

OLNEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FEBRUARY 11, 2019 AT OLNEY FIRE HALL

CALL TO ORDER: 7:04 pm (Keith Kastner was ill but came to make a quorum)

Trustees present: Chair Donna Maddux, Norma McBroom, Keith Kastner. Vice Chair Laurel Therrien and Secretary Paul Jeremiassen were absent. Department Members: Chief Wayne Rehmert, Assistant Chief Jordon Carr, EMT Kim Gress. Community Member: Gary Hill, (who has filed for an open Trustee seat).

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES, BILLS AND CLAIMS

December: (inadvertently omitted in January) Kastner/McBroom passed unanimously

January: McBroom/ Kastner, Passed unanimously

January bills (attached) Moved to pay Kastner/McBroom passed unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE: Letter from Shari Graham at the Montana Department of Health and Human Services. The letter suggests that the Ambulance License may be at risk due to failure to enter appropriate data in the State's record. K. Gress felt that this Department was given an exception due to our size. She will be contacting the State to verify.

The road safety story was in the Tobacco Valley News in the February 6, 2019 issue. They focused on school bus issues.

DEPARTMENT REPORT: There was no written report, the Chief having been sick this week, and saving freezing livestock. He verbally reported two call outs. One was in support of Eureka to which. The Chief, K. Gress, L. Gress, the Assistant Chief, and McBroom responded. There was also a bear spray mishap, responding Gress, Carr, and McBroom.

BATTERIES: We need 3 batteries for type 6 radios and 5 for type 5 radios. McBroom was authorized in January to acquire them.

SLED DOG RACES: February 23 and 24, ORVFD was approved several months ago to participate again.

ATV RACES: request for Ambulance for March 2, 2019. The request didn't come in time to be on this agenda and therefore, the Trustees were unable act on it this meeting. A special meeting is called for February 18, 2019 @ 7pm for this single issue.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The ambulance repair has been nicely completed and the vehicle returned to the Fire Hall. The decision to repair was made by consensus and confirmed by vote. McBroom/Kastner carried unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES: The Chief will be getting copies of SOPs from Joe Page, Whitefish Fire Dept. and Chute, County Fire Manager as part of the model for developing those for OVRFD. Gary Hill offered to get a copy from Marion Fire Department as well. When the Department is ready an entire meeting will (except for approval of the minutes and financials) be dedicated to developing the initial draft of SOPs for this department.

FUEL SUPPLY SOURCE: It has come to our attention that the Olney Store may no longer be operating, possibly as soon as mid-April. That has been our fuel supply source. Discussion followed. Carr will contact his associates in other departments regarding their sources and procedures. Hill will make the same inquiries in Marion, where his son is a department member. Maddux will, after input from Jeremiassen, make inquiries about providers who may do a bid process. Kastner questioned if there remains a credit on any of the credit cards operated by the previous department.

There being no public comment, Maddux called for a motion to adjourn. McBroom/Kastner passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted, by Maddux, substituting for Jeremiassen

Highways a challenge to school buses

By Krista Nemeroff
Of the Tobacco Valley News

A few weeks ago, Olney resident and retired Flathead superintendent of schools Donna Maddux thought she was about to witness a school bus wreck.

She was driving north on Highway 93, just past the 145 mile marker, and she held back. She knew a school bus was ahead of her nearing the turn to Olney. "From there you cannot see the Olney entrance," she said. "It looks like you can see a long way, but there's little curve there."

A truck with 56 plates passed her at highway speed, saw the school bus, pulled in directly behind it. A red car passed her along

See BUSES, Page 8

Buses

Continued FROM Page 1

with another gray car with 56 plates. Both pulled in behind the school bus.

And just as the school bus was signaling a left turn into Olney, all three vehicles whizzed around the school bus in a no-passing lane.

"I was horrified," Maddux said. "I was far enough back, I think I could have gotten stopped, but I had visions of four cars and a bus wreck."

That turn into Olney is a known local problem traffic area, she said, and she hopes that people learn to practice more patient driving skills. Up at the Eureka end of

Highway 93, driving violations against school buses are infrequent - but they do happen periodically, Eureka Public Schools bus supervisor John Hannay said. And it's getting easier to catch the culprits.

Cameras installed this year on some buses have led to the prosecution of two drivers so far.

One passed a school bus north of Eureka on Highway 93 in September, and another passed a bus in December, south of Eureka on Highway 93 near Mud Creek.

In both instances, the bus stop sign was out, lights were flashing.

Near Mud Creek, it was a close call. "That one was really close," Hannay said after watching the bus camera video. "As soon as the car went by, a kid came walking in front. It was scary. Hopefully, people start paying more attention to driving and less attention to their phones."

In both cases, license plate numbers on the vehicles were photographed by bus cameras, the drivers identified, tracked down and ticketed. The fine for such a citation is \$135.

State Trooper Kate Trewick said that highways pose the biggest concern for

school buses because the speeds are so high. "People like to kind of sneak around a bus," she said. When the yellow bus lights flash, people think they have time to whiz around the bus quickly - but they don't.

The other troublesome area locally is around the Lake Koocanusa bridge, where people try to pass the school bus on the bridge. That's illegal.

That bus should have a camera on it shortly, so offenders in and around Highway 37 should be caught in the near future, Hannay said.

The school is gradually

outfitting the entire bus fleet with cameras. "Within the next couple of years, every bus we own will have them," he said.

Trewick said she typically investigates about two dozen or so bus related complaints annually. And without the cameras, "It's tough to catch people in the act," she said. But bus drivers are vigilant in reporting violations, and she often investigates based on their observations.

Both recent Highway 93 cases were non-local offenders, she said. "In the past, I've dealt with younger drivers who simply aren't paying full attention

to what's happening in the roadway," she said. "Their lane may appear clear, so they continue driving. However, they fail to notice the red flashing stop sign attached to the bus in the opposite lane."

School bus drivers are also required to pull over when they back up a string of four or more cars, as visibility allows, Trewick said. "Our school buses do a really good job of that when they can," she said.

She encouraged the public to call Eureka dispatch with any concerns or if they witness a school bus violation.

OLNEY FIRE DISTRICT
TRANSACTION REGISTER
FY 2019

CHECK #	DATE	PAID TO/RECEIVED FROM	DEBIT	CREDIT	A/C CODE	CASH BAL	DESCRIPTION
5160	2/11/19	Lincoln Electric	89.72		800	28,395.32	January Electricity
5161	2/11/19	Olney Store	136.30		500	28,259.02	January Fuel
5162	2/11/19	DNRC - Trust Land Mgmt	1,483.04		700	26,775.98	Annual Property Lease
5163	2/11/19	CityServiceValcon	557.70		1300	26,218.28	330 gals propane @ \$1.69
5164	2/11/19	CenturyLink	122.63		200	26,095.65	January phone/internet
5165	2/11/19	Rocky Gress	200.00		300	25,895.65	Snow plowing - 4 times @ \$50