

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area

Public Meeting

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area Board of Trustees

Date: Thursday, July 13, 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 LaFrance

Chief Present

Chief Mike Cech (via Zoom), Assistant Chief Frank Boynton

Guests/Public

Lola Dunmire & Ben Kauffman (via Zoom), Vanessa Skelton (via Zoom)

Call to Order 7:06 p.m.

Public Comment

No public or comment in person or via. Zoom.

Consent Agenda

Secretary Report

The minutes from the June Board meeting were issued via email and each Board member acknowledged receipt. No public comment online or in the in-person meeting. Norbert made a motion to approve last month's minutes. Gerry seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report

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

Lola and Ben reported on the transfers made.

Lola went over the P&L's and the Work in Progress for the new station.

There was discussion on the transfer from the sale of the old Brush truck.

Norbert made a motion to move \$35,000 from the General Fund to the Vehicle Reserve account. Gerry seconded. No public comment. Motion carried.

Discussion on the June tax numbers.

There was more discussion on the reserve accounts. Lola and Ben discussed the transfers and adjustments for the Operating accounts.

Once they get the report from the County, they will create a Final End of Year report that will be presented at the next Board meeting for a vote.

The Board signed the check for R&R Taylor.

Discussion on the Balance Sheet.

Lola proposed that Ben be our primary bookkeeper with Lola trying to move into retirement. The cost would be the same and Ben would bill as his own business. The Board agrees. Lola can still be available for anything, if needed.

Ben will attend the meetings and Lola will only attend if invited.

Regular Agenda

Review Annual Events Calendar- July

Working on newsletter for publishing in July. We want to get it published as soon as possible.

After the Resolution is signed tonight, Mike will send it to Kate, who will get it to Justine Swanson and then we can get on the schedule.

Waiting for a set date on the picnic so we can have it at the new station.

Discussion and Decision on Fee Increase for FSA from \$400 to \$650

There was a discussion on the Resolution for the fee increase from \$400 to \$650. The Resolution and the signed Budget for fiscal year 2023/2024 was presented to the Board. If the Board agrees to go ahead with the fee increase, the Resolution will be signed tonight.

Gerry made a motion to go ahead with the fee increase to \$650. Norbert seconded. No public comment in-person or via Zoom. The motion was approved with a 5-0 vote.

The Resolution was then signed by the Board members.

CHIEF'S REPORT

Matters for the Board

Capitol Campaign Report by Vanessa Skelton:

\$985,562 donated and pledged.

We're waiting for a prospective gift to maybe get us over 1 million.

Working on a prospect for possible education or training.

Murdoch LOI ready to submit. It may be out of our funding area, but they will apply anyway. Could ask for an In-kind donation. Vanessa had a call with them regarding the project. An air filtration system could be a good donation.

Mike ordered the lockers for the station, and he will forward the quote for the filtration system to Vanessa.

Grants:

FEMA- pending for emergency equipment.

RFC- resubmitted for equipment.

Town Pump-submitted.

Applied for an EMS grant for truck mounted radios.

Capitol campaign winddown strategies.

Buy a Brick campaign- had to increase the price of the bricks due to size. Discussion on what was spent so far out of the approved budget. Will be getting a refund from Townsquare Media.

Discussion on the brick pathway around the flagpole with a bench to celebrate the end of the Campaign.

Want to start selling as soon as possible through September and sell at the picnic as well.

Discussion on the installation in October.

Discussion on the cost installation with R&R Taylor and Hennebery Eddy. Will need an estimate, but Graham estimated the total with install. The Board thinks we should go ahead.

Vanessa shared the design with the Board.

Norbert made a motion to move forward with the Buy a Brick Campaign with the bricks and pavers installed. No public comment. Gerry seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion on the landscaping. This is separate from the Blanchford Landscaping cost. Maybe a good donation.

Will include the Brick Campaign in the newsletter and get the information out to the firefighters. The cost is \$250 per brick.

Discussion on an Audio/Video system is being donated to the new station.

Call Report for June 2023:

Total Monthly Calls- 20

Last Year- 21

YTD Total Calls- 142

Last year- 140

Long Range Planning Committee:

Graham discussed the new sign for the station. He passed the estimate around for the Board to view and will send it to Mike also.

Norbert reported that the building is moving along nicely- drywall is going in now.

We're behind schedule on civil site work. The contractor has not started due to the water collection behind the station.

Now that the back has dried out, the projected start date on the site work is July 25th or 27th, with 4 weeks of work projected. The hole will be filled in and compacted.

Norbert discussed the filling process with concrete and asphalt. We were able to save money due to the change in the cisterns from fiberglass to concrete.

Discussion on the savings for waiting on the site to dry instead of pumping it out.

The station is still on track to be completed in the middle of August with cite work being completed around the end of August.

The driveway will be ready 2-3 days after the asphalt is down to drive on. The concrete aprons will hopefully be poured sooner with 7-10 days to cure.

Mike talked with Park Electric, and they will need to wait until the fill is in so they can run a line from road to the transformer location.

Once the transformer is in, they will tie into our metered location. We will need to discuss with Bill and Ethan to do that first.

Frank asked about our noxious weed-plan.

Chairs and office furniture ordered. Mike ordered 47 lockers to be delivered to the new station address. It will be below the estimated cost.

Norbert reported his findings to the Board on the Building finances.

Discussion on what's in the Building Reserve account, as well as the Foundation and the Corp. We will need \$2.3 million to finish the project. With the Intercap loan, we may be able to make it without another draw from Intercap with a high interest rate.

Discussion on a couple of large bills coming up with the dirt work starting.

Discussion on the radio antenna mount. Dunn communications will install it on the roof.

Norbert is working on getting a proposal for mailbox installation from the contractor. We can purchase the mailbox separately. Graham will come up with some options and will coordinate with Bill on the radio and mailbox.

Training/Members Report:

Wildland training- working on drafting and hose-lay.
Still Integrating EMS and structure training as well.

Subdivision Activity:

Nothing to report.

Public Service Outreach Activities:

Nothing to report.

Gallatin County Fire Council Activities:

Nothing to report.

Update on New Recruits:

Doing fine.
Buck is working on a recruit drive for next year.

Outreach Update”

Nothing new.

Old Business

Mike brought up the previous discussion from last July on the benefit for firefighter calls and training since we’re at the end of the fiscal year.

Mike wanted to confirm that the Board still supports this. The Board has previously approved this and will honor their decision.

There was discussion on having a fund for events for the firefighters going forward.

Danielle and Ben will get the checks ready for next Board meeting for signature.

More discussion on the Budget next year.

Mike and Frank will discuss how they want to implement it.

Frank suggested putting some bylaws together.

New Business

Nothing.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:01 pm

Next board meeting Thursday, August 17, 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: _____