

**OLNEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 12, 2017 AT OLNEY FIRE HALL**

Call to Order – 7:00 pm

Roll Call

All Trustees present: Paul Jeremiassen, Norma McBroom, Jason Rowles, Laurel Therrien, Keith Kastner
Fire & Ambulance members: Lance Torgerson, Vincent Marks, Wayne Rehmert, Kimberly Gress, Michalle McMillan, Becky Kresler

Flathead County EMS: Lincoln Chute

Community members: 4

Motion to approve meeting agenda made by Keith Kastner; seconded by Jason Rowles; carried unanimously.

Motion to approve minutes of March 8th meeting made by Keith Kastner; seconded by Jason Rowles; carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Town Pump Grant – Donna Maddux (not present at meeting) has submitted the grant by the March 31st deadline for purchase of replacement air tanks.

Fire Hall Roof - Keith Kastner reported that Triple Creek Builders of Kalispell (the only contractor of several that responded to Keith's queries about doing the work) made minor repairs on the roof to stop water leakage and performed an inspection of the roof condition at the same time. Our insurance company has also selected an engineer to make a site visit to determine the cause of the roof slippage for purposes of insurance coverage. Triple Creek billed us for the work under the assumption that our insurance would cover it. We will revisit the charges when the insurance coverage is determined.

Vehicle Debt Refinancing – Paul Jeremiassen proposed that we apply to the State Board of Investments to refinance the debt on the 2011 Kenworth T-370 Water Tender. The current lease/purchase through Community National Bank of Manhattan, Kansas has, 10 years remaining (after the annual payment of \$12,910 due July 20th). Aside from possibly lowering the cost of the debt, the main reason for refinancing it is to change the timing of payments during the fiscal year. Paul is also requesting a proposal from the current lender to adjust that timing. In either case, the objective is to eliminate the upcoming July payment to allow us to build our cash reserve. The Board will have the opportunity to review the alternative proposals, before committing to a refinancing. Motion was made by Keith Kastner to have Paul Jeremiassen proceed with the application to the State Board of Investments for a refinancing loan; seconded by Norma McBroom; carried unanimously.

New Business

Requests had been made for use of the Fire Hall for a baby shower on March 16th and a search and rescue training on April 1st, but both events were cancelled.

Secretary's Report

Bills presented for payment

CityServiceValcon \$586.14 – 400 gallons of propane plus \$99 annual tank lease

CenturyLink \$111.16 – the adjustments for cancelling 2nd line and inside wire maintenance done

Lincoln Electric \$142.43 – February electricity (amount should start declining as winter ends)

Culligan Water \$223.69 – rental cancelled on softener and unit purchased

Emergency Medical Products \$52.64 – supplies for ambulance

Motion was made by Keith Kastner; to approve the payment of bills as presented; seconded by Jason Rowles; carried unanimously.

YTD Budget – Paul Jeremiassen reported that with 8 months completed, the District is in good shape to be at or under budget for the fiscal year. Without the March trial balance from the County for tax deposits,

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our cash balance is \$14,300, the highest level so far in the fiscal year. With 3 months remaining, we should be under budget on expenses for the year.

Fire & Ambulance Report

Mother's Day breakfast update - Becky Cressler and Norma McBroom both reported that donations of food supplies and auction items are going well; volunteers will be needed to pickup the food supplies just before the event. The proceeds on deposit from craft sales will be available for funding door prizes and minor shortfalls on donated food for the event.

Discussion of operational issues - the Department is facing some serious problems in responding to emergency calls, creating stress among the Members. The biggest problem is the lack of volunteers to staff the department, but there are also issues of reliable communications in the process of receiving and responding to calls and a need to improve coordination as to the availability of Members. Lincoln Chute was asked to attend the meeting to provide some perspective, and stated that our District is facing the same issues as most other rural fire districts, even nationwide. He also tried to determine if the communications issue is strictly a technical problem or also operational. It was suggested that there be a training session to make sure procedures are in place that everyone is following. Also, the Board, in consultation with the Members, County EMS and Whitefish, needs to ensure that our mission is consistent with our operational capabilities. A specific question is whether we should be providing an ambulance service (including transport) or be a Quick Response Unit (QRU), as some other small districts do.

Activity report - # of calls since last meeting: 4 total/3 ambulance/1 fire (1 no responses); # of calls YTD (from July 1st): 29 total/20 ambulance/9 fire (3 no responses)

After discussion, motion made by Paul Jeremiassen to have 4 air tanks hydrotested by McHugh; seconded by Jason Rowles; carried unanimously.

As there was no additional **Public Discussion**, motion was made to **Adjourn the Meeting** at 8:45 by Paul Jeremiassen, seconded by Jason Rowles, and carried unanimously.

Submitted by Paul Jeremiassen, Secretary