

**OLNEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
December 10, 2018 AT OLNEY FIRE HALL**

Call to Order: 7:05 pm

Trustees present: Chair Donna Maddux, Secretary Paul Jeremiassen, and Trustees Norma McBroom and Keith Kastner. Vice Chair Laurel Therrien was absent.

Department Members: Chief Wayne Rehmert, Jordan Carr and Andrew Hubbard (recruit)

Guest: Lincoln Chute, Manager, Flathead County Fire Service Area (arrived at 7:30 pm)

Community Members: None

Motion to approve Minutes of the November meeting made by Jeremiassen; seconded by Kastner; carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Bills presented for payment – attached hereto and highlighted. The lease payment for the rescue truck is not due until January 15th, but is being approved now and will be mailed on January 7th. Motion made by Jeremiassen to approve payment of the bills as presented; seconded by Kastner; approved unanimously.

Chief's Report

Chief Rehmert presented his monthly report, which is attached hereto. Given no solutions yet to the repair of the ambulance, the Board will defer any action on repair until after the winter season.

Unfinished Business

Fire Hall use by Libby family - at the request of Pat and Marion Libby, Jeremiassen moved to approve the use of the Fire Hall by the Libby family for their annual family dinner on Christmas day. McBroom will coordinate with them for access and close up after the event.

Lupfer Heights Development – Lincoln Chute reported on the issues relevant to the project:

1. He said the developer has completed recommended fuel reduction work over last summer.
2. The developer proposed using a dry hydrant system for water availability. Lincoln has proposed a pump driven system controlled from the same building that will house domestic water pumping for the development. He expects that the developer will agree to his proposal.
3. He thinks the emergency vehicle access to the development is adequate.

He proposed that, when the revised plan is completed, he draft a letter responsive to the County requirements and forward it to us for our review. Since each of the District and the Fire County Area have been requested to issue such a letter, the simplest approach may be to submit a joint letter to the County, drafted by Lincoln.

Insurance claim on ambulance - already covered in Chief's report.

New Business

Whitefish Fire Project – Maddux reported that she had attended a Whitefish Fire Department meeting recently at which a proposal (attached hereto) was presented for establishing satellite fire stations. The Whitefish department has responsibility for fire and EMS service to the City of Whitefish, but also the Whitefish Fire Service Area, which extends North along the US 93 corridor to somewhere near the junction of US 93 and Farm to Market Road. Since our department's service area extends to just north of their boundary (the small portion of the County Fire Service Area is between the two), it makes sense for our District to be involved in any discussions regarding the establishment of satellite stations. There may be ways of enhancing fire and EMS service for both Olney and Whitefish by coordinating our resources. Lincoln Chute pointed out that building and equipping new satellite stations would be extremely expensive. We need to make sure that we stay in the loop on these discussions.

In the course of discussing this project, the question arose as to whether our ambulance can be operated in any emergency response without an EMT on board, even if not used for medical transport. We have been previously advised that our department cannot operate it for any response. Lincoln said he thought it should be available for general assistance in a response and said he would check to see if that could be allowed.

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Training opportunities – Lincoln Chute presented a number of training opportunities that he can help provide and gave specific examples for the Board and Chief Rehmert to consider. The training discussion included “table top” fire simulations that could be held at our fire hall, a week long training on fire behavior coordinated by Lincoln off-site, and community meetings to present fire safety awareness, preparation and emergency procedures. Lincoln emphasized that he is always at our disposal to facilitate any of these opportunities.

The Trustees thanked Lincoln for attending our meeting and offering his support.

Trustee Comments

As there were no further comments or requests, Jeremiassen moved, seconded by Kastner, to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by Paul Jeremiassen, Secretary

Attachments:

