

A regular meeting of the Creston Fire District was held on Wednesday, April 24, 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, Greg Phillips, Chief Gary Mahugh, Assistant Chief Bill Tidwell, Louise Tidwell, District Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT:

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

FACILITIES:

We have the materials and are working to get together a crew to paint the interior of Mountain Brook station. The extractor and dryer have been installed at Mountain Brook station. The Association has gifted that extractor and dryer to the District. Tom moved to accept the extractor and dryer from the Association. Greg seconded. After a brief discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

Fairmont Station has been cleaned out after auction. Gary is getting a quote to put steel on the outside of the training building at Lake Blaine. Most likely we won't have that siding work done this fiscal year. The Main Station has been mostly cleaned out after auction.

APPARATUS UPDATE:

At the last Association business meeting, the Captains didn't report any apparatus issues.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Captain Nielsen and Gary met with the Homeowner's group at Weaver Estates regarding the water source there. The new homeowner of the property where the water source is located has agreed that Creston Fire Department can use the water source on his property. There is 12,500 gallons in that tank and a pump has been installed. The hydrants are functional and operational for us to use.

Gary has met a few times with developers and engineers regarding some new subdivisions in our District. The Whispering Pines subdivision has 9 lots. We will have a 10,000-gallon water system in that subdivision, and the developer will be responsible to put in that tank. Gary assured them that maintenance of that system is the responsibility of the HOA.

There is another new subdivision that will be located just east of the Four Seasons Nursery. There will be 26 lots in that subdivision that includes some commercial properties. There is currently an irrigation well that provides water for the nursery. There will be two hydrants in the first phase of that subdivision. Gary recommended that an easement be extended so subdivision traffic would enter at the Woody's intersection traffic light. However, at the current time DOT has allowed that subdivision traffic to enter onto Highway 35 just west of that intersection.

There is a proposed wedding/party venue on El Rancho Road. Gary's concern is traffic along that road, signage and dust issues particularly in the summer. If events are held frequently at that location, there could be some safety issues as well.

Last Saturday there was a "Living with Wildfire" program at Creston School. They especially discussed homes, fire and exit routes in the Many Lakes area where there are now 300+ houses. The Rolling Ridge HOA has supposedly told Many Lakes residents that they can't use that road for an exit route. There were 9 Creston Fire members who attended this program.

On Tuesday, April 30 at 6:30pm, a program called "The Era of Mega Fires" will be presented at the Bigfork Playhouse. Bigfork Fire, Creston Fire, Ferndale Fire and Swan Lake are sponsoring this community program. Creston Fire members have been encouraged to attend.

Tomorrow night is our Wildland Fire refresher that is mandatory for all our members. Jesse Best will be leading this refresher. A light dinner provided.

The EMS Director for the County has resigned her position. Flathead County is looking at where EMS will report, either within the Office of Emergency Services or in another department.

Badrock Fire District continues to have some internal issues. This hasn't affected their response to calls so far. The Trustees are now appointing that FD Chief. Two of their Board members have resigned.

In March, we were dispatched to 19 calls, 6 of which were fire calls and 13 were medical calls. Gary discussed some of the calls with the Trustees. In April we responded to a structure fire which was a shed with vehicle inside. The shed and contents were a total loss. Also in April, we responded to a MVA near Montford Road. ALERT also responded to that call.

Open debris burning continues through the end of April. From May 1 through June 30, there is permit burning allowed. Permits are available online.

The MT Legislature passed the presumptive health bill. That bill may now cover paid fire department members who are presumed to have cancer as a result of being exposed to a fire. Gary is going to talk with them about covering volunteer fire department members and will be looking at the status of companion bills. Gary will get a recap of bills that could impact the fire department.

ASSOCIATION: The Association has done an after-action auction review. Just prior to this year's auction, we had some major issues related to snow removal and getting the grounds prepared. This year we had some issues related to the Posse. Alert Security did a great job. The National Guard had several members that attended/helped with auction. Friends of Creston did an incredible job with their auction work, support and provision of meals for all members and volunteers.

Creston Fire has been offered to hold a 1-day event at the Blaine Creek Grill and Golf Course this summer. It would be a promotional event and fund raiser that would be put together by Friends of Creston Fire.

Creston FD received a certificate of Recognition and Appreciation from the 9-11 Honor and Serve Foundation.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gary reported that all the dirt work for our new station will be donated by the Siderius family. We have the new station sign up now and have done some good promotion for the new station. We're still looking at building designs. For the new station, Association monies will be used plus monies from sale of the current station and some District monies.

NEW BUSINESS:

GIS Audit Results were reviewed. Greg made a motion to accept the County's current year GIS Audit Results and Tom seconded. After discussion, the motion was unanimously approved.

FINANCIALS and CLAIMS: County financial reports were available for March and have been reconciled with QuickBooks. Invoices were submitted in the amount of \$5,634.54. After review, Greg 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 #9055-9071 were issued and signed to pay the approved bills. The March 2019 Maintenance & Operations #7206 fund account balance after payment of March and April invoices to date is \$233,272.97. The March 2019 Capital Improvement Truck Fund #7237 account balance is \$30,240.12.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

We received a thank you note from Marion Fire Department signed by their members for our department's support after the death of one of their members.

The next Trustee's meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 15 at the Main Creston Hall Fire Station.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

Robert Kun, Chairman

Louise Tidwell, Clerk