

Evergreen Fire District Board of Trustees Monthly Meeting

Agenda
Board Meeting of December 7, 2015

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

RECOGNIZE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

ADOPT THE AGENDA:

The District may not take action on any matter unless that matter is included on the Agenda and public comment has been allowed on that matter.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

At this time, public may comment on any public matter that is not on the Agenda of the Meeting and that is within the jurisdiction of the District.

FINANCIALS:

1. October 2015

PAST ITEMS/UPDATES:

None

NEW ITEMS/UPDATES:

1. Approve Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2015.
2. Approve reimbursement transfer from 7285 to 7204 for Wildland Truck.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

PROPOSALS:

CHIEF'S REPORT:

1. Call volume for October
2. New Ambulance Status

Adjourn.

The President of the Board of Trustees, as presiding officer of any meeting of the Board of Trustees, may close the meeting during the time the discussion relates to a matter of individual privacy; and, then, if, and only if, the presiding officer determines that the demands of individual privacy clearly exceed the merits of public disclosure. The right of individual privacy may be waived by the individual about whom the discussion pertains; and, in that event, the meeting must be open.

Evergreen Fire District Board of Trustees

Minutes of Board Meeting
December 7, 2015

Board members present: *Shawn Baker, Jack Fallon, John Foust, Kyle Nace*

Board members absent: *Dave Edwards*

District Staff/Employees: *Fire Chief Craig Williams, Fire Marshal Ben Covington,
Administrative Assistant Laurie Pein*

Public Attendance: *None*

MEETING OF DECEMBER 7, 2015 CALLED TO ORDER AT 12:12 P.M.

PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE RECOGNIZED:

None

ADOPT THE AGENDA:

Jack moves to adopt the Agenda as presented, John seconds the motion, the Agenda is adopted.

Kyle mentions that he's not sure if he's official and can vote yet or not. It's been 27 days since he sent the application back to the Commissioners.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

FINANCIALS:

1. October 2015

John & Kyle are still unable to use the Google Drive drop box. Shawn and Ben will try to help get them up and running. In the meantime, Laurie has been emailing the agenda, meeting minutes and financials to them in addition to putting them in the drop box. Laurie also indicates that Ashley got an invitation and will be dropping the financials directly into the box from now on.

Craig says the Department received a refund check from the US Dept. of Treasury. Ashley indicated it should be deposited to 9428 as soon as she can check with Kristi and find out how it should be coded.

Shawn comments that expenses seem to be way down and income is higher so far this year. Craig says part of the reason for that is all the additional expense last year for repairing engine 831. In addition, the expenses for professional fees has been greatly reduced due to Stahlberg and Taylor's monthly bill going down from around \$2,000 per month to around \$500 per month.

Jack moves to approve the financial statements as presented for October, 2015; seconded by John; motion passed unanimously.

PAST ITEMS/UPDATES:

None

Jack asks if Craig was able to obtain any additional information in regard to the inter facility pay increase for transports in the "bubble" area (essentially, Libby and Polson transports). Craig again explains the difficulties involved in trying to get specific information on those transports from Pintler. Leslie and Craig are still working on it and will continue to do so, but it's very difficult due to the large volume of raw data, coding and the long delays between the initial billing and final payment. Craig still has concerns about taking too hard a line when he next negotiates an increase with KRMC and wants to be sure he doesn't jeopardize our contract with them and give someone else a chance to underbid us because the department cannot afford to lose those contracts. He explains again that those mid-distance transports do not even pay minimum wage for personnel and therefore are sometimes difficult to staff. Craig also explains that the "bubble" transports are not paid for by KRMC as part of the contract because KRMC only pays for transports "on campus". The "bubble" transports are paid for by Medicaid, Medicare, Indian Health Services, VA, private pay and private insurance so it is difficult to convince KRMC to pay more for "on campus" transports in order to help cover expenses for "bubble" transports. We do not have an option for negotiating with the entities that pay for the "bubble" transports.

