

Fire Chief & Board Meeting - Special Budget Meeting
Wednesday, July 6, 2016 @ Fire Hall @ 6:00 pm

Meeting called to order by Keith Kastner @ 6:06 pm

Present: Norma McBroom, Keith Kastner, Dodie Therrien, Fire Chief Ken Morehead was not present.

There were about 50 General public members present as well as Commissioner Phil Mitchell, Lincoln Chute Emergency Services Area Manager, , Sandy Carlson Finance Director at County, Tara, our County Attorney at County, Dick Sine, EMS manager.

Keith made motion to approve agenda. Norma 2nd. Vote: all in favor, Passed

Keith made motion to approve minutes as read. Norma 2nd. Vote: all in favor, Passed

One of the first items discussed was to post the agenda at Post Office for the trustee meetings. Dodie will ask for permission. If ok, agenda will be posted at post office for the 2nd wednesday of the month trustee meeting from now on.

There was a lot of discussion in regards to our high property taxes. Sandy talked about how our taxable rate has gone down, but the levied amount was still taxed at the higher rate.

In comparison to more Flathead county fire districts, Mills levied: Martin City 44 mills; Blankenship 40 mill; Coram 22 mills; Hungry Horse 51 mills; Badrock 22 mills; whereas Olney is 322 mills.

Lincoln made the comparison as to how many calls each dept. made per year.

Olney 50 calls; Martin City 104 calls; Blankenship 46 calls; Coram/ West Glacier 274 calls; HH 102 calls; Badrock 262 calls.

Lincoln mentioned Olney should be charging for ambulance calls.

Commissioner Phil Mitchell ran the meeting. In looking at the budget line items for Olney, there were some red flag items in the budget, perhaps a mis-use of funds? He has some questions about the expenses for fuel, building maintenance, Non-capital purchases and vehicle expenses. Dodie and our Fire Chief will be working with Sandy Carlson on this.

Commissioner Phil Mitchell mentioned that we should have another meeting in a month.

It was mentioned that having the Fire Chief as a trustee on the board is a conflict of interest.

We also need to work with Lincoln to get a workable budget for Olney.

We cannot have a closed trustee meeting and the public is always invited.

Meeting was adjourned 9:15 pm

