

**OLNEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
May 13, 2019 AT OLNEY FIRE HALL**

Call to Order: 7:12 pm

Trustees present: Chair Donna Maddux, Secretary Paul Jeremiassen, Trustees Norma McBroom and Keith Kastner, and incoming Trustee Gary Hill.

Department Members: Chief Wayne Rehmert and Assistant Chief Jordon Carr

Community Members: None

Board Appointments

As Paul Jeremiassen and Gary Hill were the only candidates for the two Trustee positions up for election in May, the County Board of Supervisors appointed them to 3-year terms ending in May 2022.

Annual Election of Officers

After brief discussion, McBroom nominated Donna Maddux to serve as Board Chair, Gary Hill as Board Vice Chair, and Paul Jeremiassen as Board Secretary; all were elected unanimously.

Secretary's Report

Motion to approve Minutes of the April meeting presented by Jeremiassen; carried unanimously.

Bills presented for payment – Lincoln Electric \$105.87 and CenturyLink \$122.39

The District's operating account has an ending balance of about \$31,000 after these payments.

Jeremiassen moved that the bills as presented be approved for payment; seconded by Kastner; carried unanimously.

Chief's Report

Chief Rehmert presented his monthly report, as attached hereto. Rehmert pointed out that, although he is resigning as Chief, he intends to remain as a Member of the Department. This information was received with enthusiasm by all present.

Unfinished Business

Fuel purchases – Jeremiassen has reviewed the website information for Wright Express Financial Services ("WEX") as a possible source of a fuel card program. WEX provides this service for many of the government entities in Montana, as part of a nationwide service for both private and government fleets. The normal fees for the service would be waived for us as a government entity. The WEX cards can be used at virtually all gas stations, and the service provides good information about, and controls over, card use. It was agreed that we should proceed with an application to obtain this service.

Tri-fold mailer or Facebook - during a brief discussion about doing a mailer, it was pointed out that most people likely get their information through Facebook. Rehmert said that his spouse, Krystal, is willing to maintain the Department's Facebook account.

New Business

Mothers Day breakfast debriefing – everyone agreed that the breakfast was a resounding success. Jeremiassen presented the financial results: proceeds from donations, a raffle and a silent auction totaled \$2,292; net revenue after expenses was \$1,934 (vs. \$1,640 in 2018). McBroom gave the head count (including those working at the breakfast) as 136 (vs. 122 in 2018). There followed a lengthy discussion of appropriate quantities of food and supplies for next year's breakfast. Maddux volunteered to produce a "shopping list" as a written record to assist in planning for 2020. McBroom was applauded for her incredible effort in making the breakfast such a success.

Vehicle maintenance schedule – as Rehmert stated in his report, RES is being pushed to perform maintenance on all trucks by the end of June.

Process for filling Chief position – the idea was discussed for finding an interim Chief, an experienced person who could act as a mentor to Jordon Carr. Although contacts have been made with several former Chiefs, at this point no one has surfaced to fill that role.

Trustee Comments

Because of the recent passing of a former Department Chief, it was brought up that we should make sure that the memorial plaque in the Fire Hall is up to date with the missing names of those who are deceased.

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Jeremiassen presented an email (attached) from the County OES manager, Rick Sacca, after Jeremiassen contacted him concerning the impact on our EMS levy as a result of our no longer being able to supply ambulance services. It is possible that we will no longer qualify for any levy, even as a Quick Response Unit (QRU). Jeremiassen is planning to attend the OES board meeting on June 11th to further discuss our first responder role, given our current capabilities. He invited Maddux and Hill to also attend if they are able to.

Maddux commented on a publication "Backdraft" that we received by mail. She had highlighted some interesting articles that she recommended for everyone to read.

There being no further comments or discussion, McBroom moved to **adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm**; seconded by Kastner; carried unanimously.

