

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

Call to Order: 7:00 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, Assistant Chief Jordon Carr, and Levi Gress.

Guest: Shane Feightner, Fire Team Leader for Stillwater State Forest unit of DNRC

Community Members: None

Motion to **Approve Minutes of the February meeting** made by Jeremiassen; seconded by Kastner; carried unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Bills presented for payment – attached hereto. McBroom will delivery Costner ComTech check and pick up batteries this week. Amount for snow removal included use of 3 machines each for 3 hours to carry snow away from building and off the roof edge. Motion made by Kastner to approve payment of the bills as presented; seconded by Maddux and carried unanimously.

Chief's Report

Chief Rehmert presented his monthly report, summarized as follows:

DNRC training – Carr and Levi Gress are signed up for a wild land fire course with the DNRC.

Rehmert announced that he plans to leave the Department in May, due to family and other demands on his time.

Rehmert also said that Kim Gress has decided to take an extended leave of absence from the Department. Since she is the only EMT, the Department can no longer respond to ambulance calls.

Rehmert is going to visit the County's 911 center to convert the Department's status from ambulance service to a quick response unit (QRU). He will also meet with the Whitefish Fire Chief to advise him of the Department's status.

Rehmert asked his father-in-law, who is familiar with building water leakage, to inspect the suspected leaks in the 3 rooms on the northeast side of the fire hall. The conclusion was that the roof is leaking, but it is difficult to determine the cause until the snow is completely gone.

Unfinished Business

Ambulance licensing/data reporting – Jeremiassen reported on his contact with the State EMS and Trauma Systems section to follow up on the letter received in January regarding the our Department's failure to input data on EMS activity into the State's computerized reporting system. In the absence of Shari Graham, EMS System Manager, he discussed the current status of the Department's ambulance service with another staff member. Because of our de facto status as a QRU, State EMS will likely suspend our EMS license and put on hold any action on data input. We should be receiving some notification to that effect. Jeremiassen also contacted the County EMS Manager, Lisa Swanson, and left a message for her (she is out of the office until late March) to call about our ambulance status. When she returns the call, he will talk to her about effect on the EMS levy we receive as a result of our change to a QRU. There followed a discussion about what we should do to get the word out to our community about our current status and the critical need for more volunteers (distribution posters and/or a community mailing). No decision was made at that time.

Because of the de facto change of status to a QRU, there was a motion by McBroom, seconded by Kastner, and unanimously approved to table any further discussion of the Agenda item 2, "Ambulance vs. QRU".

Mother's Day Breakfast – McBroom gave a brief update.

New Business

Fuel sources – The Olney Store is no longer pumping gas or diesel fuel, so we need to determine an alternative supplier. The most likely candidate is the Cenex station in Whitefish, as it supplies both fuels, can accommodate large vehicles, and we have previously had Cenex credit cards. Maddux is checking about how Marion Fire handles their fuel purchases. There supposedly is a State program for

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purchasing fuel at a discount, but she has no details yet on that alternative. The decision was tabled until she receives more information. In the meantime, the only fuel requirement is gas for the First Responder Truck, which will be handled by someone in the Department and the expense reimbursed. Ice on Fire Hall roof – in light of the Chief's report regarding the water leakage and the recent removal of snow/ice from the roof edge, no further action was taken.

As there were no further comments or requests, Kastner moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45; seconded by Jeremiassen; approved unanimously.

After the adjournment, Shane Feightner belatedly began discussing various DNRC plans involving our Department. Shane is purchasing \$2,500 of wild land fire equipment for the Department's use in connection with our support of the DNRC during fire season. Also, Shane plans to set up a table at our Mother's Day Breakfast, as part of the State's overall push to educate and support communities in wild land fire awareness and response. And, finally, he has proposed to present the 1½ - hour film "Era of Megafires" at the Fire Hall on Friday, May 24th. The DNRC will cover the cost of presenting the film.

Donna moved to reopen the meeting, and to approve holding the film at the Fire Hall on May 24th; seconded by Kastner; carried unanimously.

Kastner moved to adjourn the meeting again at 7:55 pm; seconded by McBroom; carried unanimously.

Submitted by Paul Jeremiassen, Secretary

Attachments:

Bills Presented for Payment