

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area

Public Meeting

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area Board of Trustees

Date: Monday, February 12, 2024

Time: 6:30 PM

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

Officers Present:

President Todd Kaiser, Gerald Groggel

Trustees Present

Graham Goff

Chief Present

Chief Frank Boynton

Guests/Public

Bookkeeper Nikki Langford, Matt McCalla

Public

No public comments.

Call to Order 6:31

Consent Agenda

Secretary Report

The minutes from the January 2024 board meeting were issued via email and each Board member acknowledged receipt. Gerry made a motion to approve. No public comment. Graham seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report

The January 2024 YTD financial report was issued via email and presented at the meeting. Gerry made a motion to approve the financial reports. Graham seconded. No public Comment. Motion approved.

Tax money came in from the County account. This was from November's property taxes. Nikki will check to see if it reflects the increase.

Discussion on loan payments and the Building Reserve. Discussion on the balances and the Operating Reserve.

Discussion about some line items in his budget.

Discussion on putting funds into CD's.

Discussion on the Intercap loan until the interest rate changes.

Discussion on the audit update. The accountant has asked for an extension.

Regular Agenda

Review Events Calander for February-
Insurance evaluation for property and vehicles- still working on this.

Chief's Report

Discussion on approvals for new construction and sprinkler inspections.

Discussion on the water at the station.

Discussion on the down spout- nothing new to report. Graham will reach back out to the architects.

Handheld radios are here and ready to issue. The DOT donated radios are in the works.

DNRC grant has been completed and we're just waiting for reimbursement.

S1-4 is in the shop for repair.

The air filtration system is complete and we're in the process of getting an estimate for the trucks.

Investigating County support for purchasing an engine or other apparatuses.

Discussion on getting legal help from the County Commission to become a district. Need to start the process. Discussion on the multi-step process; petition for ballot, vote from residents to become district, and a vote for the funding.

ISO inspection process reported from Frank. Will take a few months to get back the results.

Insurance claim discussion.

Discussion on retiring firefighters.

Call Report

34 so far for 2024

Last year 260 total

Discussion on rookies' status for response.

Discussion on the funding and design competition for the donor wall. Starting the process.

Auxiliary discussion. Some firefighters will transition.

Gallatin County Sheriff deputies will use our meeting room for some of their Sergeant's meetings.

Discussion and update on the Firefighter Social fund.

Personnel files- will get that going.

FEMA AFG grant prep is starting. Will submit the end of March.

Discussion on the vehicle acquisition strategy and updating our trucks. Will be selling C1-71 to a resident in the FSA.

Frank reported on the NFPA standards for retiring apparatus.

Matt reported his team's research on finding a new engine, along with the process and time required for a build. He discussed the financial piece of the project.

Discussion on how other Montana fire departments are shifting to an apparatus that can fight fires and can be used for rescue.

Discussion on the financial challenges with the costs going up significantly.

Discussion on three brands that they are looking at along with completion times.

Discussion on interest rates and ordering.

Discussion on different strategies for the build.

Discussion on purchasing a used fire apparatus until ours is built.

Discussion on a program to rent a used truck until our truck gets built.

Service discussion and pursuing the AFG grant.

Would like to order a truck by mid-summer.

Old engine will go into reserve status and be used as a second engine. Frank investigated used 4-wheel drive trucks. Not many with the appropriate tank size available.

Discussion on required down payments for each vendor.

Will investigate the customization and have discussions with surrounding fire departments.

Discussion on the price difference versus what we need.

Discussion on customization.

Discussion on the vendors and price. Should be very close.

Next engine will probably be a type 3 Engine with a 500-gallon tank and replace Rescue with a smaller engine.

Discussion on a department restructuring and breaking up the department responsibilities.

Discussion on the Montana requirements with the annual physicals.

Discussion on community support from Gallatin County Emergency Management who are wanting to partner with HOA officers for wildland mitigation on properties within the FSA.

Discussion on an engineering firm for the sprinkler system inspections. Norbert will work on this.

Need to purchase holsters to fit the new radios.

Need new flashlights for the trucks. Will buy one where we can reuse the chargers we already have.

Norbert reported starting a 7-month at CD at First Interstate Bank.

Discussion on a second 4-month CD.

Discussion on Intercap loan and the payments and interest.

Will continue with the second CD. Next meeting will make a decision on the Intercap adjustment. The Board will table this discussion until next month.

Discussion about the building.

Discussion on the retainage and what is left to pay R&R Taylor.

Discussion on the budget and donations.

Discussion on shades for the training room and other needs for the building.

Water and well discussion. Still pulling a lot of sediment.

Discussion on the solution to drill another well. Diamond M is generously donating another well.

Central Plumbing has been helping us get by until we get another well drilled.

Discussion on billing and costs associated with this.

Discussion on gutter solutions from the roof drainage.

New Business

None

Meeting Adjourned at 7:41 pm

Next board meeting Friday, March 22, 2024 @ 7:00 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: _____

