

**Evergreen Fire District
Board of Trustees
Meeting**

Meeting Minutes

Regular Board Meeting of October 1st, 2018 – 5:30 pm

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Verworn calls meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

TRUSTEES PRESENT:

Brodie Verworn
Dave Adams
Jack Fallon

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Williams
Jackie Smith

RECOGNIZE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE:

(none)

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:

Discuss and Approve August 2018 Financials

Fallon asks to be reminded of what the \$35,000 (\$35,264.00 on August 8th) transferred into the ambulance account was for and Chief Williams states it was the EMS transfer from June.

Fallon moves for approval of the August checks and acceptance of the August reconciliations and no comment on the financial statement due to no profit and loss data on August 31st; seconded by Adams; motion passes.

PROPOSALS:

CCTV Repair/Upgrade

Chief Williams states that he recommends this discussion be tabled due to ransomware issue. He states the camera system is 9 years old and was installed during the station construction. The dvr which is the system that records all images is full and it would be more costly to delete them than to order a new system. He states there is now technology that allows the integration of multi headed cameras and provides the example of having been worried about the security of the back end of the station due to vehicles being susceptible to break-ins and vehicle thefts as a Durango had been stolen. The current system did not allow for images to be captured at night. ISS currently has a head that is infra red and will give a green picture of up to 600 feet. It's a dual head meaning there are 3 camera lenses in one head that can be mounted at the far corner which would cover the ambulance barn and all parking on both sides of the building. He asked ISS to work up an invoice and elected not to notify and get other bids because this is the proprietary system and was the bidder for the facility. Chief Williams states it would approximately \$48,000 to redo the entire system and start from scratch with a stand-alone company and not with ISS (Integrated Security Solutions). The bid consists of 1 head camera with 3 lenses; new DVR and CAT 5

wiring integrated with current equipment. Cost is \$12,000.00 vs \$48,000 to replace all 16 cameras at once which is not necessary with the upgrades proposed by ISS. Verworn asks if this system has it's own static IP address and server and Chief Williams states it does. Verworn asks if Chief Williams still wants to table the discussion for a later date and he states that he does but with the understanding that the current system does not have the ability to record and nothing is currently being archived. He states the reason he suggests tabling the discussion is because of the current situation with the server needing to be replaced and that if both upgrades and server are purchased money will have to come out of CIP. Verworn asks if the District is violating any policy regarding the non recording security device. Chief Williams states there is no violation to department, State, or Federal policy and that the security systems still works in terms of door control and all of the measures being met regarding narcotics and etc. Adams requests that the Board moves on to the next issue and then come back to the current discussion. Fallon states he's not ready to move on to the next topic. He asks if the tech repair bill is the same as the ISS and Chief Williams states they are different and unrelated. Fallon clarifies and asks if the server needs to be replaced in order to accommodate the new camera. Chief Williams states 'no'. Fallon states that the new camera should be running off of the server in Chief William's office. Chief Williams states 'correct'. Chief Williams states the camera issue is not a server issue but a DVR issue and that the computer system has a server that has been hit by ransomware virus. Fallon asks why the two topics cannot be discussed together and Chief Williams states he wasn't able to get these topics on the meeting Agenda which was already posted. He states he is unclear how to legally add an agenda item for discussion if it wasn't on the agenda. Fallon states an item can be added for discussion as long as there is not a decision made on the topic. Fallon states that before moving on he wants to understand the discussion at hand and states that for \$12,000 the District can purchase the camera and DVR (and wiring) and asks if it is operational funding or CIP funding. Chief Williams states that the cost would surpass the operational funding for repair or replacement and would be a CIP expenditure. Adams states it's an upgrade and Chief Williams states it does fall into the realm of CIP. Fallon states that it is no different than having to replace parts of the compressor and calls it a CIP expenditure. Chief Williams states that with the upgrades, some is Cloud based and he wouldn't have to view on his desktop. Images can be viewed from any station in the department as well as any smartphone because it is CAT5 based. Fallon states 7250 would require an amendment to allocate \$12,000. Chief Williams states the District is anticipating \$25,000 from the wildfire season within the week and that it will be going into CIP.

