

A regular meeting of the Creston Fire District was held on Wednesday, March 20, 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, Chief Gary Mahugh, Assistant Chief Bill Tidwell, Louise Tidwell, District Clerk

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Myron Mast, Greg Phillips

**INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:** None

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

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

**FACILITIES:**

Snowplowing is going ok. We have some large snow piles. There aren't any station issues. Gary has asked Doug Burns to give us a quote for putting steel siding on the Lake Blaine Training Center.

**APPARATUS UPDATE:**

We are adding a pump module heater to Engine 4 so gauge lines won't freeze. Otherwise, the engines are ok.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Currently, there were no new applications. We continue to recruit for new members. Our 3 newest members have been involved in training, auction, and two of them have been responding to calls. The third person will be getting his turnouts soon.

Gary provided a data sheet "Fire Departments by the numbers".

Marion FD lost a Fire Fighter this weekend due to a tragic accident. Gary has communicated with Marion's Chief, Katie Mast, and has offered support.

In February, we were dispatched to 20 calls, 5 of which were fire calls and 15 were medical calls. Gary discussed some of the calls with the Trustees.

After auction, Creston FD and Badrock FD will be looking at doing some FFI training together.

The water system at Weaver Acres has been out of use for close to 2 years. Now there is a new owner of that property where the water system is located in the corner. The pump in the well has been replaced. The owner has agreed with the County that the FD can pump water from that system. Within the next month or so, that water will be available. Gary has taken the stand that the HOA needs to be responsible for the maintenance of their well.

There is a preliminary plat for a subdivision that has been submitted for developing a property off Mennonite Church Rd.

Gary received a proposal from the County regarding property on El Rancho road. They want to put in a facility to be used for weddings on that property. Gary sent a letter to the County expressing safety concerns about the increased traffic load and a dust issue. Gary received a letter back from the owner asking for more specific details.

The MT Legislature is still considering a presumptive health bill. That bill would cover fire department members who are presumed to have cancer as a result of being exposed to a fire. There is a companion bill to that health bill that would require firefighters to not use tobacco products. The fireworks bill is still being considered.

Evergreen FD's levy passed with 55% for the levy and 45% against. About 1/3 of registered voters voted.

Trustees gave Gary approval to continue discussion with Evergreen FD about reimbursing Evergreen Ambulance perhaps \$100 per response into Creston's District. Gary hasn't discussed this with them yet.

**ASSOCIATION:** Association members are working on Auction 2019. The 53<sup>rd</sup> auction will be April 5-7, 2019. Snow is our biggest issue. Gary is going to talk with Myron about "stirring around the snow" that will break it up and help snow to melt faster on the auction grounds. At least the forecast is for warmer temperatures. Snow has been moved away from the approaches to the auction grounds. If we have at least 5 days of no snow on the ground, the ground should dry before auction.

Bob has done a couple interviews to promote the auction. There is auction information in the newspaper and on social media.

There is a committee working to identify CFD logo gear they would like to purchase.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A "Future Home of Creston Fire station" sign has been ordered and will be put up on our vacant lot before auction.

The washer/extractor and dryer are going to be delivered to Mountain Brook soon. The equipment is being purchased by the Association for a cost of about \$5,000.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**FINANCIALS and CLAIMS:** County financial reports were available for February and have been reconciled with QuickBooks. Invoices were submitted in the amount of \$5,372.09. After review, Bob made a motion to pay these invoices as submitted and Allen seconded. Being no further discussion, Trustees unanimously voted to have bills paid and checks written. Checks #9037-9054 were issued and signed to pay the approved bills. The February, 2019 Maintenance & Operations #7206 fund account balance after payment of February and March invoices to date is \$233,272.97. The February, 2019 Capital Improvement/Truck Fund #7237 account balance is \$30,240.12.

**GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

The April Trustee's meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 17 at the Main Creston Hall Fire Station.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 am.

-----  
Robert Kun, Chairman

-----  
Louise Tidwell, Clerk