Bills Presented for Payment
Chief’s Monthly Report
Whitefish Fire Project

**OLNEY FIRE DISTRICT
TRANSACTION REGISTER
FY 2018**

CLRD	CHECK #	DATE	PAID TO/RECEIVED FROM	DEBIT	CREDIT	A/C CODE	CASH BAL	DESCRIPTION
		7/1/18	BEGINNING CASH				33,958.04	Ties to County balance - no outstanding warrants
X	5119	7/9/18	VFIS	1,429.00		600	32,529.04	Quarterly premium - property/liability insurance
X	5120	7/9/18	CenturyLink	111.94		200	32,417.10	June telephone/internet
X	5121	7/9/18	Lincoln Electric	118.08		800	32,299.02	June electricity
X	5122	7/9/18	Les Schwab	105.00		2000	32,194.02	Change to summer tires on First Responder & Ambulance
X	5123	7/9/18	Norco	42.16		900	32,151.86	Oxygen tank rental
X	5124	7/9/18	US Bank Lockbox CM9695	7,067.50		2100	25,084.36	Semi-annual loan paymnet - MT INTERCAP Water Tender loan
X	DEPOSIT	7/19/18	Samill Scramble Event		100.00	50	25,184.36	Donation for providing standby EMS support
X	5125	7/27/18	Whitefish Army-Navy	815.97		1900	24,368.39	3 pairs wild land boots
X	RECEIPT	7/31/18	Flathead County		470.88	60	24,839.27	Collected property taxes
X	DEPOSIT	8/8/18	Flathead County		50.64	40	24,889.91	Interest on deposited funds
X	5126	8/13/18	CenturyLink	111.85		200	24,778.06	July telephone/internet
X	5127	8/13/18	Lincoln Electric	115.20		800	24,662.86	July electtricity
X	5128	8/13/18	Norco	40.80		900	24,622.06	Oxygen tank rental
X	DEPOSIT	8/31/18	Flathead County		1,460.16	60	26,082.22	Collected property taxes
X	5129	9/10/18	Lincoln Electric	90.54		800	25,991.68	August electricity
X	5130	9/10/18	CenturyLink	111.85		200	25,879.83	August telephone/internet
X	5131	9/10/18	NorthWest Electrical	2,076.82		100	23,803.01	Fire Hall plug circuits; refeed to air compressor
X	5132	9/10/18	Olney Store	179.30		500	23,623.71	August Fuel
X	5133	9/10/18	Paul Jeremiassen	30.08		1500	23,593.63	Postage for community mailing
X	5133	9/10/18	Paul Jeremiassen	17.00		1400	23,576.63	Copies for community mailing
X	RECEIPT	9/11/18	Flathead County		43.98	40	23,620.61	Interest on deposited funds
X	DEPOSIT	9/12/18	VFIS		12,945.00	2000	36,565.61	Claim proceeds for ambulance damage
X	RECEIPT	9/17/18	State of Montana		2,003.98	20	38,569.59	Quarterly Entitlement
X	RECEIPT	9/28/18	Flathead County		110.62	60	38,680.21	Collected property taxes
X	5134	10/8/18	Lincoln Electric	83.50		800	38,596.71	September electricity
X	5135	10/8/18	Norco	41.48		900	38,555.23	Oxygen tank rental
X	5136	10/8/18	VFIS	1,429.00		600	37,126.23	Quarterly premium - property/liability insurance
X	5137	10/8/18	VFIS	704.00		1200	36,422.23	Annual premium (10/18-10/19) accident/sickness insurance
X	5138	10/8/18	CenturyLink	111.95		200	36,310.28	September phone/internet
X	RECEIPT	10/9/18	Flathead County		45.34	40	36,355.62	Interest on deposited funds
X	RECEIPT	10/31/18	Flathead County		37.43	60	36,393.05	Collected property taxes
	DEPOSIT	11/12/18	MT Dept of Corrections		67.50		36,460.55	Morehead restitution payment
	5139	11/12/18	Norco	6.12		900	36,454.43	Oxygen tank rental (tanks returned in October)
	5140	11/12/18	CityServiceValcon	478.43		1300	35,976.00	300 gals propane @\$1.59
	5141	11/12/18	Lincoln Electric	85.14		800	35,890.86	October electricity
	5142	11/12/18	CenturyLink	112.38		200	35,778.48	October telephone
	5143	12/10/18	CenturyLink	122.64		200	35,655.84	November telephone
	5144	12/10/18	Lincoln Electric	86.46		800	35,569.38	November electricity
	5145	12/10/18	Olney Store	75.20		500	35,494.18	November fuel
	5146	12/10/18	Montana State Fund	431.44		1200	35,062.74	WC premium installment 11/1/18-11/1/19
	5147	1/7/19	Community First Natl Bk	14,295.10		2100	20,767.64	Annual lease payment - Rescue Truck

CHIEF'S MONTHLY REPORT 12-10-18 TRUSTEE MEETING

Call outs for November

9th – Norma and I helped with a traffic control for a truck trying to make it up the hill at Dog Lake

26th – 15 Whitebird Trail – no response

Old Business

1. Jordan and Levi took the ambulance to Able Body Shop. It will not fit in their paint booth! So we need to discuss options. We could take the ambulance to the manufacturer in Washington, or we could see if they will come to us.
2. Les Schwab has been up to put the studded snow tires on the ambulance and quick response units. I have not seen the bill.
3. Rocky Gress has provided a current price sheet for snow plowing for our records. He will charge \$50 per plowing and \$75 per hour for use of the bobcat to remove additional snow (such as when snow slides off the roof) to the back of the building. These are the same prices as charged last season.

New business

1. I am meeting with Joe Page, Whitefish Fire Chief, on December 11th. I will discuss some training opportunities with him. I thought we could also discuss response boundaries, a good place to get pagers and batteries, or see if we can use any extras they might have. I can also ask about the ambulance repair, or anything else we can think of.
2. Shane Feightner of the DNRC Stillwater station is going to come up on December 17th. He wants to see if we can schedule signups for the next fire season, and some possible training exercises, and also see what we need for gear.
3. I am going to get in touch with the gentleman that runs the local dog sled racing to let him know that we are more than happy to help out again this year, if they are able to race.

Training for December

17th - Emergency childbirth and child extraction. My wife and kids agreed to help us out with that.

