

Evergreen Fire District Board of Trustees Meeting

Meeting Minutes
Regular Board Meeting of April 2, 2018 - 5pm

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Foust calls the meeting to order at 5:40 pm

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Chairman Jon Foust
Jack Fallon
Dave Adams

TRUSTEES ABSENT:

Kyle Nace
Dave Edwards

RECOGNIZE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

(Sign In sheet was necessary due to number of public in attendance.)

Victoria Garrido
Beth Kay Lynch
Kay Pitcher
Jessica Treweek

Karl Schuman
Lana Ferguson
Brady Barber
Randy DePaul

Sydney (?)
Don Connors
Jennifer Cox
Crysta Pitcher

EFD PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:

Fire Chief Craig Williams
Jackson Corne
Cole Williams
Terri Shively
Makayla Ray

Fire Marshal Ben Covington
Josh Cox
Dustin Gurden
Kim Vierra

Jacob Pitcher
Jared Pitcher
Jack Knuffke
Wayne Evert

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.)

Beth Kay Lynch addresses the Board and states "I just want to reiterate, after studying more, I definitely support this levy. I was speaking earlier about the tax would be doubling. I realize that I had misunderstood that and that it was not the case. There will be an increase if this passes and I am very willing to pay that because I believe in this."

Karl Schuman addresses the Board and states "Thank you, Board members, I appreciate your time. I just also wanted to again restate my support for the levy. As you know, we had a unanimous vote on the committee that you guys had asked [us to participate in] and I guess I'm here because I'm really quite troubled of some of the things that are in the news by people who appear to be speaking out of two sides of their mouth. On the one side of things; to say that there should be a committee formed to investigate when in fact, that committee was already formed and it was already educated and came to a unanimous opinion that this levy should go forward. So, that being said that a committee should be formed kind of felt like a slap in the face and I really don't appreciate it. The other thing that would seem very strange is that it seemed that when you, as a Board, unanimously minus oneand then we hear opinions on the

news stating that they are against the levy but yet, really from my appearance, it seems only because it didn't go the direction that that person wanted it to go within the framework of how the monies are going to be allocated and I just don't think that's fair. I think that the money being appropriated for capital improvement was correct. Matters of opinion do vary but I think the strongest objection there was when I hear people say that turnover's a good thing when I know no business where turnover is a good thing and especially in life saving type of situations. That's just not correct; and to hear that and then out of the other side of the mouth say 'it should have been greater than that and we didn't even go for enough'...well, wait a minute; that's causing confusion. It really seems like that person is, for lack of a better term, is speaking out of both sides of their mouth. I take that to mean that capital improvement should get all this; great equipment, great place, great all that and then 'Yeah but, if you guys are only working for minimum wage, so what.' I don't think that's kind. I don't that's right. I don't think it's safe. I would like to see the people that show up on my doorstep, God forbid that should happen, to be reasonably paid, well equipped, well trained and who have been here awhile without a (inaudible). Thank you. (applause)

(Chairman Foust asks if there is additional public comment and there is none. Chairman closes public comments.)

FINANCIALS:

Discuss and Approve February 2018 Financials

Chairman Foust and Trustee Adams state they found no issue with the Financials as presented. Trustee Fallon asks if the Department account financial is available (4212).

Jack Fallon moves to table the February financials until the next Board meeting due to not being able to find the financial for 4212; seconded by Dave Adams; unanimously approved.

(Administrative Assistant's Note: The financial report for Account Transactions for 4212 was provided. It was received from the department accountant and was included, as requested by Trustee Fallon, in the reports presented at the meeting as well as uploaded to Google Drive for review before the meeting and of which all Trustees were notified.)

PAST ITEMS/UPDATES:

1. Approve meeting minutes of Regular Board Meeting of March 5th, 2018

Trustees Fallon and Adams review meeting minutes of March 5th and state they have no issues with them as presented.

Adams moves to accept minutes as presented; seconded by Fallon; unanimously approved.

