

A regular meeting of the Creston Fire District was held on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, 10am, at the Main Station. The meeting was called to order by Robert Kun, Chairman.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Kun, Allen Zimmerman, Tom Arnone, Greg Phillips, Chief Gary Mahugh, Assistant Chief Bill Tidwell, Louise Tidwell, District Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Myron Mast

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS: Paul Siblingrud, Tom Gooch

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

MINUTES: August meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Trustees. Note that a June meeting was only held for check signing.

FACILITIES:

There is a new security light in the back at the Main Station. There is a solar light over the door at Fairmont Station. We're getting stations ready for winter. There isn't anything that needs to be done at the stations at this time.

APPARATUS UPDATE:

Engine 5 had radiator, cooling system and water pump repair done and now that engine has passed the pump test.

Engine 2531 has a pump or transmission issue. It doesn't quite pass the pump test. We're looking into that issue. There is a small electrical issue that will also be fixed.

Engine 2536 has had a pump shaft problem that has caused leaking for the last couple of years. A new pump was ordered and has been received. That pump will be installed in the next 2-3 weeks.

We're looking at apparatus tires and chains for the winter. Otherwise apparatus is in good condition.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Open debris burning without permit starts October 1. Fire season has been below average in terms of wildfires this year.

The MT State Fire Chief's Association meeting comes up in a couple of weeks. Gary will be attending. The MT Mutual Aid meeting will be coming up the first weekend in November.

We don't have any new applications to process at this time. There may have been a couple applications picked up at the Blaine Creek Grill Golf Tournament early in September.

In August, we were dispatched to 39 calls, 24 of which were fire calls and 15 were medical calls. Gary and Bill discussed some of the calls with the Trustees. Through August, we have gone to 187 calls.

There are new storage units going in behind the MT Rifleman. We continue to have concerns about increased traffic and potential of more accidents on Highway 35 from Columbia Falls Stage east to Lake Blaine Rd.

We had a 911 tribute at Creston's Main Station on September 11, 2019. We had 1-4 Firefighter's at each 1 hour shift until 8pm that evening. We had a lot of positive feedback from people passing by.

Gary went to a Pediatric training at KRMC earlier this week. As first responders it's important for us to train and develop a protocol for reporting potential pediatric abuse. We're continuing our Firefighter I program and have 6-8 people who are hoping to certify. We're also working on mass casualty training and will be doing a mass casualty exercise in October. There will be extrication work and patient triage and care. We have done 3 hours of our hazardous material training and will continue working through our workbooks and complete the 10 hours of hazardous material operations.

There is a water supply tank now sitting at Whispering Pines on Mennonite Church Road that is similar to the one at Weaver Acres. Gary hasn't received confirmation yet about the subdivision east of Four Season's Nursery. The Robinson family is building the mini-storage units behind the MT Rifleman. We have been told that there are going to be some commercial properties there as well. We will be working with them regarding water supply.

ASSOCIATION:

Friends of Creston Fire had our first fund-raising Golf, BBQ and raffle event on September 8, 12-5pm at Blaine Creek Grill. We got about \$1,800 in donations and don't have final \$ numbers yet. October 15 is our annual Soup for Supper event. Last year we served about 500 people and had 20+ soups served. The Main Station has been licensed and certified as a commercial kitchen. That event raised about \$10,000 last year.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gary has the latest floor plans and some elevations for the new station. We have increased the size of the meeting room a bit, have added a skills training room and have changed the exterior a bit. These drawings will eventually have to go through a licensed engineer and through the permit process. So far Solus Architecture has donated their time in putting together these drawings. Smart Lam has still expressed interest in bidding on our new station. There will be a retention pond for water runoff, water supply, etc. also at this station. We plan to have floor drains in this building. Mechanical and plumbing plans haven't been developed yet. There is space for some future expansion area to the west of the building. The Ag Research Center is still expressing some interest in the current station property. We want to build this new station without special funding.

As we have talked in the past, the new station is being designed around transport capability for the future. Transport will be in concert with other neighboring agencies.

NEW BUSINESS:

After 30+ years of service, Allen Zimmerman is retiring as a Trustee. We certainly appreciate Allen's service to the Fire Department and our community. The County has published the Trustee vacancy in the newspaper. We have Paul Sibling and Tom Gooch here today who have expressed an interest in that vacancy. There may also be other applicants. The vacancy will close October 9, 2019. After that date Commissioners will go through their selection process and identify the person they select for that vacancy. Bob gave Paul and Tom some written questions to answer and return to us.

FINANCIALS and CLAIMS: County financial reports were available for August. Invoices were submitted in the amount of \$25,616.77. After review, Allen made a motion to pay these invoices as submitted and Greg seconded. Being no further discussion, Trustees unanimously voted to have bills paid and checks written. Checks #9162-9180 were issued and signed to pay the approved bills. The August 2019 Maintenance & Operations #7206 fund account balance after payment of August and early September invoices to date is \$255,012.96. The August 2019 Capital Improvement Truck Fund #7237 account balance is \$30,517.87. Note that the balance of each account is before transfer of \$11,000 and before each account has been reconciled with the County's final June financial report.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Jim Marshall had open heart surgery 3 weeks ago. Jim is now at home and recovering.

Allen was thanked for his service as a Trustee. Cake was served.

The next Trustee's meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019 at the Main Creston Hall Fire Station.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:15pm.

Robert Kun, Chairman

Louise Tidwell, Clerk