Fallon makes a motion to amend 7250 CIP to expend approximately \$12,000.00 per the ISS proposal for camera, DVR and CAT5 wiring; seconded by Verworn; motion passes.

Verworn states that he wants other bids aside from John Barker for \$7,500.00. Chief Williams explains that it is not an emergency but that it is John Barker's goal to restore the existing server to similar functionality as it was 48 hours ago. Barker has added 2 tera bytes of data to gain more room in the existing server. Verworn asks if Barker was able to get the mirrored images and Chief Williams states that he did. He was able to restore anything that was saved to the shared drive and it has been tested and was successful and that 80% of the archived data has been recovered. Items not recovered are individual items not put on the shared drive and are non-critical items such as training items and etc. that was stored on individual desktops. Verworn asks if the loss was more time than money and Chief Williams confirms it is. He states there were several power point presentations that were saved to the shared drive but rather to a training folder on 3 different individual desktops. He reiterates that most of the data lost is training related but is still being assessed. Verworn asks if Barker has improved the security of the computer network and Chief Williams states that the only way it is protected differently is Barker has an additional redundant backup for the backup. He states that John Barker has asked that Board members call him with any questions or concerns and is currently available during the meeting via phone to answer any and all questions. Chief Williams states that Barker does not want to install a Sonic Wall and Barracuda or any other programs onto a server that is 9 years old but rather to fix and repair it so that it will be ready to transfer in it's entirety to a new server. Verworn asks about payroll being affected and Chief Williams states it will not be affected and that Ashley Hahn can still log in remotely through QuickBooks which

was up and running this morning. Chief Williams states the most secondary issue is getting backlogged on PCR's. Verworn asks if he could access PCR from his own computer and Chief Williams states that he could not because it is a secure and encrypted network through Pintler billing and has all of the IP addresses and etc. Adams states a report can be viewed from off site on a personal computer or phone but paperwork cannot be uploaded. Chief Williams adds that it is encrypted through proprietary software through Emergency Reporting and through Pintler billing which is why there was not a data breach or HIPPA violation. Chief Williams states to the Board that he feels John Barker has done as good a job as he can based on the circumstance of a virus that just came out in May of this year and that has 27 variations to it; one that is currently affecting Face Book that had 15 million users that got hit. Chief Williams says that John Barker did want it stated to the Board that it is his opinion and the opinion of other IT's in the Valley that regardless of what is done moving forward the virus cannot be completely prevented. It can come in via 7 different ways including just clicking on the most known website(s) and without downloading anything. The virus is attached to the website(s). It does not have to be attached to a PDF or anything else. Chief Williams states that the most common one is a message stating a UPS package has arrived. He states that Barker is not sure how the virus got into the system but is certain it came in on the administrative assistant's computer and possibly while she was researching travel vouchers for any attendees to Trustee's Conference. He states he was in the office when it happened and was witness to Cheri's computer becoming infected with the virus and within minutes had spread to his own computer in his office. He states that the best way to protect against the virus is to have an adequate server and reiterates that even a brand new server would not have prevented the ransomware. The District currently has 5 variations of fire wall or sonic wall currently in the server but it still cannot prevent these types of viruses and the only way to protect ourselves is having duplication of backups. Our backup plus security software is what saved us in this event. The virus could not identify the drive which the backup was attached to. This backup is continuous. What has been discovered is that it is manual backup for scanning. As personnel upload their Patient Care Reports (PCR's) into the file on the server it was not automatically backed up. There is a period of a week that cannot be recovered. Fallon asks what the answer to that issue is and Chief Williams states a program called 1999 that the District was not aware of. The Big Fork Fire called and recommended the program and it will be installed so that a manual backup is no longer required. Current improvements from Thursday is the existing backup already in place plus a backup that Barker has installed and said that they must run parallel and in tandem so that if one fails the other takes over. Barker refers to it as a 'redundant network'. Chief Williams states that due to having a backup that could not be detected by the ransomware, the District was locked out of the existing data but the ransomware was not able to intercept that data and use it to extort 'bit coin' or money. It has determined that those responsible for ransomware are international and most probable are Ukranian. It is believed that the District was not targeted specifically and this was a 'blanket drive-by'. Had the department been specifically targeted there would have been a follow-up email with a timer to provoke anxiety and 'inspiration' for payment by stating they have breached confidential information and it will be released to the public if you do not pay within 24 hours. He states there are variations of the virus that can sit dormant for up to 6 months and that could have been what happened but there is no way of knowing which variation the District received. Chief Williams states that John Barker has been working with 2 retired IT techs who built KRMC's system on this situation and that he did tell Barker that the District does reserve the right to second guess his recommendations. Chief Williams states that in addition to what has been worked up on Barker's quote and presented to the Board at this meeting, Barker is recommending a sonic wall called Barracuda and will cost about \$1,400.00. It monitors internet traffic and captures sites that are suspect. Chief Williams states that he is agreement with Verworn on getting 2 to 3 more bids along with Barker's. Verworn states he will work on getting those bids. Chief Williams states to Verworn that it is important to let bidders know that the system is a hybrid network and has taken Barker at least 3 months to learn it due to variations done by Justin Pitts 5 to 6 years ago to the server. Fallon states he would not have an issue with accepting Barker's bid and continuing with him due to his already established knowledge of our peculiar system. Verworn states the individual he has in mind is tech to Mambo's, McKenzie River Pizza Company and other restaurant chains. Fallon asks if he is an

