

Marion Fire District

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES – MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING – December 17, 2020

The Board met for a regular business meeting at its principal office on December 17, 2020. Greg Mercurio, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30PM with a quorum of the following trustees: Shirley Webster, William Tewksbury, and Dick Ramos. Joyce Ratka, Board Treasurer, was absent due to illness. Fire Chief Mast was present for the department.

PLEDGE

Consent to Agenda

M/S/C (Ramos, Tewksbury)

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes (November 19, 2020)

M/S/C (Ramos, Tewksbury)

Public Comment: Anyone wishing to speak will give their name, address, and will have 3 minutes to speak.

Public present: Lily Brower, Community Member, Janine Presson, Community Member and MFD Auxiliary Treasurer, Matt Sampley, Fire Fighter and EMT.

Financial

- A. Review and Approval of Current Claims for Payment
- B. Review and Approval of Treasurers Report

Webster congratulated Chief Mast and the MFD team for their hard work and effort this year which has resulted in significant financial income for this fiscal year and next. In an email to board members dated 12/15/2020, Chief Mast reported *“With the \$36,000 we brought in from last year's assignment to California, we surpassed \$100,000 in fire revenue this year. Additionally, we already know there is upwards to \$100,000 coming in next fiscal year for the California assignment from the assignment we took in October.”*

Webster asked for clarification on the following financial matters:

1. Will any funds from the upward projection of 100K be used to pay the three-person team who assisted in California fire suppression efforts during the months of September and October?
2. In addition to the Fire Chief's monthly salary already paid for the months of September, October, and November, will additional compensation be paid from California funds when those funds are received?
3. Were all volunteers who provided coverage for the station during the Chief's absence in California paid for their time?
4. How are the intermittent transitions from volunteer status to paid employee status being managed? Is there absolute certainty there is no violation of federal law (Fair Labor Standards Act) specific to these intermittent transitions.
5. Is the department currently in compliance with FLSA (Fair Labor Standards Act)?

- M/S/C means a motion made by the trustee named in the following parentheses, and then seconded and carried.

- If you wish to listen to an audio recording of this meeting, please submit a written request.

- Advance notice of this meeting was provided to the public via a reader board at the Marion Community Center and publication in the *Daily Inter Lake*, the District's website www.marionfd.org, and its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/MarionFireMT.

Due to the absence of Joyce Ratka, Board Treasurer and Trustee, Mercurio tabled the Treasurer's Reports and all financial questions, concerns, and discussions until the January 2021 Regular Board Meeting. The Board will further review and discuss budget, financial matters, and respond to the questions presented. Budget reports for December 2020 and January 2021 will be reviewed.

Fire Chief's Report & Updates

Total Calls to Date: 255

72 calls up from last year

13 calls since Nov 18, 2020

- 5 BLS Medical Calls- (2 Marion pt transports, 3 Pt refusals)
- 3 ALS Medical Calls (2 Marion transports, 1 ALERT transport)
- 1 Interfacility Transfer
- 2 Automatic fire alarms
- 1 Structure fire
- 1 Motor Vehicle Accident Non-Injury

Personnel:

Nothing to report

Training:

- 12/01/2020, Fire -Interior Attack/Hose Evolutions
- 12/03/2020, Medical -Skills stations
- 12/08/2020, Fire -Access, garage doors
- 12/15/2020, Fire -Maintenance
- 12/22/2020, Internal Christmas party
- 12/29/2020 No training

Equipment Maintenance and Updates:

Water tender 1193- Leaking steamer port

Water tender 1192- Nothing to report

Water tender 1191-Nothing to report

Engine 1131- Replaced back up alarm

Engine 1132- Nothing to report

Engine 1133- Nothing to report

Engine 1134- This number becomes our new engine. Currently still at Montana Truckworks.

Engine 1181- Nothing to report.

Command Rig 1161- Nothing to report

Ambulance 1121-Nothing to report.

Ambulance 1122- Nothing to report

Ambulance 1123- Nothing to report

Upcoming Costs:

- T-Shirt order

Community Events:

- “Drive through” Holiday Community Dinner -December 19th from 2-6 PM

Additional Updates and Discussion:

- Donation receipts and gifts have been delivered to the contractors that installed the concrete wash station. Paperwork has been filed and project is closed.
- The “old 1134” is listed locally for sale

Regarding the structure fire, Webster reported attending the department training this week. Neil Heino stated the incident overall was excellently managed and commended the team. Lt. Marsha Lyles served as incident commander.

Conclusion of Chief’s Report

Action Items:

- A. Pintler/Collection Accounts – No updates to report
- B. Paramedic Pay – Boards members voted to approve a stipend for paramedics of \$100 per call for ALS calls.

M/S/C (Ramos, Tewksbury)

Discussion Items:

- A. Annual Dinner – Possible dates discussed were January 16th or 23rd. Mercurio will contact Shawna from the Hilltop and coordinate a menu. Mercurio will email the board as soon as details are finalized.
- B. Insurance – Ramos announced he had contacted Montana Volunteer Firefighters Assn. and Montana State Fire Chief Assn. He spoke with Chief Cowleg of Columbus, MT. They discussed MFD’s insurance situation. Ramos noted Cowleg’s department is also small and experiencing the same insurance issues facing MFD. Ramos provided Chief Mast with the information following the meeting. Future discussion pending.

New Business: None

Announcements:

The Executive Meeting scheduled for tonight was cancelled and re-scheduled for next month immediately following the January 28th 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

Adjournment: 6:15PM

Minutes recorded by: Shirley Webster, Board Secretary.

Attest: _____
Greg Mercurio, Board Chair Date