

A regular meeting of the Creston Fire District was held on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, 10am, at the Main Station. The meeting was called to order by Robert Kun, Chairman.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

FACILITIES:

Snowplowing has been lined up for each of the stations. Gary is thinking about a backup heater for Fairmont station. Bonneville Power pays for power at Fairmont. We now have 32,000 gallon water holding capacity at Lake Blaine.

APPARATUS UPDATE:

Engine 6 has a new pump in it and was operational as of last week. When the pump was out, some other smaller issues were discovered and will be repaired. 2562 is in the bay at Lake Blaine station. The topper has been redone on that truck. Some decal work will be done on 2562 this next week. In the next few weeks, the radio will be installed and equipment will be loaded.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:

Gary went to Fire Service Training a couple weeks ago in Great Falls.

In the next Legislative year, FSTS will be looking for some supplemental funding for field training.

Raney Frick has been licensed as a MT EMT and an EMT with the National Registry. Nick Wilson has requested to take the Winter EMT class and will start in January. We are looking at more recruitment opportunities. Shane Manley has expressed an interest in helping with recruitment.

Gary and Mike attended MT Mutual Aid meeting in early November. Gary discussed "pre-loading" members at CFD regarding being healthy and staying healthy with what we see and hear on calls.

In November, we were dispatched to 32 calls, 13 of which were fire calls and 19 were medical calls. Gary and Bill discussed some of the calls with Trustees. Through November, we have gone to 273 calls.

Gary attended a Flathead County Chief's meeting a couple weeks ago. The Planning Director was invited to that meeting.

Gary discussed the properties being developed west of Woody's on Highway 35 and his concerns related to increased traffic where several incidents/accidents have already occurred. MDOT has been in that area looking at turns lanes and speed limits. Since that property was not subject to Planning Commission review, we don't have any say about traffic concerns in that area.

Hops will be planted on the Holt Road property next Spring. There are new buildings being constructed in that area as well. Migrant labor will be working there and will be living in refurbished grain bins on that property. From a fire standpoint, Gary isn't overly concerned; but Gary believes we will be called for medical responses.

Creston Fire has made a grant application for just over \$23,000 to Fire House subs. Grants run from \$5,000 to \$50,000. In the application Gary applied for 6 sets of fire turnouts and a combination battery operated extrication tool. Fire House Subs is still in the grant review process.

ASSOCIATION:

Friends of Creston Fire are still selling raffle tickets. We will be gearing up for the 54th auction in the coming months.

OLD BUSINESS:

For the new station, we have moved out the east wall. We're hoping to get plans to engineers in the next 30 days. Smart Lam is still expressing interest in working with us on the new station. Ultimately when we start moving dirt, we will need a project manager to oversee this project. Kirk Hammerquist has expressed an interest in participating as a project manager. Several contractors have talked with Gary about donating work and participating in our new station project. The Ag Research Center is still interested in the existing CFD station property.

The member appreciation dinner that the Trustees host will be held on Thursday, January 9 at 6:30pm. Vista Linda has been contacted to cater the dinner. It will be the same menu and same cost as last year. We hope that all of our members will be able to attend along with Chief's from adjoining departments.

NEW BUSINESS:

We have received paperwork from the County Elections Office regarding 2020 Elections. Paul Siblingud and Tom Arnone will be up for re-election in 2020. The close of deadline for filing is February 10, 2020. At the January meeting Trustees agreed to discuss filling the board vacancy that was created by Greg Phillips' death.

The County's Election Office has requested to use the Lake Blaine facility for a polling place since Cayuse Prairie School is not available for the June 2 primary election. Paul made a motion to not use Lake Blaine station as a polling place. Tom seconded. After consideration and discussion, Trustees unanimously voted to not use Lake Blaine as a polling place. The clerk was asked to notify the County's Election Department with their decision.

FINANCIALS and CLAIMS: As of this date, County financial reports were not available for November. Invoices were submitted in the amount of \$13,366.75. After review, Tom made a motion to pay these invoices as submitted and Myron seconded. Being no further discussion, Trustees unanimously voted to have bills paid and checks written. Checks #9226-9244 were issued and signed to pay the approved bills.

The ending balance for November 2019 Maintenance & Operations #7206 fund account balance before November reconciliation and after payment of November and early December invoices to date is \$220,590.97. The November 2019 Capital Improvement Truck Fund #7237 account balance is \$30,668.11. Note that the balance of each account is before transfer of \$11,000 to the CIP fund.

GOOD OF THE ORDER:

The Grange has requested use of the main station on March 13, 2020. Trustees agreed that they be allowed to use the main station for their pancake supper.

We have a building fund for the new station. That fund now has just over \$123,000 in it now.

The next Trustee's meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 at the Main Creston Hall Fire Station.

Being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Robert Kun, Chairman

Louise Tidwell, Clerk