employee or consultant to the restaurant group and Verworn states he is an employee. Fallon asks if this person is a tech as a side job and Verworn states he has his own company and has been an IT tech for several years. Fallon states the restaurant group may have similar software and application needs but the District's needs are more specialized. Fallon asks if it had been Barker that contacted the Sheriff's department to find out about degrees of breach of security such as domestic vs international. Chief Williams states that is information that he has gleaned from his own research and conversation with the Sheriff's department. Fallon states the virus did not have a specific name and Chief Williams states that is correct and is phishing virus; a dharmavirus which is a .bip file and comes back as bidecryptqq.com. Fallon asks if Barker recommended encrypting each computer to protect all data on that computer whether it needs to be protected or not. Chief Williams states that Barker did not mention that but they spoke about backing up external hard drives of individual computers. Barker feels that due to all computers being interconnected through the network it is most important to have the redundant backups on the server and installing the most robust sonic wall. Fallon states Barker's plan makes sense. Chief Williams states that budgeting for upgrades every year to ensure the most up to date protection may be necessary especially because there is not a guaranteed way of stopping these viruses. Fallon states that School District #5 receives 100,000 fire wall hits per day. Verworn states he assumes that is an average for a school district in general. Fallon states that when Columbia Falls High School was hit and made the news the number of fire wall hits jumped to 1,000,000 hit per day for 6 days. Chief Williams states Barker says there are 2,700 current ransomware viruses and each has 10 to 12 variations of the virus. Fallon states due to the inability to protect from various phishing and etc the school district runs a phishing test every few months for all of the employees to see how many of them are gullible. If the employee fails the test they are required to attend a training video.

PAST ITEMS/UPDATES:

1 Approve meeting minutes of Regular Board Meeting of September 4, 2018

Fallon states he was not at the previous meeting because he was not aware of the meeting since he did not receive an email due to email issues at the time. Adams asks if he had time to read the minutes and Fallon states he had and has no issues with them.

Adams makes a motion to approve and accept the meeting minutes of September 4th as presented; seconded by Fallon; motion passes.

2 Levy Committee Discussion

Fallon states the next meeting is tomorrow at noon. Fallon asks if Chief Williams was able to get the most up to date stats on salary and benefit comparisons of similar communities throughout the state and region and he states he is waiting for that information from the Fire Chief in Big Fork. Due to the computer virus issue he was not able to focus on getting that information. Fallon asks if he has information that is only a year or two outdated and Chief Williams states he has comparisons that are 3 years out dated and is missing information on several paid or part paid departments. Chief Williams states that is had been more of an individual request of information. Fallon states it is information that should go out to all committee meeting attendees and asks Chief Williams to send him the information and he will distribute it to everyone. Fallon states he is going to have the committee take a look at the Smith Valley levy proposal that failed before taking a look back at what the Evergreen Fire District proposed. Chief Williams states that there were picketers against the levy for Smith Valley at Kelly Ray's; the gas station across from the school. Fallon asks to what degree can Chief Williams talk about how Kelly days work because the general public think of 2080 hours being a work year vs 2600 hours with 600 hours being potential over time hours when in reality they are not all overtime hours. Chief Williams states he can speak to why the 3 shift are needed as well as the fact that personnel work more than 40 hours per week because personnel is working a 24/48 schedule and a calendar week isn't followed. He states he can speak to the effectiveness of why 3 personnel are needed per shift and that they are working 24 hours with 48 hours off and then back on shift due to safety and burnout

