

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area

Public Meeting

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area Board of Trustees

Date: Thursday, May 18, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Fort Ellis Fire Department

Officers Present:

President Todd Kaiser, Vice President Norbert Hackl, Treasurer Gerald Groggel

Trustees Present

Graham Goff, Dan La France

Chief Present

Chief Mike Cech

Guests/Public

Ben Kauffman

Meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

Public Comment

No public comments.

Consent Agenda

Secretary Report

The minutes from the April Board meeting were issued via email and each Board member acknowledged receipt. No public comment. Graham made a motion to approve the minutes for the Fire Service Area. Norbert seconded. Motion carried.

Financial Report

The April 2023 YTD financial report was issued via email and presented at the meeting. No public comment. Gerry moved to approve the Financial Report for the Fire Service Area. Norbert seconded. Motion Carried.

Discussion on the pay requests.

Discussion on the First Interstate loan and expenses. The last draw will be on June 1st.

Ben reported that the pay request from Intercap has not been received. Once it shows up, it will go into the Building Reserve Account.

Discussion on pay requests to Intercap to finish the project.

Discussion with Bill at R&R Taylor on the previous change order requests.

Discussion on the sheet on the shared Google Drive for the Board Members. Everyone can pull it up and review at any time.

Discussion on the total approved change orders and contingency.

Discussion on the well. After speaking with the engineer, he thinks it will be enough for the cistern and to run the station. Discussion on lowering the cost and finish this up.

Discussion on concrete versus fiberglass water tanks.

Discussion on the water line and the permit modification for the drain field to show the new location of the well.

Discussion on the contingency going to the State.

Discussion on the final invoice for the structural engineer.

Discussion on the Construction Admin. Invoice.

We are more than halfway through the project.

Discussion on payment to the architect.

Discussion on budgeting \$40,000 for the furniture and miscellaneous items. The Board agrees to go ahead and place the order for the furniture. Mike will sign up for the co-op.

Graham would like to see a final proposal from the furniture company. Mike will ask Deana to get that to the Board for view.

Norbert made a motion to approve \$40,000 or less for the furniture for the fire station including: chairs and office furniture for the open office and two enclosed offices, and tables with chairs for the training room. No public comment. Graham seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion on the timeline for taxes from the County.

Regular Agenda

Review Annual Events Calendar- May
Workers Compensation is done.

23/24 Budget review & approval with Fee Increase

Mike discussed how the budget would look with the fee increase from \$400- \$650.

Discussion on expenses and inflation and funds going into the Reserve accounts. Without an additional fee increase, we wouldn't be able to add anything to the reserve accounts.

Discussion on the fee increase and if it is enough now. More discussion on a fee reassessment in two years.

Discussion on the purchase of a new engine and the reserves. Discussion on the down payment and what we have in the reserves versus what is needed.

Discussion on fiscal year '23,'24,'25 monetary additions to the Apparatus Reserve.

Discussion on the years without fee increases and recent fee increases.

Discussion on an inquiry to the County Assessor's Office comparing our fees with other districts.

Discussion on the new station insurance. Mike got a quote for the new station.

Discussion on the expenses for contracts, training, and professional services.

Discussion on the Intercap loan and interest.

Discussion on the radios coming out of the Other Capital reserve account.

Discussion on how the radios are working with the new switchover and with the old radios. Mike is working to get a tech out to get the new radios installed in the trucks.

Discussion on a down payment for a new engine.

Discussion on getting on the County Commissions agenda for August and presenting to them.

Gerry made a motion to approve the 23/24 budget. No public comment. Norbert seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion on advertising the fee increase.

The budget was signed by the Board. Mike will send out a copy to the Board Members.

Norbert reported on the fee audit. The results will be sent to the Treasury. Norbert will get that started.

Discussion on the check to R&R Taylor and what is included in the amount.

Graham reported on the progress of the new station. Finishing up on the electrical and the glass arrived today. Will start window installation next week.

Discussion on Park Electric work to be done. Mike will reach out to them and find out when they can come out.

Discussion on drywall and insulation.

Discussion on the alarm company. They are approved to go ahead. Graham will talk to Bill about the alarm installation.

Discussion on the emails on the sign design. The sign will include a light fixture, which will shine down on it.

Discussion on the need for a change order for seven miscellaneous items. This will be presented in the next meeting. Will know the costs within the week.

Discussion on underground propane tanks.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Capitol Campaign Report by Mike Cech

Vanessa sent an email update for the Board to review earlier in the day.

Give Big donations came to \$11,263.

Grants

Waiting on BNSF, Metcalf Foundation, MTFE, FEMA, and Town Pump.

Discussion on the Capitol Campaign. They could be more engaged in funding above and beyond the Capitol Campaign later also.

Discussion on the Bannack budget. Gerry and Graham will meet with Bannack and report back at the next meeting.

Call Report for April 2023:

Total Monthly Calls- 20

Last Year- 34

YTD Total Calls 104 - Last year 99

Long Range Planning Committee:

Discussion on the vehicle replacement plan. Mike sent a report to the Board for review.

Training/Members Report:

EMS- a LUCAS device was donated to us from Bozeman Health. Practiced with an Ambulance crew. Will do it again next Tuesday.

Subdivision Activity:

Sandhill subdivision discussion.

New subdivision by Arnica discussion.

Painted hills fill site discussion.

Personnel Committee:

Nothing to report.

Public Service Outreach Activities:

Nothing to report.

Gallatin County Fire Council Activities:

Nothing to report.

Update on New Recruits:

Doing great. We have started to work on identifying a couple of possible recruits. They joined in on last Tuesday's training.

Chief Retirement

Mike announced his retirement as the Chief. Frank Boynton has stepped up and will begin transitioning between now and Thanksgiving. Mike will mentor and be available during this process. Mike will stay on as a firefighter and help where it is needed going forward. He would like to make the announcement at next Tuesday's training and will take a vote with the firefighters.

The Board thanks Chief Mike Cech for his 13 years of service to the Fort Ellis Fire Service Area.

Outreach Update

Nothing new.

Old Business

None

New Business

Norbert discussed the living quarters for phase 2 and the prospect of going ahead and starting construction.

Discussion on having to turn away prospective firefighters due to not having a live-in program.

Discussion on building 6 dorm rooms for college students and having older firefighters sign up to be there for a few shifts per month.

Discussion on Fort Ellis and mutual aid with Bozeman Fire.

Discussion on having a low recruiting year. Norbert is asking the Board to consider building the live in space while we're doing the construction. Todd suggests getting into the new station and discussing this in a year or two.

The Board doesn't think this is the time with the budget and taking on more expenses.

Discussion on the Intercap interest and permits.

Discussion on early planning on phase 2 design and discussion timetable.

Graham will be absent from the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:42 pm

Next board meeting Wednesday, June 21, 2023 @ 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: _____