Jack and Shawn would like Craig to see if Leslie can export all of her raw data regarding the transports as well as the key to her proprietary coding into an Excel spreadsheet. If so, Jack and Shawn could then try to come up with macros that would enable them to sort the data in a way that makes it more user-friendly and easier to interpret. Craig will check with Leslie on that but lets the board know that Leslie has already indicated she will be requiring a bump up in her contract due to the increased workload for her and her assistant. Craig will also drop the report he received from Leslie that he's been working on into the drop box. Jack also asks if Leslie has someone in her office who writes the code for reports or if she has a vendor that does it.

Craig indicates to the board that there is a bill being introduced that would provide for a 4.3% increase for rural ambulance providers through Medicare and Medicaid. If passed, the bill would alleviate the issue. He also says that there is another bill being considered that would allow Departments to provide services to veterans including crisis intervention, house calls, pre- and post-operative care, welfare checks, and minor medical care. It would involve a re-write of current law to allow billing for medical care when a patient is not actually transported anywhere because current law precludes doing so. It would also involve some training for our personnel in crisis intervention, suicide prevention, etc. This bill would also open up the possibility of doing clinics for veterans. Craig actually saw a walk-in clinic at an NYFD station when he was in New York. Kyle indicates there is a lot of talk currently about easing the pressure on emergency rooms by allowing Paramedics to do minor sutures, prescribe antibiotics, etc.

Jack asks about the status of the new ambulance grant and whether Craig was able to get any information on Olney as to how to avoid having to accept a Taylor Made ambulance. Craig says that Taylor Made will not be part of the bidding. The bidders will be Braun, Brawn Northwest, Apgar and Lifeline. Craig and Kyle agree that all of the bidders are pretty much equally good companies and provide quality ambulances. Craig indicates that the time for providing input and minimum specifications has passed, but the companies that will be bidding were already actually exceeding any specifications we may have requested.

Jack moves to approve the Bylaws with the changes as proposed at the last meeting which are to retain what was originally written at the bottom of page 2 and delete the portion in red and to go ahead with the County Attorney's suggested changes at the bottom of page 2; seconded by John; motion approved unanimously.

Shawn suggests that the Bylaws be finalized and put in the drop box for the board to review and an original presented at the next meeting for signature.

Shawn indicates the next regular meeting will be on Monday, January 4th, 2016. Craig would like to have another work session after the first of the year to work on the employee handbook. Shawn sets a date for a work session on Monday, January 18th, 2016. Craig will come up with some proposed changes and will put them in the drop box prior to that meeting.

NEW ITEMS/UPDATES:

- 1. Approve Meeting Minutes of November 2, 2015.**

John moves to approve the minutes of November 2, 2015; seconded by Jack; motion approved unanimously.

- 2. Approve reimbursement transfer from 7285 to 7204 for Wildland Truck.**

Jack moves to approve a transfer from 7285 to 7204 in the amount of \$7,133.58; seconded by John; motion approved unanimously.

RESOLUTIONS:

None

PROPOSALS:

None

CHIEF'S REPORT:

- 1. Call Volume for October.**
- 2. New Ambulance Status.**

Craig informs the board that the department had 32 overlapping 911 calls last month, which is considerably higher than usual. Mutual aid calls to Kalispell are down a little bit, about the same as usual for Creston, and there is a marked increase of mutual aid calls into Bigfork and two in Ferndale, which is a considerable distance for us. Craig explains that the Chief in Bigfork left suddenly and there is a division within the Bigfork department. Half of their department was fire and half was EMS and the Chief had been able to kind of bring them together, although they were not cross-trained, but now they have drawn apart again and they are having issues with coverage. Kyle questions the difference on the report between Apparatus Transports and Patient Transports. Craig is not certain of the answer to that question so will make sure of it and let the board know at the next meeting. Craig will be doing a year-end summary package for the next meeting showing the percentage of increase for fire, EMS, and inter facility in a spreadsheet to show where we're at in comparison to previous years.

Craig reports that we will be doing our fourth year of the Christmas luminaries on Rose Crossing. Anyone who would like to help set them out on Christmas Eve is welcome. We have waxed bags this year which should keep them from being ruined by the weather.

The department will also be helping with delivery of the Lion's Club meals to those in need on December 15th for the fifth year in a row. They will be delivering about 100 meals.

Meeting adjourned at 1:28 p.m.

Submitted by: _____

Secretary

Signed by: _____

Shawn W. Baker - Chairman