead County, Glacier Park, and private resources.
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- BMFD firefighter Wayne Perry was lead instructor for the County EMT class held at Big Mountain firehouse, with help from Kevin Wise and Cameron Bradley. Nine students attended.
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- Chief attended a Safety Officer Class Oct 21-22. This is a National Fire Academy class and stresses recognizing and implementing safety measures prior to and during incidents.
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- The new District transport vehicle is scheduled to get stickered this week, and the light bar has been installed.
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- Chief attended a wildfire presentation at Flathead Valley Community College regarding the new normal for fires in the northwest Rockies. Presenters were fire behavior analyst

Ed Lieser and DNRC Northwest Land Office Area Manager/Type 1 Incident Commander Greg Poncin.

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- The Whitefish Area FireSafe Counsel has combined with FireSafe Flathead, and Chief attended a meeting on Oct 12th. DNRC, Flathead County, USFS, and private representatives were there.
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- Big Mountain Firefighters Association (BMFA) will buy new winter coats for BMFD firefighters and will install a backup generator for the firehouse.
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- Maintenance was performed on the firehouse garage doors while a crew was repairing one of the doors.
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- Chief attended a radio user group where upcoming CAD dispatch computer system changes and radio reprogramming were discussed. The transition will begin in mid November.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Bob Lund

- Concern was expressed about notification to local residents in the event of a fire emergency. The firehouse siren may not suffice. Additional options such as group texts/emails, phone trees, robocalls, and a possible County-sponsored reverse 911 system were discussed.
- Additional issue was raised about the potential fire danger of overhead power lines. BMFD concurs in the greater safety of underground lines but is not in a position to impact directly on the matter. Recommendation was made that local HOAs communicate their concern to Flathead Electric.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Jay Johnston and Myra Appel (see also attached Financial Statement dated Oct 20, 2017 and supplementary notes):

- Pintler Billing is performing very well, with considerable input from Chief DeVall.
- The BMFD 2016 audit is now underway and should be completed in early to mid November.
- Motion to accept Treasurer’s Report was made by Paul Silverman and seconded by Glenn Nye. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Paul Silverman continues coordination with WSI Human Resources regarding the possibility of BMFD piggybacking on WSI's background check contract for new hires. WSI is considering a change to its current screening methodology, and BMFD will stay current on how the issue is resolved.
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- Paul Okerberg has successfully renewed the District's Firewise Community status for calendar year 2018.
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- Paul Silverman briefed the Elk Highlands Board of Trustees on October 6th regarding DNRC's Hazardous Fuels Reduction grant program and on the District's Firewise Community status.
- BMFD Treasurer Jay Johnston executed the final Board signature line on Chief's new contract.
- Chief will shortly send to the Board a draft of guidelines for the new District transport vehicle. Board members will review the draft and suggest possible changes, if any. Chief will then enter the final text into the District Policy Manual.
- Big Mountain HOA neighborhood brush collection will occur Oct 23-28. Per agreement with WSI officials Bill Dunham and Doug Yeager, Paul Silverman will transport up to 10 pickup loads of the material to a designated WSI burnpile.
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NEW BUSINESS:

- The firefighters union has not yet responded to Board Chairman's notification of the Board's willingness to negotiate budgetary and other matters.
- BMFD official document storage was discussed and clarified. An unlocked file drawer for routine hard copy BMFD documents is maintained at the firehouse by Chief DeVall. In addition, Chief maintains a locked drawer for private employee records. It was also

recommended that the Board Secretary periodically assemble public District documents on a USB drive.

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EMPLOYEE COMMENT: None

NEXT MEETING: Scheduled for December 15, 2017 at 8:00 AM

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Paul Silverman and seconded by Paul Okerberg. Motion passed unanimously, and meeting was adjourned at 9:30 AM.