

**OLNEY RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DECEMBER 14, 2022 AT OLNEY FIRE HALL**

Call to Order: 7:04 pm

Trustees present: Chair Gary Hill, Vice Chair John Strean, Secretary Paul Jeremiassen and Trustee Norma McBroom. There is one Board vacancy.

Department Members: Chief Jordon Carr, Levi Gress, Asia Monet

Community Members: Kate Riggles, Zach Watson, Emily Sharp, Bill Foust, Tim Sparks, Christi Sparks, Jeremy Gooden, Joseph Krass, and 2 others.

Approval of Minutes: As there were no changes proposed for the minutes of the November meeting presented by Jeremiassen, Hill moved to approve the minutes as presented; seconded by Strean; carried unanimously.

Correspondence: McBroom presented a letter from Marion Libby, requesting to hold her annual Christmas party at the Fire Hall. McBroom will confirm to her our approval.

McBroom received information from a resident on Bell St. in Olney that the street has been gated off after the County discontinued maintaining it. Even though the gate interferes with the Department's ability to access here residence, the County will not intervene. Since this is a private property matter between residents, there isn't much we can do about it.

Reports: None

Unfinished Business:

Fire Hall interior painting – there has been no further progress with the painter who had volunteered for the job, so will need to get someone else to do it.

New Business:

Trustee Hill resignation – Hill said that he will contact the County Commissioners to withdraw his resignation, as he will continue to serve even though he will be out of the area for 3 months during the winter.

Trustee Strean's term expires in May 2023. He will be applying for another term as a candidate in the 2023 District Election.

Presentation of Claims and Bills: Jeremiassen presented the December bills for payment, as per the attached list. Hill moved to approve the payments as presented; seconded by Strean; carried unanimously.

Department Report:

November callouts – 7 callouts: 1 MVA and 6 medical assists (3 no responses).

Training – Chief Carr said he is still working on a training program.

Status of vehicles and equipment – First responder truck is running well after maintenance performed by RES, replacing plugs and throttle body injection unit. All other vehicles are in operational order.

Status of volunteers – no changes.

Department expenditure request – Carr is interested in purchasing a piercing nozzle, a tool for breaching metal and walls. Cost for a good model is \$943. No action taken.

Public Comment: The large community turnout was prompted by a notice posted on Facebook by Trustee Hill about the urgent need for volunteers to serve on the Board and in the Department. There ensued a long discussion between Trustees and the attending community

members about our history and current status. Although the District and Fire Department were rocked by problems more than 6 years ago, which severely undermined the trust and support of the community, we have come very far in trying to earn back that trust and support. We are in very good financial condition, and have significantly lowered the annual tax levy on District residents. But we still had not yet seen much interest in volunteering, so recruiting for both the Board and the Department are critical to our continuing operation. Questions were asked about the level of commitment required and what is the process to get involved. The subject of training new volunteers was discussed, and the importance of maintaining volunteer interest. Since the emergency responses handled by the Department are predominantly motor vehicle accidents and medical assists, rather than structure or other fires, training should focus on those areas.

Those interested in getting involved were invited to stay after the meeting to get more information and/or fill out a volunteer form.

As no further items were presented for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm

Submitted by Paul Jeremiassen, Secretary

Attachments:

December Bills for Payment

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 11th

**OLNEY FIRE DISTRICT
TRANSACTION REGISTER
FY 2022**

As Of 12/14/22

CLRD	CHECK #	DATE	PAID TO/RECEIVED FROM	CHK TOT	DEBIT	CREDIT	A/C CODE	CASH BAL	DESCRIPTION
X	RECEIPT	11/10/22	Flathead County			70.69	40	53,109.54	Interest on deposited funds
X	DEP05	11/15/22	Montana State Fund			106.37	1200	53,215.91	W/C insurance dividend
X	RECEIPT	11/30/22	Flathead County			4,426.06	60	57,641.97	Collected property taxes
	5463	12/14/22	CityServiceValcon		819.93		1300	56,822.04	Propane - 350.4 gals @\$2.34
	5464	12/14/22	Nelson's Ace Hardware		14.00		1000	56,808.04	Paint brush
	5465	12/14/22	Lincoln Electric		124.06		800	56,683.98	Prior month electricity
	5466	12/14/22	Response Equip Specialists		1,183.56		2000	55,500.42	First Responder - throttle unit, plugs, oil change
	5467	12/14/22	Visa	252.61	24.00		1100	55,476.42	Postage stamps
	5467	12/14/22	Visa		138.61		400	55,337.81	Materials for building storage bins for Wildland Truck
	5467	12/14/22	Visa		90.00		1600	55,247.81	Supscription fee for Active Alert phone app
	5468	12/14/22	CenturyLink		134.18		200	55,113.63	Prior month telephone/internet
	5469	12/14/22	Montana State Fund		49.80		1200	55,063.83	Installment billing for W/C Insurance