but states he is not prepared to speak to dollars and cents of each model. Adams states that government employees can now opt out of paying union dues because the money goes to political parties and practices and etc. and that it may be futile to try to start a union. Chief Williams states we can form our own association and receive the same benefits but it just depends on how it is setup. Fallon states the advantage of an association or union is negotiating with one entity instead of several individuals. Adams states if you don't pay dues then you don't get to vote or a say in anything; you just get the benefit of the union. Fallon states that an association can accomplish the same things as a union as long as the employer is respectful of the association. Fallon states the department could start informally and ask 'who wants to speak for everybody here?' Chief Williams states that an association already exists but is not recognized by the State. Fallon states it doesn't have to be. Before moving on, Adams expresses his opinion that evening committee meeting work best for Trustee attendance. Fallon states some committee participants stated the need for afternoon or midday meetings. Adams asks if those people are showing and Fallon confirms that they are.

3 Policy Manual Update

Chief Williams states that the social media policy that was submitted by Verworn was more of a procedural policy and then developed more of the policy and a secondary procedure that would follow the policy. Chief Williams states that the policy and procedure regarding social media was distributed via email as an attachment and he now needs to kick that out for a 30 day review and is looking for a vote on social media policy at the next Board meeting. Verworn states that he likes Christopherson's revision to policy and procedure regarding social media because it provides the Chief the power to implement the policy. Chief Williams states that the Board needs to determine how legal services will be paid as \$2,000 was budgeted for legal services and Christopherson's invoice for \$3,470.00 for work already performed has exceeded that amount. He states she still has a lot of work to do on cleaning up policy and procedures.

4 Stamp/Signature Discussion

Chief Williams states this was part of the discussion was tabled at the last meeting due to Fallon's absence and DePaul wanting Fallon present to discuss billpay signatures/stamps. Adams states that DePaul's opinion was that one Board member should be signing billpay checks.

The discussion is tabled due to DePaul being absent from the meeting.

NEW ITEMS/UPDATES:

1. #836 Donation

Chief Williams states #836 is the 1987 Ford Type I engine that he asked to be declared 'surplus' this past March. He was approached by Wayne Evert who was representing the Veteran's Administration who has a facility out on Goat Creek in Swan area that used to be a job corp worksite across from the DNRC ranger station. The State gifted it the VA for a job/work site and training facility where they will be retraining vets and transitioning vets back into civilian population. The VA has determined that they need some sort of fire suppression due to much of it being outdoors and forestry-type oriented training. Chief Williams would like to donate the engine with their responsibility of having to transport it there and utilize it. He states the engine has not been used for many years but states the District would have to incur a small cost to remove insignia that was hand painted on the doors. He states there will have to be an agreement that there will be no liability on the District by donating it to them and they will have to insure it and transport it and get it to their location. The only other option for the engine is taking to Pacific and getting the value of the steel. His opinion is that donating it to the VA is a much better benefit. Verworn asks if there would be an issue with County or State and Chief Williams states he doesn't believe so because departments have donated items before with good

documentation. He states there are still departments who still leave turnout coats and scba's in dumpsters. Fallon states it is key to declare it surplus property which Chief Williams states has already been done and has been documented in meeting minutes from March. It was initially going to be included in the Creston Auction but were unable to get the engine out to Creston. Adams states he does not have an issue with donating it and using it to aid in the department public relations. Chief Williams states that he will be including it in the next news letter. Verworn states his support with donating the engine to the VA. Fallon states he agrees with the direction but a motion isn't needed until Chief Williams has all of the facts together.