24th and 31st - we will be taking these nights off to be with families.

Current Members

Wayne Rehmert, Norma McBroom, Rocky Gress, Levi Gress, Jordan Carr
Kim Gress (EMT), Andrew Hubbard (recruit)

Wayne Rehmert, Chief

City of Whitefish Fire Department

also serving the Whitefish Fire Service Area

Satellite Fire Stations

PURPOSE

The purposes for building satellite fire stations for the Whitefish Fire Department are:

1. To bring as many of the structures we protect throughout the City and Fire Service Area within the 5-road miles deemed a reasonable response distance by the insurance industry. ISO views any structure beyond 5-road miles as having no fire protection. Bring these structure within 5-road miles of a fire station will drastically reduce insurance premiums but most importantly improve fire and EMS service.
2. To provide living facilities for Resident Firefighters to augment our Career Firefighters. Until we can afford to add additional full-time Firefighter / Paramedics we need to look for alternatives. The whole country is having problems recruiting and retaining volunteer firefighters, here is Whitefish our demographics makes it even harder. Our neighboring mutual-aid partners struggle to obtain and maintain volunteers too. If someday we're able to hire more full-time staff, the living quarters will already be available.
3. To provide an all season 30,000-gallon water source for tender refill throughout our response area cutting down on the length and time for tender trips during a fire. In the areas outside of our hydrated areas water sources are hard to come by, providing these reliable water sources improves firefighting.

POSSIBLE LOCATIONS

With the goal of bringing as many structures as possible within 5-road miles of a fire station and looking at our current primary fire protection area I'm proposing the following stations:

STATION 21, located at 275 Flathead Avenue with the City. This is our headquarters station with living facilities for our career staff. No proposed changes currently.

STATION 22, located at the corner of Whitefish Stage and Hodgson Roads in our Fire Service Area and is home to our training tower. This station is located on the southern end of our district close to the heavy populated Happy Valley neighborhood. This station is prime for adding living facilities for the Resident Program, a class room large enough to hold our fire academy, and a 30,000-gallon cistern for tender refill during both emergencies and training.

NEW STATION 23, possibly located out near the bottom of Big Mountain Road in the City. Looking at the extension of services plan for the City which includes annexing Big Mountain and noting the areas of the Iron Horse subdivision currently beyond 5-road miles from a fire station makes this area a prime location. There may be thoughts that future developers in the area could provide the City with property for a station. Ideally, we'd look at the furthest property that we'll be annexing up on the mountain and locate the station within 5-road miles.

NEW STATION 24, possibly located out along Twin Bridges Road near Highway 93. This location would start to address the large portions of the Fire Service Area northwest of the City not currently within 5-road miles of a station. Preliminary talks with DNRC about a long-term lease of property for a fire station have been promising.

FUTURE LOCATIONS,

1. Possibly out north of town near Farm to Market and Highway 93. There have been discussions about out in the Homestead subdivision on Star Meadows Road or out near the Label Company on Highway 93. As some of these areas continue to develop and if the Olney Fire Department continues to struggle there will be a need for more and more of our services.
2. Possibly out along East Lake Shore Drive. The properties we protect out around the east and north sides of the lake are high value and bringing them within 5-road miles of a station would drastically improve their home owner's insurance rates plus provide much better emergency services to the area.

SATELLITE STATION FEATURES

Each satellite fire station should be built with the following features:

- (3) Apparatus Bays for an ambulance, engine, and tender. The type and size of the engine will depend on location. Type 1 is a structural firefighting engine, type 3 is an urban interface engine, while a type 5 is mostly a wildland firefighting engine.
- (6) Bedrooms for the Resident Firefighters, two per each of the three shifts. Furnished with a bed, desk, and dresser
- (2) Bathrooms with showers
- Kitchen and dining area for the resident firefighters.
- Living Space / TV Room for the resident firefighters.
- Sprinkler system (We must set a good example)
- A 30,000-gallon cistern for a tender refill location, could be used to supply the sprinkler system.
- Radio room / office / computer
- Gear storage outside of the living quarters
- Exhaust removal system
- Internet service
- TV service

The modifications to our Station 22 which houses our training tower and will host our fire academy should additionally have a training class room, SCBA fill station and storage for training props that is separate from the living facilities.

PITFALLS TO A RESIDENT PROGRAM

Resident Programs are successful all over the country but there are a number of ways the program can be setup to fail.

- 1- Housing Resident Firefighters with Career Firefighters. There is no quicker way to build animosity amongst the firefighters than to have those full time on-duty firefighters mingling with off-duty residents.
- 2- Uncomfortable, inadequate living space for the resident firefighters. The living space for the resident firefighters is where they'll live for the entire year, both on-duty and off. There are many rules to follow living at a fire station beyond those if living in an apartment or college dorm, so the space and facilities shouldn't add any additional hardships.
- 3- Attitude of the career staff towards the Resident Firefighters must be positive.
- 4- Hard to fill a vacancy should we lose a resident part way though the year.