

**Evergreen Fire District
Board of Trustees
Meeting
Meeting Minutes
Regular Board Meeting of June 14th, 2021 – 6:00 pm**

CALL MEETING TO ORDER:

Brockman calls meeting to order at 6 pm.

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE:

Connolly, Fallon, Brockman (quorum is present)

RECOGNIZE PUBLIC IN ATTENDANCE: *(none)*

RECOGNIZE PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:

Fire Marshall Covington

Fire Chief Williams

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 April 2021 Financials (**Action**)

(no action taken; tabled)

PAST ITEMS/UPDATES:

1. Election of Board Officers (Action)

Connolly nominated Fallon for position of Chairman; Brockman nominates Connolly as Vice Chair and states he will keep his position as Secretary.

Motion; Brockman that via discussions just had, Fallon is elected Chairman, Connolly is elected Vice Chair and Brockman to remain secretary; all in favor of the motion; passes by quorum

2. Approve meeting minutes of May 2021 (Action)

(no action taken ; tabled)

3. Uncleared Checks Policy (Action)

Brockman states there would be a \$30 charge per stop payment. Connolly states he didn't think stop payment would be necessary if the majority of uncleared checks were paychecks that were replaced. He states the government form that was attached to the packets would be way too time consuming. Fallon states he doesn't think it's necessary to fill out the unclaimed property form and submit it to the state. Brockman asks if checks expire after 180 or less. Connolly states he didn't think it was 'carte blanche' for all checks. Trustees want to see a list of the uncleared checks. *(no action taken; tabled)*

4. Employee Manual Discussion

Chief Williams states he was hoping to get the 'okay' to 'roll it out' to personnel for the 30 day period.

5. FY 2020 Audit Update

Chief Williams states JCCS is very thorough and has requested at least 20 pages of items that Cheri and Ashley are working through but all is going well.

6. Budget Discussion

Chief Williams states that other Districts are starting to raise their wages due to worker shortages. He states that in order to be competitive, EFD needs to be somewhere in the middle. He acknowledges that wages will never be as high as WF or Kalispell but that the District has always tried to keep up with Big Fork and Three Rivers and other smaller, mid-line departments. Chief Williams states that EFD is losing more personnel and lost 4 personnel to GPIA with the potential of losing 2 additional personnel within the week. He states GPIA is offering \$21.00 per hour and offer PERS. He acknowledges not being able to offer benefits comparable to PERS but asks if it's possible to be competitive in wages. He states a fair amount of employees have also been lost to Big Fork who currently offers a dollar an hour less for both medics and EMT's but offers a 4% match on a 457 retirement plan. He states there are not a lot of rules or regulations compared to EFD. EFD requires more paperwork, training and has higher expectations due to the level of call volume. However, this fiscal year with their new budget, BF will be offering a 2 dollar an hour increase putting them a dollar an hour ahead of the District. Chief Williams demonstrates some figures he and Covington were working with; 2% COLA (past practices this has been granted), x amount being budgeted for performance (not everyone will get the same amount); and proposes \$1 an hour across the board for all personnel; keep COLA; and keep x amount for performance evaluations. As it currently stands, the budget will not support a \$2 an hour increase so 'something would have to give'. (Recording ends when Brockman exits the meeting at 6:35 pm.)

NEW ITEMS:

1. Fire Trustees Association Discussion (Action)

Fallon asks if Trustees want to pay the \$500.00 annual fee for membership. Connolly starts to make a motion to either, join, rejoin or continue membership and Chief Williams states that EFD Trustees have never paid the fee and have never been members. He reminds Fallon that when he and Verworn attended, they paid for their own expenses but were reimbursed. *(no action taken; tabled)*

2. TrustMark Reserves Discussion (Action)

(no action taken; tabled)

CHIEF'S REPORT:

1. April 2021 Call Volume

- A) Comparison Incident Count by Weekday/Hour (all zones) for April 2021
- B) Comparison Incident Statistics for April 2021

Adjourn 6:35 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.



Chair Fallon or Vice Chair Connolly



Secretary Brockman