

A regular meeting of the Creston Fire District was held on Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 10am, at the Main Station. The meeting was called to order by Robert Kun, Chairman.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Robert Kun, Tom Arnone, Paul Siblerud, Myron Mast, Chief Gary Mahugh, Assistant Chief Bill Tidwell, Louise Tidwell, District Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT:

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MINUTES: September meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the Trustees.

FACILITIES:

Gary reported that we're getting stations ready for winter. There isn't anything else that needs to be done at the stations at this time. We're addressing snow plowing. Lake Blaine snow plowing will be done by Jeremy Hayes and Scott Gunderson. Fairmont plowing will be done by Jeremy Hayes. Mountain Brook plowing will be done by Tom Schuster. Main Station will be plowed by NW Ag.

APPARATUS UPDATE:

Pump on 2536 is here and should be installed before Thanksgiving. It will only be down a day or two for that installation. Engine 2531 has had some problems with shifting. We have had that checked. The Allison Manufacturer says that they have had problems with those electronic modules. Gary has ordered a new electronic module for \$1,800.

Engines 2587 and 2582 will be transitioning in the next month from wildland fire equipment to cold water rescue equipment. Water will be drained, and the ice rescue sleds will be put on that apparatus by Thanksgiving.

Engine 2535 at Fairmont had work done this last month (turn signal, high/low beam, etc.) We may need to put tires on Engine 8 before winter. Chains on all apparatus are being checked. Otherwise apparatus is in good condition.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

We have 2 new applications on file. One applicant (Isobel Stewart) will be unavailable on training nights until the end of the year. Tinker Harrison was living out of the district and is now living in the district. Within the next month we will act on Tinker's application.

Cayuse Prairie has requested to use the Lake Blaine training center for a special need's child. We are suggesting that we give them a trial period until the end of November 30. They have signed a Facilities Use agreement and have provided a copy of their insurance policy. Tom moved that we allow Cayuse Prairie School to use the Lake Blaine Training facility according to the Facilities Use Agreement for a student with special education needs. Following discussion the motion was unanimously approved.

Gary noted that some members attended Greg Phillip's memorial on Saturday and then his Celebration of Life on Sunday. Greg was very active in our community for many years and will be greatly missed. We have extended an offer to Greg's family for helping with anything they might need done around their home.

In September, we were dispatched to 28 calls, 10 of which were fire calls and 18 were medical calls. Gary and Bill discussed some of the calls with the Trustees. Through September, we have gone to 215 calls.

Jim Marshall is still recovering from heart surgery. He hopes to continue responding when he gets a medical release.

There is a water supply tank now buried (water supply hasn't been connected yet) at Whispering Pines on Mennonite Church Road. The subdivision east of Four Season's Nursery has buried a tank and ultimately will feed into two fire hydrants. We have received a letter regarding the Knoll Subdivision located at 213 Montford Rd.

Regarding training: We have one person taking the Fall EMT class. Tomorrow night several members will be attending a TIMS training at Badrock FD. We're still working on our FFI program and will be starting a Driver Operator class this winter. We're in the midst of the 12-hour Haz mat class as well. November 4 Best Practice Medicine's mobile unit will provide Pediatric Respiratory assessment and Opioid Overdose patient simulations for our members.

Gary met with the Hops Farm owners last week. They have poles on 130 acres and have approximately 6500 poles. They will plant hops this next spring and will have some hop production next fall. In year two they will have some production and plan to have full production in about year four. There isn't much of a fire issue at that location. We will be asking for some water supply there. Gary will continue discussions with them.

Gary attended the MT State Fire Chief's Association conference about a week ago. It was a good conference with about 120 people attending. The MT Mutual Aid workshop/seminar will be coming up the first weekend in November.

Open debris burning started October 1. No permit is required. Air quality requirements must be met.

We will be visiting our three schools for Fire Prevention activities next week.

ASSOCIATION:

Sour for Supper dinner was held on October 15. We grossed about \$13,000 and served 500 people. It was a very successful community event. The Friends of Creston Fire group continues to grow.

OLD BUSINESS:

Gary has posted some of the latest new station elevations and floor plans. We are moving toward final preliminary plans. Hopefully this winter we can finalize the plans. These drawings will eventually have to go through a licensed engineer and through the permit process. We have several people who are planning to donate work for this project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Gary has been searching at least two years for another government vehicle that would be a first response/medical rig. Gary received information this morning regarding a vehicle in Virginia that might meet this requirement. It's a 2005 Chevy crew cab, 4 x 4 with about 82,000 miles. We can virtually get this vehicle at no cost except for transport cost. Tom moved that we pursue and take possession of this vehicle if it meets our requirements. Myron seconded. Being no further discussion, Trustees unanimously voted to have Gary purchase this vehicle.

Gary has submitted for a Fire Subs \$23,000 grant for two items. A portion of the grant request is for a battery-operated extrication tool and for 6 sets of turnouts.

Out of respect for Greg Phillips and after discussion, the Trustees agreed to hold off until about year's end before looking to fill his vacancy on the Trustee Board.

FINANCIALS and CLAIMS: County financial reports were available for September. Invoices were submitted in the amount of \$6,815.75. After review, Tom made a motion to pay these invoices as submitted and Paul seconded. Being no further discussion, Trustees unanimously voted to have bills paid and checks written. Checks #9181-9198 were issued and signed to pay the approved bills. The September 2019 Maintenance & Operations #7206 fund account balance after payment of September and early October invoices to date is \$255,171.07. The September 2019 Capital Improvement Truck Fund #7237 account balance is \$30,630.17. Note that the balance of each account is before transfer of \$11,000 to the CIP fund.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

Cake was served for Tom's birthday which is today.

The next Trustee's meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 20, 2019 at the Main Creston Hall Fire Station.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:20pm.

Robert Kun, Chairman

Louise Tidwell, Clerk