2. Seasonal Employee Update

Chief Williams states he went through the meeting minutes and the District is at it's 3rd month of the program and he was asked to provide a summary of the seasonal employees and what they are costing. The Board approved the allocation of \$72,515.00 for 6 months to provide payroll for the seasonal positions which commenced in June. The employees were brought in on June 21st and from then through September 25th, \$34,617.00 has been spent. It was anticipated that a lot more would be spent but found that there were still issues with having adequate coverage throughout the summer with only about 50% coverage even with those additional personnel who also are employed elsewhere who used this as an opportunity to pick up additional income. He states it is getting better due to the season starting to slow down a little bit. He expects the money to be spent a little quicker due to shift coverage getting better. Chief Williams states that the additional personnel is still needed and coverage could continue until at least Christmas with the money still available. He states he is still looking at the possibility of converting the paid mileage to an hourly rate. Interviews are being conducted for feedback on interested personnel. He reiterates that it would lower the cost as well as make it possible to retain the ability to staff and forecast which he currently does not have the ability to do with inter-facility personnel. Fallon asks if it would be relevant to have discussion on certain distances or anticipate hours or added amount. Chief Williams states it has been discussed and is on the table if there was pushback from personnel. It would be offered as a 'Plan B'. Chief Williams states the hesitation exists primarily due to the Billings transports because it averages \$400.00 per trip for pay in lieu of being paid \$10.00 per hour for a 12 to 15 hour transport. Chief Williams states some of the benefits to being an hourly employee are the paid sick and vacation days. He states that since implementing the program there department has not lost any transports compared to the 14 that were lost in June before implementing the program. Fallon asks when the starting wage of \$10.00 and hour will be bumped up and Chief Williams states that all District personnel have received their COLA within budget and the officers are currently conducting performance evaluations. He states he doesn't see anyone getting any less than \$11.00 an hour. Fallon states that even \$11.00 seems at least a dollar less than what the starting wage should be. Chief Williams states those receiving the \$11.00 are just coming on board and are brand new personnel. Fallon asks when the Chief foresees the lowest paid personnel being at \$12.00 an hour and Chief Williams states it probably won't happen before the end of this fiscal year unless he can come before the Board and ask to bump everyone up to \$12.00 and push aside any performance evaluations. Fallon asks if there is any reason that shouldn't happen January 1st, 2019 and Chief Williams states 'probably not'... 'unless there is a catastrophic ambulance replacement' to which Fallon states 'you will say that each and every year' and Chief Williams replies 'That is because we seem to have one each and every year.' Fallon states "I'm going to maintain that our 9428 budget can handle it." Chief Williams states "That's where we disagree." Fallon states that was the Chief's same concern 4 years prior when there was \$30,000.00 in the account and Chief Williams disagrees. Fallon states the account has increase 5x's that amount and yet he is hearing the same story. Chief Williams states there are other costs being paid now and Fallon states that costs are being split now between 7204 and 9428 and the balance continues to go up. Chief Williams reassures Fallon and all Trustees that he is working diligently to get personnel paid acceptable wages.

