

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area

Public Meeting

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area Board of Trustees

Date: Thursday, September 21, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Fort Ellis Fire Department

Officers Present:

President Todd Kaiser, Treasurer Gerald Groggel

Trustees Present

Graham Goff, Dan LaFrance

Chief Present

Chief Mike Cech, Assistant Chief Frank Boynton

Guests/Public

Vanessa Skelton (via Zoom), Nikki Langford

Public

No public comment

Call to Order 7:28

Consent Agenda

Secretary Report

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

Financial Report

The August 2023 YTD financial report was issued via email and presented at the meeting. No public comment. Gerry made a motion to approve the financial report. Dan Seconded. Motion carried.

Discussion on the need for another draw from Intercap.

Discussion on funds, sending and signing the R&R Taylor check.

Regular Agenda

Review Annual Events Calendar

VFCA- Done.

Start review of workers comp supplement insurance. Mike will fill out the report and Gerry will keep track going forward.

Discussion on Nikki Langford- references check discussion and introduction to the Board.

Discussion on the Corporation and vacating the 501(c) 4.

Discussion on attendance and the expectations of the Board.

Discussion on Bill.com training and transactions per month.

Discussion on residential units and how we make income.

Discussion on the meetings and the financial statements.

Discussion on setting up a system for transfer confirmations.

Discussion on her fee and availability.

Discussion on an audit.

Discussion on an accountant for audit prep. Kate will find out the timeline.

Discussion on hiring Nikki to be the bookkeeper and the transition period.

Gerry made a motion to hire Nikki Langford for the bookkeeping position. No public comment. Dan seconded. The motion was unanimous.

Discussion on Nikki starting in October and the transition. Mike will contact Ben and Lola.

Gerry will contact Nikki.

The Board will table the discussion on the audit until next month to allow for the bookkeeper transition.

Chief's Report

Update on Capitol Campaign- 6:59-7:22

Vanessa reported on the funds raised so far being \$2,800 shy of 1 million. She is looking at other gift potential.

FEMA grant is still pending.

DNRC grant is pending.

Bannack campaign summary and discussion on percentage given by the residents. Vanessa will look into this and report to the Board.

Vanessa will be sending links and attachments of all documents pertaining to the campaign to Mike and Danielle.

Discussion on accomplishments and challenges of the campaign.

Discussion on the lack of Federal funding for I-90.

Picnic success discussion.

Give Big events and funds raised.

Discussion on partnerships with media.

They were able to identify some key data components that will continue to benefit Fort Ellis for grant preparation.

Bannack was able to secure a donation from Montana Firefighters Fund.

They were able to get our story out to the community with a better understanding of what our needs are.

Due to the median income being high in our service area, we were unable to receive some funding.

Discussion on obstacles with messaging.

Challenges with funding and not owning the land the station is built on.

Discussion on the Brick Sales and wrapping up at the picnic or going more public with it. Looking into the landscaping around the flagpole with the bricks.

Discussion on the donor wall design. Vanessa is waiting to hear back from Quinn from Hennebery Eddy and Andy Blanchford of Blanchford Landscape Group.

Ben has offered to construct the sign and install it as a donation. It will go to Signs of Montana to be engraved.

Vanessa will reach out to Ben on in-kind donations made from Hennebery Eddie. Other in-kind donors include Norbert Hackl, John Stikes, SAV Digital Environments, Diamond M Drilling, Blanchford Landscaping Group. Vanessa asked the Board to send her info on all other in-kind donations made so they can be recognized.

Vanessa and will check in with Bill on the Bricks for the flagpole. Graham will check on the construction process.

Discussion on the payment and any possible donations from Signs of Montana. Vanessa will follow up with them.

Discussion on the pledges and follow-up assignments to the Committee.

Call Report for August 2023:

Total Monthly Calls- 27

Last Year- 25

YTD Total Calls 188 - Last year 188

Seeing more MVA's so far this year.

Long Range Planning Committee:

Graham reported on the new station. Electricians are working and waiting to get the propane tanks filled.

Ethan is working to get everything cleared for the picnic and Bill is working on getting stripes down in the parking lot.

Working on irrigation landscaping.

Discussion on areas in the yard and marking with caution tape prior to the picnic.

The refrigerator will be moved Tuesday night and porta potties are ordered.

The Board needs to decide on the blinds for the training room. KO has gotten bids.

Discussion on The Blind Guy's bid for offices and training room. He can install in 4 weeks. The board will table the discussion for a month and discuss further.

Mike ordered the exhaust system. No installation date yet.

Lockers are getting put together today.

Discussion on the fire suppression system.

Possession date discussion.

Danielle will order a mailbox.

Training/Members Report:

EMS and Structure Fire training along with moving into the new station.

Subdivision Activity:

Nothing to report.

Public Service Outreach Activities:

Nothing to report.

Gallatin County Fire Council Activities:

Frank reported on the EMS research firm.

Mike has ordered 9 mobile radios to replace the unprogrammable ones we have.

There is a 3rd Medivac operator in the valley operating out of Big Sky.

Big Sky homeowner's insurance issues with WUI.

Update on New Recruits:

Still have the 2 and they're doing great.

Discussion on how many to bring on in January.

Outreach Update:

Nothing new.

Old Business

Will continue to use Bannack for grants writing and help with the pledges.

New Business

Discussion on bringing in volunteers, other than firefighters.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 pm

Next board meeting Thursday, October 19, 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: _____