

A regular meeting of the Creston Fire District was held on Wednesday, January 16, 2019 10:00 am, at the Main Station. The meeting was called to order by Robert Kun, Chairman.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Robert Kun, Tom Arnone, Allen Zimmerman, Myron Mast, Chief Gary Mahugh, Assistant Chief Bill Tidwell, Louise Tidwell, District Clerk

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Greg Phillips

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None

**AGENDA APPROVAL:** Allen made a motion to approve the agenda. Myron seconded. The meeting agenda was approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**MINUTES:** Last month's meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Trustees.

**FACILITIES:**

We haven't had to worry about snow plowing yet. We're in the process of identifying a person to spearhead interior painting at Mountain Brook. Plumbing repairs have been completed at Lake Blaine and water is back on in the station.

**APPARATUS UPDATE:**

Brakes were checked and adjusted on Engine 8. The automatic chain mechanisms have been repaired on Engine 4.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

The officers and members want to thank the Trustees for the nice dinner last week.

Gary demonstrated one of the new SCBA's with face piece and regulator. These SCBA's (22) will need to be hydrostatically tested every 5 years and will need to be replaced in 15 years per DOT requirements. These will be put into service when fit testing has been completed for everyone.

Tom made a motion that obsolete parts of the old SCBA's be taken out of service. Allen seconded. Being no further discussion, Trustees unanimously voted to have SCBA obsolete parts taken out of service. Gary is looking for a place to dispose the tanks.

Tom made a motion that surplus parts of the old SCBA's may be sold. Allen seconded. Being no further discussion, Trustees unanimously voted that SCBA surplus parts may be sold.

We can take the new SCBA's apart for decontamination and soft pieces can be laundered. Gross decon starts in the field to remove carcinogen particulates after a fire call for anyone who was in the hot zone. Turnouts are then put into a bag, sealed and taken back to the station to be laundered and dried. We have a large extractor and dryer at the main station and at Lake Blaine. Deputy Chief Schuster has asked if another extractor and dryer can be purchased for Mountain Brook station. At the next business meeting, Gary will ask the Association to purchase another extractor and small dryer for Mountain Brook.

Engine 4 has 3 BA seats in that engine. A member can strap on their BA while they are in a seat belt enroute to the fire. After a fire, the BA's will be well deconned before they are put back onto the apparatus. We're working really hard to make sure that members keep their turnouts very clean and especially after every fire.

The MT Legislature is currently looking at a presumptive health bill to cover fire department members who are presumed to have cancer as a result of being exposed to a fire.

Evergreen Fire is going back to the voters for a \$631,000 mill levy that will sunset after 10 years. Last Fall Evergreen's mill levy request failed. Since that levy failed, they have gone through several focus group and community meetings regarding this levy. They have another levy that will sunset in June of this year. If this new levy fails, there will be an impact to Creston Fire regarding transport of patients from Creston's district. Ballots will go out in mid-February and will be due back March 12.

In December we had 18 calls, 6 of which were fire calls and 12 were medical calls. Through December, we have been dispatched to 268 calls, which is down 29% from 2017. Part of that decrease is attributed to not being dispatched for non-injury, no road blockage MVA's, plus roads have been good so far this winter and the number of chimney fires have decreased. Gary discussed some of the calls with the Trustees.

Gary has participated in two fire investigations in the last few weeks.

Gary has been in touch with the HOA for Weaver Acres regarding the water source becoming operational again. There is a new owner for that property now.

Membership is down a bit since a few members have moved out of district (Rosh Mallery, Chad Carlin and Sara Coonce).

Currently, there were no new applications. We continue to recruit for new members.

We have 2 people (Vince Gordon and Nick Wilson) who have expressed interest in becoming an EMT. The County and FVCC have come together in providing an EMT class this Spring. The County will pay \$400 initially and \$400 upon successful completion. This would leave \$400 to be paid by the member or department. We're suggesting that the Department pay for this EMT training. If the member doesn't stay with the department for one year, we would ask for the \$400 back. Some members have also been doing some DNRC Wildland Fire training.

**ASSOCIATION:** Association members are starting work on Auction 2019. We will have our first planning meeting January 22. We will continue to follow an ICS system. The 53<sup>rd</sup> auction will be April 5-7, 2019. Updated Association bylaws were approved.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Gary has still been in contact with some folks regarding building design.

The Association has identified a "new building" committee: Schuster, Harron, Hayes, Wilson, River, Bill, and Gary. We will be looking at a sign to be put up at the "future home" of our new station before auction.

In 2019 there will be a Trustee election for Allen Zimmerman's position. Filing closes Feb 11. Allen has agreed to renew his position as Trustee with the District.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**FINANCIALS and CLAIMS:** County financial reports were available for December and have been reconciled with QuickBooks. Invoices were submitted in the amount of \$10,708.81. After review, Bob made a motion to pay these invoices as submitted and Tom seconded. Being no further discussion, Trustees unanimously voted to have bills paid and checks written. Checks #8988-9017 were issued and signed to pay the approved bills. The December 2018 Maintenance & Operations #7206 fund account balance after payment of December and early January invoices is \$243,893.66. The December 2018 Capital Improvement/Truck Fund #7237 account balance is \$30,127.31.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:** Pat Vogel had knee replacement surgery on January 14.

On Thursday, Feb 7, Trustees will review, approve and sign checks for invoices received in late January and early February. The February Trustee's meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb 27.

The next Trustee's Board meeting will be held on at the Main Creston Hall Fire Station.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

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Robert Kun, Chairman

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Louise Tidwell, Clerk