2. Levy Discussion

Chief Williams states that there have been 1,345 ballots that have been returned so far. He states that the levy voting period will end at 8pm on April 10th and that he will receive a phone call when the ballots have been counted. Chairman Foust asks how many ballots had been mailed out and Chief Williams states "around 5,000". Adams states "That's about 25 or 26 percent mailed back in and then asks "Do you know what our normal voter turnout is on these? Ballpark?" Chief Williams states "I concede to the last major levy which was the fire hall construction. There were 2,600 ballots cast." Adams states "So that was about 50% percent turnout, roughly." Chief Williams agrees with Adams. Adams asks Fallon if he know how many ballots got turned in for the sun setting levy and Fallon responds "No, I don't remember. I looked for it in all the stuff I had and I couldn't find it." Chairman Foust asks if there is any further discussion and Adams states "I have concerns with the representation that's been going on, myself. I don't know if there are any legal things that have been violated, I don't know. I know that the fire employees, when

they're being paid, are not allowed to represent themselves and ask for votes 'yay' or 'nay' so I'm unaware if there is any rules about Board members representing themselves as a Board member and asking for a vote 'yay' or 'nay'. I think that...I don't know if there is anything in our bylaws that state it but I think it's something that we need to look at. Once a Democratic process has taken place, normally, every organization I've been with..you know, you have your opportunity to say your piece but once things have been said and settle and voted on, you go along and make the best you can with it. So, that concerns me. I don't know if there's any...I would hate to see legal things being compromised in order to sway people one way or the other because I know there's some type of...what's the big word for that...." Trustee Fallon interrupts Adams and states "I've just talked to the County Attorney's office. I don't care who talks to them. You can talk to them and find out what's appropriate and what's not appropriate." Adams states "We've talked about, previously as a Board, about there being a legal ...like, politicians can't do certain things and lobby outside of voting places and...you know what I'm talking about? Do you know the word I'm looking for?" Fallon states "It's not that a politician can't do that. It's whether it's being represented as an endorsement. This particular situation there isn't. As a historical not for everybody here, I did this once before in a lot larger entity here in the Flathead in 1997 and 98 and the exact same thing was attempted to stop and quiet me including using the Attorney General for the State of Montana and it didn't work because everything I did was within the laws that were permitted. So, you can check with the County Attorney and find out the legality of what I'm doing and how I'm doing it and they'll say it passes mustard. So, this isn't my first time in doing this." Adams states "So, I guess I'm still looking for the term." Fallon states "Oh, and when an individual is running for the Sheriff's office and had their video taken down here, the question was whether the department was endorsing them and you cannot use public funds for endorsing a candidate." Adams states "Right." Fallon continues "Okay, well...public funds are not being used in the position I'm taking and as a Trustee I cannot represent myself as a position that the Board is taking. I can represent myself as a position that I'm taking individually as a Trustee and/or a position I can take as a tax payer. But, I cannot take a position as representing the Trustees." Chairman Foust asks if there is any further discussion. Adams states "I still don't know what the term is but...okay."

(There is public comment about the item being discussed) **Public Attendee Jessica Treweek** states "As a taxpayer in Evergreen, I would like to ask you, Jack, *(Chairman Foust reminds her that she must address the Board and not Jack as an individual Board member)* *(public attendee continues)* I would like to ask the Board if the Board voted on sending out ballots to request *(inaudible)* to pass the levy. Did the Board *(inaudible)* that? Adams states "Yes, the Board..." Jessica interjects "The board voted yes. Okay,...so, Jack...you're part of the Board." *(Jessica is reminded by Chairman Foust that she cannot address Jack Fallon individually.)* She continues by stating "You voted no on the whole entire thing. So, how come the Board doesn't support it as a whole? Also, if you're going to go out into the community and address yourself as a taxpaying citizen, instead of a Board member, then why is it blasted all over the news that there's a BOARD member that didn't agree with it? That is dirty rotten, mister!"

(Chairman Foust asks if there is any further discussion regarding the levy)

Public Attendee Don Connors asks to address the Board and states "I'd just like to personally and as a taxpayer in Helena Flats and as a member of this District; the Evergreen Fire District; I would like to commend the District on the way so far that it has come about because I see all the green signs out and about that says "Please Vote". They don't say "Please Vote Yes" or "Please Vote No" but are asking the taxpayer to come out and vote. I think that's the correct way of doing that. You don't state how you should vote; vote yes or vote no. That's an individual right that we taxpayers have so...I was on the committee that helped start *(inaudible)* but I've received about equal number of comments from both sides...from people in my area and so, it's been kind of equal. People realize the need for it and people who say they just can't afford it. Whatever the your reasons may be...just, as the signs say, do go out and vote *(car passees by and the rest of*

