

**OLNEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DECEMBER 14, 2016 AT OLNEY FIRE HALL**

Call to Order – 6:02 pm

Roll Call

Trustees present: Paul Jeremiassen, Norma McBroom, Jason Rowles, Laurel Therrien, Keith Kastner

Absent: None

Fire & Ambulance members: Lance Torgerson, Veronica Morehead, Kim Gress, Wayne Rehmert

County representatives: Commissioner Phil Mitchell, Fire Service Area Manager Lincoln Chute

Community members: 12-15

Motion to approve meeting agenda made by Norma McBroom; seconded by Paul Jeremiassen; carried unanimously.

Motion made by Keith Kastner to **Approve the Minutes of the November 9th meeting**; seconded by Paul Jeremiassen; carried unanimously. Minutes are distributed by e-mail to all Trustees prior to the next meeting for review. In the future, printed Minutes will be left at the Fire Hall for any Trustee who is unable to review the Minutes by e-mail.

Paul Jeremiassen initiated a discussion of morale problems among the fire and ambulance volunteers as discussed at their meeting on the prior Wednesday. Even prior to the recent public airing of the District's serious problems, our volunteers have experienced hostility from some community members. Jeremiassen made an appeal to the community for support as the Board and the Department strive to recover from those problems. An open discussion followed in which several community members said that anger and distrust was justified due to the lack of transparency and stories circulating about inappropriate actions over a number of years. In the end, the Board and volunteers must act transparently to gain community trust and support, because without community support the Department will cease to function. It was emphasized that the Board welcomes community participation at all meetings. In addition, the Minutes of District meetings will be posted in several locations, so that the community is informed of activities and actions of the Board and the Department.

Unfinished Business

Craft Show – Norma McBroom reported that the craft show was held on December 10th in the Fire Hall. There were quite a few vendor cancellations, probably weather-related, but the event raised \$231 for the District.

Bingo Night – Lance Torgerson presented a detailed proposal for holding a regular bingo night at the Fire Hall. No action was taken, and the proposal will be revisited in January. No other fundraisers were discussed in any detail.

Snowplowing – No contract has been awarded for regular snowplowing services. For the time being, snowplowing will be performed voluntarily as needed, mainly by Keith Kastner.

Notice to Ken Morehead – a notice letter was proposed by Laurel Therrien to be sent to Ken Morehead, former Fire Chief, restricting entry to the District's premises, except to attend a public event. Motion was made to send the notice by Paul Jeremiassen, seconded by Keith Kastner, and carried unanimously.

Ambulance Billing - Paul Jeremiassen is working on getting our National Provider Identifier (NPI) registration updated, and working with the medical billing service, Pintler, in Eureka, to get our Medicare registration done. This is a long process, which might take up to 6 months. However, any billing can be processed from the time the application is submitted. Lincoln Chute said that we can bill private insurance before we are approved for Medicare/Medicaid billing. Jeremiassen will look into that possibility with Pintler.

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Secretary's Report

Bills presented for payment - CenturyLink (\$198.81); Lincoln Electric (\$72.68); CityServiceValcon (283.80); VFIS (\$1,758.00) and McNeil & Company (\$2,083.75); KMRC (\$60); and Community First National Bank (\$14,295.10 semi-annual truck lease payment due Jan 15th). Motion made by Keith Kastner to approve payment of those bills, seconded by Jason Rowles, and carried unanimously.

Year-to Date Financial Report - with the receipt of \$19,658 from the current tax levy (41% of total levy), the District now has a positive cash balance, but after the truck lease payment in January will still be in a poor cash position because most of the remainder of the tax levy is not due until late May. Currently, we have spent 31% of the budget (before the lease payment), and collected 31% of the budgeted revenue. Phil Mitchell suggested that the budget report include a line for current period activity, in addition to the year-to-date figures, which will be done for the next meeting.

Annual Financial Report - the report for FY 2016 has been prepared and will be submitted to the State prior to the 12/31/16 deadline.

Report on Equipment Sales - Paul Jeremiassen reported on questions raised at the last meeting about two sales of District property, a snowplow sold in February 2012 and an ambulance vehicle sold in November 2012. The snowplow was sold to Rocky Gress for \$5,000 in snow plowing services to be performed at \$50 per time. Rocky provided notes indicating snow plowing (and other work) performed through January of 2014 to pay off the full amount. The sales contract was signed by Fire Chief Ken Morehead and included the signatures of the other Trustees. No separate documentation of the services performed has been found in the District's records. The ambulance (1995 Chevy 3500 cab and chassis with box) was sold to Rocky Gress in trade for a 2002 Arctic Cat snowmobile and \$1,500 to be paid over 10 months at \$150. The document indicates that the payments were completed in August 2013. Ken Morehead also signed this contract as Fire Chief. The snowmobile is parked at the Fire Hall on a trailer (which is not mentioned as part of the contract). It needs to be determined who holds the current title. No record has been found in the Board minutes approving either transaction.

Department Report

Lance Torgerson reported that the Department responded to one emergency call since the last meeting. Two operational problems need to be resolved. A signal repeater on Werner Peak, on which the Department relies to receive emergency calls from the County, has been out of order. Also, the ambulance continues to experience electrical problems, which affects its reliability for responding to calls. Lincoln Chute stated that the repeater should be back in service, and that he expects a person familiar with the ambulance issue to be available late this month.

Commissioner Mitchell had no additional report to make and said that he would not be attending future meetings (other than the May Annual Meeting) unless called upon to do so.

Marion Libby has requested the use of the Fire Hall meeting room for a family party on Christmas Day. Paul Jeremiassen made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Jason Rowles, and carried unanimously.

As there was no other **Public Discussion**, motion was made to **Adjourn the Meeting** at 7:35 pm by Paul Jeremiassen, seconded by Jason Rowles, and carried unanimously.

Submitted by Paul Jeremiassen, Secretary