

MINUTES SOMERS RURAL FIRE DISTRICT APRIL 2022

ATTENDEES: Chelsey Spence, Dan Vachal, Cardi Chmielewski, and Beth Dotson

STAFF ATTENDEES: RT Kienas and Tom Havens

VISITORS: None

ABSENT: Dave Hayes, Rick Kinkel

Meeting called to order at 6:14 pm by Cardi Chmielewski

Chelsey Spence motioned to approve the minutes for the April 12, 2022 Board Meeting, Dan Vachal seconded, and motion carried.

The Earphone Coil Cord Kit ordered from Bullitt is being returned – do not pay. DCS continues to bill for relocating the cameras; they still are not working. Also, a question was raised regarding the \$400 for the doorbell. This should be covered under warranty. Dan Vachal motioned to approve April 12, 2022 amended bills for 7202 in the amount of \$13,253.14. Chelsey Spence seconded, and motion carried.

Chelsey Spence motioned to approve April bills for 7265 in the amount of \$5,134.16. Dan Vachal seconded, and motion carried.

1. Beth Report

- a. The credit card in Bill Brass' name was refunded 74.99; balance is now \$0.00.
- b. Note to minutes regarding signatory authority – Section IV, Article 1, Paragraph A of the current By-Laws states "...If the Chairman is not present at the meeting, then the Vice-Chairman shall take over the duties of the Chairman" and Section VI, Article 1 of the current By-Laws states "...The secretary, Chairman, and Vice-Chairman have the power to pay all bills upon approval of the Trustees in the amount of the approved budget."

2. Old business

- a. Internet Access – SRFD will continue with Montana Sky.
- b. Fuel Cards (WEX) – account has been set up. Need to modify how the trucks/drivers are tracked. Cardi Chmielewski/Tom Havens will follow-up. Secretary will continue to get on-line account access.
- c. Land Purchase – County Attorney's office was contacted to ensure all protocols were being followed. Further discussion tabled until next meeting.
- d. Audit – tabled until next meeting
- e. NorthWestern Energy Grant – Rick Kinkel following up. Tabled until next meeting.

3. New Business

- a. Title Insurance on old building sale – Jasmine will forward to title company when documents are in order.
- b. Insurance Renewal – Tom Havens will provide list of drivers.
- c. Generator Service (three-year contract) – tabled until next meeting.
- d. Chief Position – Dan Vachal made a motion to extend the Chief's position to a two (2) year term, Chelsey Spence seconded, and motion carried. Position starts February 1, 2023.

4. Fire Chief's update

- a. Calls - 68 calls.
- b. Montana Elks presented check for \$1676.00 to be used for suits.
- c. Wildland DNRC Grant – grant is for tools, equipment, etc. Grant requires a 10% match.
- d. On April 26, fire volunteers will meet with a lawyer regarding District Court lawsuit on a suspicious fire. All records have been turned over to the insurance company. Insurance company is being counter-sued. A recommendation was made that the County Attorney be contacted prior to meeting.
- e. RT Kienas is working on a Fire House grant; they requested financial information. The 2020 Audit was provided.

Board Member comments:

- a. Turnouts (gear) went up 20%.

Meeting adjourned 7:02_pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Beth Dotson
SRFD Secretary