Trustee Station Door Access

Chief Williams states that he is currently hyper sensitive to any and all security issues occurring at EFD. He states that even before the current virus situation he had discovered there are several past personnel and others who still had door and pin codes to the station doors. He also realized that Trustees had obtained door codes that were not officially authorized to them and has no record. He states that Board Trustees at the time the station was built opted to not have door codes but yet they were using former personnel pin/code access numbers. He put it on the agenda to see if the current Board Trustees were in favor of having door codes and if so then individual door codes could be assigned and authorized. Adams states his opinion is that Board members should not be coming to the station at will. Chief Williams asks Fallon how the School District 5 operates and Fallon states there are no keys or codes given to School Board Trustees and that any business Trustees have at the school is done during the hours the school doors are open. He states that at the elementaries, visitors are scanned and a driver's license is left at the office. He states that at the Water District he is not given a key but does have a code to get in the doors but the 2 doors that have the codes are behind gates that require a key of which he does not have. Adams asks "If there isn't constant access to those places, why would there be constant access to the fire station?" Fallon states that recently he needs access for the levy committee meetings and will usually use the back door rather than coming to the front and having to ring the buzzer. He states that occasionally he stops in to say 'hi' and doesn't feel that he is invading private property by doing so. He states that as a Trustee he believes there are fiduciary responsibilities of being able to check the facility to make sure it is being 'kept' whether his appearance is announced or unannounced. Chief Williams asks Verworn if there is any reason he would need to be at the station after business hours to come and check out. Verworn states "I look at it as a convenience, yes, but I mean...I've made it this far in the game without one and am kind of ambivalent on it." Chief Williams states he is of the same opinion. Verworn states he would opt to table the discussion until DePaul and Nace are present. Chief Williams states in the interim he will be 'killing off' hundreds of codes that were given to former employees and trustees and others. Adams states that previous Board members had been randomly showing up at the station and personnel didn't even know who they were. Trustees were walking into the dayroom and suggesting to personnel they 'should be working or doing something'. Chief Williams and Lieutenant Jackie Smith both confirm that it was awkward. Jackie Smith states that on one occasion a Trustee came to the station on a Saturday around 5 pm and just walked upstairs to the living quarters where there are lockers and showers and she had no idea who he was. Chief Williams states that Trustee did get a phone call from him to let him know he was over stepping boundaries by entering personnel living quarters and not even identifying himself to personnel. Chief Williams states this individual had to be spoken to on several occasions regarding his over stepping his boundaries as a Trustee.

Verworn states the discussion is tabled until the next meeting.

RESOLUTIONS:

(none)

CHIEF'S REPORT:

1. Grant Writer Discussion

Chief Williams states the Department is apply for an AFG grant or Assistance to Fire grant for a Type I structural engine. There will be approximately 100 hours to complete the application. Chief Williams states he was able to apply for the grant in 2009 when he had a whole lot more time. He states he will be asking for the assistance of a grant writer to help on a voluntary basis. The grant came open just this week and is not due for a couple of months. He states there are 4

or 5 other grants that will come open this winter that are good opportunities but he will not have time to apply for them and hopes to get a volunteer grant writer. He tells the Board that departments are starting to budget for paid grant writers and states "The benefit of doing these grants are like this one....a \$500,000 Type I engine....here you go." Adams asks if it's a matching grant and Chief Williams states it is not. "They just give you the money." Chief Williams states that he does not have any quotes to provide to Trustees for the cost of hiring a grant writer but will have more information for the next Board meeting. Fallon asks why cost is being discussed when he mentioned volunteer grant writers. Chief Williams states that some grants are more technical and require more experience than the volunteers at the college. The grant Chief Williams is talking about is a technical grant and is going to be done as a personal favor by someone who generally charges \$180.00 an hour.