what Connors states is inaudible.) Dave Adams states “Another item on this...some of the people I’ve talked to...any of the negative or for the most part, the negative things I have heard is the concern about the 3% increase which was brought up as a suggestion by one of the Board members and in my opinion; I think, like Craig said before, there’s never a good time to ask for it and should this not go through, I think I would be in favor of looking at running it the same way when we can again and take that 3% off; even though we don’t have to take the 3%. I think that might intimidate people and might be a way to ease that. So, I think that’s something we need to make sure we look at if this does not work.” *(Chairman Foust asks if there is any further comment on the levy discussion.)* Fire Marshal Ben Covington states “I’ve looked into the legalities of what Jack did and there’s nothing illegal about what he did, unfortunately, but I don’t think it’s ethically right, honestly, but it’s apparently legal.” Public Attendee, Randy DePaul states “I’m going to try to just address the Board and I’m going to try to say this correctly. I really wish the Board would just focus on...you’ve already gone through the process of doing the levy with putting it out there and stuff like that; focus on the positive side. I know a member that has created a lot of negativity for a long time and has unfortunately, lost a lot of respect; very unfortunate. But anyways...that being said, the Board needs to focus on where we’re at right now and down the road. I’d worry about the levy and why the past one didn’t pass, down the road. You’ve got what...until the 10th? Quit worry about and saying ‘Well, I’m not sure it’s going to pass.’ Don’t worry about it so much. I think there’s enough support in the Valley, in Evergreen here, and if there isn’t, it may be the first. But, the idea is to stay more on the positive side and move on. What are we going to do...what do we need to do from here on...what’s done is done and there might be more coming out; who knows. It’s just really sad; sad there’s some etiquette from a Board member. I can tell you that I’ve been on the Board, myself, and there’s good reason why there’s not one-person Boards...not because of this; it’s just there’s a reason for it. Boards are supposed to work together and come out with the best solution for the community (inaudible) to support the community. But, to take it to the level of your own personal agenda? So, move on and stay with the positive side, that’s what I would recommend. It’s just me saying that but that’s what I would like to see. It’s a great department and always will be. Thanks.” *(Chairman Foust asks if there is any further comment and there is none and moves on to the next item on the agenda)*

NEW ITEMS/UPDATES:

1. Surplus Equipment

Chief Williams directs Trustees attention to a document in their meeting packets which lists the identified items he proposes the Board recognize as ‘surplus’. He states that once that determination has been made he would like to sell the items via public auction. They are no longer useful to the District. Fallon asks “Does the hydraulic hose reel work?” Chief Williams states “It is functional. It was originally purchased to be placed upon a piece of apparatus that the District no longer owns and was designed specifically for that apparatus which we have since sold. It is functional, it is brand new and we don’t have a use for it.” Adams asks “Is that a set of two?” Chief Williams states “That’s one.” Chairman Foust states “I won’t argue with anything on here besides maybe the jet ski trailer. I don’t know what we’d really get for it. I mean, I would be more interested in maybe one of our local Search and Rescue? I don’t know...what do you think you could get for that?” Chief Williams states “You know, I looked at this and ease of or legality...it’s got to either go through the bid process which is kind of cumbersome or it can through a public auction which is the most straightforward way to do that. It allows everyone that’s interested to appear and bid on it. I think it would be difficult for us to try and cater (inaudible) or specifically pointed to one entity when I believe the public needs to be allowed to purchase that. So, I guess I would opt to... Chairman Foust interjects “That was donated though,

right?” Chief Williams answers “It was not donated. We purchased it. For your information, the jet ski trailer was acquired years ago when we had our 2 jet skis that we had acquired through a loan program with the Fish Wildlife and Parks. We were doing a swift water rescue with both of those. We have since decided that the jet skis were problematic and we have still continued to retain this and there is really no value to us.” Foust asks “Are you thinking like the Creston Auction?” Chief Williams states “The majority of the items on here, I think will be ready and available for the Creston Auction which does bring a pretty good attendance and is designed for a lot of large equipment. I can’t speak to what would be old 836. I’m sure if it’s going to be quite ready in time and if not, we’ve got a couple of different methods that we can dispose of it either through Gardner’s or through another means. We do have some prep we’re working on; the removal of the decals. It may not be quite ready in time for the auction which is this weekend.