Submitted by Paul Jeremiassen, Secretary

Attachments:

Chief's Report

OES Email

**CHIEF'S REPORT
OLNEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
TRUSTEE MEETING
MAY 13, 2019**

Call-outs for April:

4/1 MVA – Levi.

4/5 Possible heart attack – Norma met with Whitefish ambulance and Alert

4/17 MVA at mile marker 148 – Jordan and Norma.

4/23 MVA (overturned truck and trailer) at mile marker 148 – Jordan and Levi with Whitefish.

4/30 smoke investigation on Old Fort Steel Rd from disassembled travel trailer set on fire. Wayne, Norma, Flathead County Sheriff. Remaining fire was extinguished. DNRC investigated the following day and filled out a report.

Old Business

My resignation as Chief – Tuesday, May 14th, will be my last day as Chief. It would be today, but I have unfinished business at DNRC – filling out paper work and picking up items DNRC bought for us as part of interagency cooperation.

“Era of Mega Fires” film showing on May 24th – I talked to Shane Feightner at DNRC about advertising for the film. He said they have that under control, but word of mouth never hurts.

Truck maintenance –in about 2 weeks, RES will call back and set up a time to do maintenance on all 6 rigs. I will keep pressure on them to also let me know when we can do a pump test. That cost is \$300.

Keeping the Fire Hall open – it is in the best interest of everyone here to make sure the fire department thrives. I have no doubt in my mind that the Trustees and members can continue to work together and get through this tough time. With or without a Chief, we can all pull together to keep this fire department going.

New Business

Mothers Day breakfast – we have a debriefing tonight on the breakfast and compare notes about changes for next year.

Current Active Members

Wayne Rehmert - Chief , Jordon Carr – Assistant Chief, Norma McBroom, Levi Gress

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone for the unexpected surprise on Mothers Day. It means the world to me that you guys care that much and showed that in front of the whole town.

I would be honored to someday be Chief again. I think there is a reason most fire chiefs are in their early to late 50s. Most of their family life doesn't depend on them being present most of the time. I hope in my time away from being Chief that I can better prepare myself for the position. Thank you all very much for the opportunity to go out and unwind for a few hours. Krystal and I haven't been on a date in about 4 years, so she is excited as well.

Wayne Rehmert, Chief

From: Paul Jeremiassen pjeremiassen@icloud.com
Subject: Re: Olney RFD
Date: May 23, 2019 at 7:57 PM
To: Rick Sacca ricksacca@gmail.com

PJ

-----Original Message-----

From: Rick Sacca
Sent: Friday, May 10, 2019 11:59 AM
To: 'Paul Jeremiassen' <pjeremiassen@icloud.com>
Cc: 'Wayne A. Miller' <wammontana@hotmail.com>; Juanita Nelson
<Juanita.Nelson@flatheadoes.mt.gov>; rbriles@krmc.org
Subject: RE: Olney RFD

Paul,

Distribution of EMS Levy funding is approved semi-annually by the EMS Administrative Board. If the Department of Revenue collection & transfer of funds has been made to the County in advance of the June board meeting (6/11/19 @ 1:00pm), these amounts will likely be approved by the board at that time, otherwise a special board meeting may be required.

Normally, the semi-annual distribution for 'readiness' has been \$1,250, and an additional amount based on actual response numbers. I will be recommending to the board to consider making a pro-rated distribution to Olney since the Chief formally notified us on 3/11/19 that Olney was no longer providing BLS Transport services.

As the MOU for EMS Services currently reads "You are agreeing that you have personnel equipped and ready for dispatch to render medical aid at least 95% of the time." There needs to be additional discussion with the Board to determine if Olney is capable of meeting this requirement as a QRU.

I would recommend that the Chief, and/or Trustees attend the June EMS Advisory Board meeting and help get this resolved.

I hope this helps!

Rick

Rick Sacca

Emergency Manager

Manager, Office of Emergency Services (EM, EMS, & FSA) Flathead County, Montana Montana Disaster & Emergency Services (DES)

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<http://flathead.mt.gov/oes>