2. August 2018 Call Volume

Chief Williams directs attention of trustees to the Year to Date comparison. He points out that there is one category that is down from last year and it is Fire. 237 fire calls in 2018 vs 372 in 2017. EMS calls are currently at 1746 calls vs 1294 in 2017; 1983 for a combined total current vs 1666. Chief Williams points out that fire calls are static if not declining and that includes mva (motor vehicle accidents) which are coded as Fire. Fallon asks if he was to speak with Montana Highway Patrol would they agree that accidents are down and Chief Williams states he can't speak to that because the stats only speak to the Evergreen Fire District. Fallon asks if there is a way to identify the number of EMS calls that went to an accident. Chief Williams states if there is a transport then it becomes an EMS call. He states a mva turning into a transport can be tracked. Fallon asks if we have had any instances where an ambulance has been sent to an mva in the District without sending the engine. Jackie Smith states that Emergency Reporting has a code for mva's with or without injury regardless of which district it occurs in. The district is also coded. Fallon reiterates a question asked at the previous committee meeting "To what degree is EMS subsidizing Fire?" Chief Williams states "We'd be status quo....you'd have a paid Chief and a volunteer fire organization." Fallon asks "To what degree would we have a volunteer fire organization?" Adams asks "How many volunteers do we have now...12?" Chief Williams states "You wouldn't have one." Adams states "Most of those want to be here for EMS." Chief Williams states "Just to remind you, we had 410 calls when I was hired in 2006 as the first paid employee and we were struggling at 400 calls then with volunteers. So, you take a look at where we're at right now." Fallon states "It was a big division between the old timers and the new timers. The old timers didn't want anything to do with responding to mva's at all." Chief Williams states "So, trying to go back now...with a volunteer organization with just fire...I would shutter to think...we've got a crisis in the Valley that's going on and for those of us that are in the Fire Service...I mean, right now, Somers does not have a daytime responder. They have automated mutual aid for South Kalispell. It is bad all over....it's just really, really bad. The call volume is crazy." Verworn states "Corvallis, Montana. ...Jim Knapp has a full staff of 50 volunteers plus 13 on the waitlist. I asked 'What's your secret?' He just laughed. But here...Big Fork....it's a struggle. We can't get volunteers. Most of these departments are cross trained and so people that want to volunteer for fire shy away from it because now they have to get their EMT and keep up with it (certification) and they're like 'it's not worth my time.' Some of it is for camaraderie and some is to help the community. Fallon states that the department is limited to 40 because that's the number of lockers we have both upstairs and downstairs. Chief Williams states the law says District is allowed 24 personnel per station so EFD could have 48 personnel with 2 stations. Fallon asks that with an ISO rating of 3 or 4 having the same insurance premium it could imply the District doesn't need to have the North Station and if it was gotten rid of would the District be in violation of State Law? Chief Williams states he is correct. Fallon asks "But who would get us in trouble?" Chief Williams states "I don't know who. It's probably an old arbitrary law somewhere that can be challenged and I'm sure it's been challenged somewhere."

But, it is on the books still and that's the reason why some departments have 3 or 4 satellite stations because it allows them to have robust numbers." Adams states it is also still Montana law that when you get out of jail you are supposed to be issued a horse. Chief Williams states the station was built to house 40 personnel and we are currently at 46. We are doing well and we have 7 applications still and we don't have enough turnouts, radio or lockers. We have people doubled up on lockers now but we don't have any volunteers and haven't had volunteers for 8 years. Yes, we have volunteers on the 911 EMS and Fire but everyone down here has been paid for 8 years because everyone does inter-facilities. So we don't have and haven't had any true volunteers for 8 or 9 years now." Fallon states this information needs to be given tomorrow at the levy committee meeting.

3. Inter-facility Contract

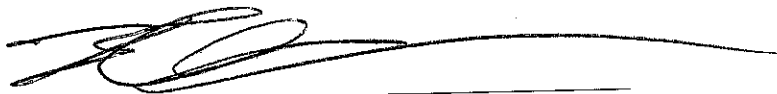
Chief Williams states that a lot of the discussion with KRMC had been tabled for the past 2 months and having read all of the media attention regarding KRMC has an understanding of why most of it had been tabled. He is expecting discussion to resume in full swing.

Adams asks Chief Williams where he's at on the new ambulance purchase. Chief Williams states that Steve Apgar had come into the station just today and he has decided to walk away from purchasing the ambulance in Canada. Steve Apgar is concerned that it will be held up in customs. Steve provided Chief Williams with the example where he had been working on another client where they imported an ambulance that did not have a 3 point seatbelt restraint on the jump seat and got held up at customs and that was five months ago. The DOT Standard for Canada is different than the US. Chief Williams states there is currently nothing available for purchase nationwide within the District's budget. Verworn asks about any updates on ambulance #824 which had hit a deer in Hot Springs. Chief Williams states the information for the bumper had just been submitted and they are waiting to get permission from the insurance company to go ahead. He states all information has been submitted by the District. It will not have a factory Mercedes bumper but instead an upgraded 'Montana' bumper.

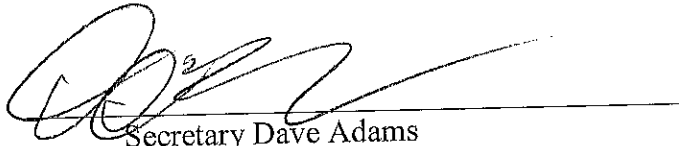
Adjourn.

Verworn adjourns the meeting at 7:42 pm.

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 Brodie Verworn



Secretary Dave Adams