(Chairman Foust asks if there is discussion on this agenda item)

Dave Adams states “I’m good with cleaning house; let’s get rid of some stuff.” Chief Williams states “We do have more items that we will identify in the future. I’m sure this won’t be the last surplus list. It was the easiest we could come across but we do have some more house cleaning.”

Jack Fallon moves for the approval of the surplus equipment for sale by auction as presented to the Board; seconded by Dave Adams; unanimously passes.

RESOLUTIONS:

(none)

PROPOSALS:

(none)

CHIEF’S REPORT:

March 2018 Call Volume

Chief Williams directs Trustees attention to the ‘Year to Date’ run summaries for call volume that are provided in their Board packets. He states “Per Mr. Fallon’s request, we have done year to date vs. month to date due to the accuracy of the reports and the fact that we have several items that come up monthly that are still under review. So, I submitted these two. These are the originals that I submitted in my email. I’ve asked Cheri to discontinue the one that she is using until she has the ability to get these as a year to date comparison. So these are the only 2 that I have submitted. We are still working on trying to get a little more accurate data and some different data but quite frankly just have had time yet to weed through all of the items that we can data mine; but we are working on it.” Jack Fallon states “Question on the inter-facility transfers; to what degree is Alert 3 doing inter-facility transfers compared to what we’ve historically been doing or currently doing now? How many of these are; I’ll just say ‘short’ transfers that they may be performing or were performing vs. long distance ones that they won’t do but what we would be doing?” Chief Williams states “So, up until this point, we haven’t necessarily tracked those although we are starting to do that. I can speak to Alert 3...I believe, and somebody please check me if I’m wrong on the actual times but, I believe it’s until 9 o’clock at night. Alert 3 generally does the Pathways; give or take on the staffing of who they have at KRMC. I know during the day, the crew from KRMC with Alert 3 does take care of all of those unless they have a flight scheduled because those same personnel that are doing inter-facilities are also on Alert. So, there is some variance but more times than not they handle most of those daily until 8 – 9 pm timeframe but there is some variances. Regarding long distance vs. short; we’re just beginning to track that. That’s something that I think Pintler can assist us with since they’re billing and I think we’d have a better look at that based on the billing amount. That would allow to determine whether that was short vs. long based on the revenue derived from it, obviously, since it’s based

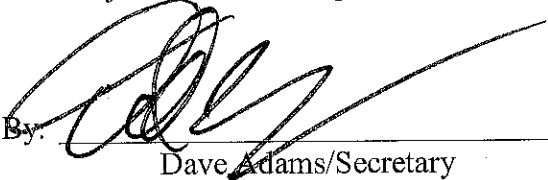
on mileage. So that's the angle that I want to approach and so, I do have that email into her and I think she's starting to play with that." Jack Fallon states "Well, I just didn't know if KRMC's making a more concerted effort to not use us up there currently vs. the past and what their future direction appears to be for inter-facility transfers. What's your take on that?" Chief Williams states "Well, I can only speak to the known and that is; it's status quo for right now. I haven't seen a reduction. There appears to still be increases and I can't equate that to them using us more or other than they're just generally busier. I'm hearing of some things but I can't validate, at this point, what their future plans are. Since they've acquired North Valley Hospital, I do know that there will be some future discussions regarding some more usage to North Valley that currently Whitefish Fire is providing and yet is not necessarily willing to do. So, I believe there may be a conversation in the future but, at this point, they haven't approached us with anything and they haven't really asked for anything. It's pretty much been status quo." Jack Fallon asks "You're saying that the door may open for Evergreen to do transports between KRMC and North Valley?" Chief Williams states "Or, on the flipside of that, the door may open where they go out to bid and they go with someone else. My concern is that we are not the only player in town now and there are entities that could quite easily do this as well." Fallon asks "And who would those be?" Chief Williams states "Smith Valley Fire could be in a position relatively quickly to do that and 3 Rivers is already ready to do that and is apparently starting to do so." Chairman Foust states "So, if you lost all contracts with the hospital, we're pretty much in the toilet." Chief Williams states "It would be very problematic for us to continue with our normal operation as we see now with the loss of inter-facility transports. I don't know how long we could (inaudible).
(Chairman Foust asks if there is any further discussion and there is none)

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.

Chairman Foust adjourns the meeting at 6:13 pm.

Submitted By: _____


Dave Adams/Secretary

Signed By: _____


VP Kyle Nace