

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area

Public Meeting

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area Board of Trustees

Date: Thursday, January 18, 2024

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Fort Ellis Fire Department, 3041 Bozeman Trail RD.

Officers Present:

President Todd Kaiser, Vice President Norbert Hackl, Gerald Groggel (Zoom)

Trustees Present

Dan LaFrance, Graham Goff

Chief Present

Chief Frank Boynton

Guests/Public

Bookkeeper Nikki Langford

Public

No public comments.

Call to Order 7:06

Consent Agenda

Secretary Report

The minutes from the December 2023 board meeting were issued via email and each Board member acknowledged receipt. Graham made a motion to approve. No public comment. Norbert seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report

The November & December 2023 YTD financial reports were issued via email and presented at the meeting. Graham made a motion to approve the financial reports. No public Comment.

Nikki reported on the financial reports.

Discussion on the Intercap draw.

One payment will be made next month to R&R. Will come out of the retainage and Building Reserve account.

Norbert reported on the R&R retainage balance. Will keep what's left for the landscaping in the spring.

Discussion on remaining payment to go to the contractor. Will come from the Building Reserve Account.

Nikki hasn't received the statement from the County yet. Expecting it soon.

Norbert reported on the new station budget and what will be left if other needs should arise.

Check to be signed tonight for the First Security loan payment. Nikki will talk to the bank to see how they prefer payment.

Discussion on the interest rate going up on the InterCap loan. The forecast is about a 3% increase.

Norbert discussed more on R&R Taylor retainage and how it will get billed out.

Discussion on the well.

Regular Agenda

Review Annual Events Calendar- January

Property and vehicle insurance- in the works

Feb 8th ISO audit scheduled

Chief's Report

FCC license renewed.

EMS License renewed.

Fire sprinkler inspections. More discussion on how this will work with the County requirements and covenants.

Discussion on liability and having an engineer inspection.

Transitioning to First Due.

No progress with the downspouts and the drainage from the roof. Graham will check on the downspouts and alternatives.

Discussion on the issues that have come up with the new station with the cold weather.

We're completely out of the old station. Danielle to print out a copy of the signed resolution for Norbert. The treasurer will need a copy of the letter to discuss the fee assessment. Need to investigate the original contracts.

Radios- getting close to the MT state grant purchase.

DNRC grant for wildland PPE is complete on our end and is ready for submission.

Discussion on Engine having minor mechanical issues and costs..

The air filtration system is almost up and will schedule full system testing and training. Discussion on how it works, and additional costs involved.

Continuing to work on the quote to increase the firefighter accident insurance.

EMS inspection completed. It was recommended that we purchase suction devices. Frank will look for a grant and get a quote.

ISO audit February 8th for property insurance.

Need to update the vehicle acquisition strategy. Will be scoping a new Engine and will update the 5-year review with that being the priority.

After the truck, Frank wants to update the overall strategic plan for the department. Discussion on emergency transport within the Bozeman area.

ICS400 was completed by Buck and Frank.

Nothing to report about the donor wall competition. Still in contact with MSU.

Met with Gallatin County Sheriff and have invited deputies to use our station as a resource. Their closest station is now in Four Corners.

Firefighter's fund has been set up.

Personnel and compliance discussion.

Cost recovery initiative- nothing to report.

Update on Capitol Campaign- Frank

14 grant opportunities available with \$1,250,000 possible in funds.

Vehicle acquisition discussion.

The computer server and computer stations are in the works. Danielle is moving the files.

Guest Wi-Fi is set up.

Discussion on getting insight from other fire departments for a new Engine.

Discussion on the County Commission and loan guarantees and funding options. Buck will talk with Jim Door, the County Finance Director, to find out more.

Buck and Frank are working on a new department organization plan.

Discussion on building maintenance.

Discussion on development of an annual comprehensive maintenance plan and emergency plans.

Discussion on EMS transport.

Call Report for January 2024:

2024 calls so far at 19 with cold temps.

Training/Members Report:

Nothing to report.

Subdivision Activity:

Nothing to report.

Public Service Outreach Activities:

Nothing to report.

SOG's:

Nothing to report.

Gallatin County Fire Council Activities:

Nothing to report.

Old Business

Audit discussion with Nikki.

Frank and Danielle will contact Gerry to get that scheduled.

Discussion on FEMA grant for the PPE.

Discussion on the process for the Engine grant.

New Business

Norbert reported on the Long-Range planning meeting this morning for the truck acquisition. Matt, Buck, Norbert, Frank, and Graham attended. Norbert is requesting one Special Board meeting per year with the Board, Chief and Assistant Chief.

Discussion on getting an inventory of the committees and review the reports from each committee.

The Strategic Planning Special Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6th at 7:00pm to discuss the 5-year plan.

The EMT refresher is scheduled for February 15th. Discussion about moving the Board meeting to Monday, February 12th @ 7:30pm. Danielle will send out reminders.

Discussion on rolling funds into a CD. Graham will check on this at First interstate to start with.

Frank reported on his vehicle plan.

More discussion on the vehicle reserve and funds in the next 3 to 6 months. Graham will let the Board know what he finds out.

Norbert made a motion to authorize Graham to move \$600,000 in a CD with a duration of up to 6 months. No public comment. Graham seconded. Motion approved.

Norbert and Graham will work together to move the funds and Norbert will get some old signers off the bank account. Discussion on removal of past members from the account.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:03 pm

Next board meeting Monday, February 12, 2024 @ 7:30 pm at the station with the option to join via zoom. A Zoom link will be added to the website for Public Comments, and all are free to join in person as well.

Certified by: _____

Date: _____