

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area

Public Meeting

Fort Ellis Fire Service Area Board of Trustees

Date: Wednesday, August 2, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Fort Ellis Fire Department

Officers Present:

Vice President Norbert Hackl, Treasurer Gerald Groggel

Trustees Present

Graham Goff, Dan LaFrance

Chief Present

Chief Mike Cech, Assistant Chief Frank Boynton

Guests/Public

No one from the public attended.

Call to Order 7:06 p.m.

Public Comment

No public comments in person or via. Zoom

Consent Agenda

Review Gallatin County Meeting Held July 25, 2023.

Discussion on attendance at the County Commission meeting.

There was discussion on the fee increase being denied and the reasons for the Commission's decision.

Discussion on two letters sent to the Commission in opposition of the increase from the Liebscher-Anderson family and Henry Shovic. The letters were not shared with the Board prior to or during the County Commission meeting. Due to this, the Board couldn't address the points or concerns of the letters.

There was discussion on the fee increase and finishing the new fire station.

Discussion on the process that needs to take place to become a Fire District and the extra costs involved.

Discussion on having Board member elections and costs.

Discussion on showing the Commission our budget with and without the fee increase.

Discussion on safety and equipment.

Discussion on the fee audit, fundraising efforts, bridge loan, and interest rate on the main loan.

Discussion on the building loan if we were to transfer to a District and the possibility of needing to refinance.

Discussion on the upcoming Working Meeting with the County Commission and what needs to be addressed.

More discussion on safety and the need for up-to-date equipment.

Discussion on the purchase of the new Brush truck and Command truck.

More discussion on the Work Session, scheduled for August 14th at 8:30am.

Discussion on having Kate at the Commissioners meeting.

Discussion on having a new Resolution ready.

Discussion on public notice to be published in the Chronicle and in the newsletter. The newsletter will be published and mailed by the 10th.

The Board decided to have the Work Session on August 14th, move the Board meeting to that evening, and have the Resolution to the County on August 15th to get on the County Commissioner's agenda on the August 22nd.

Discussion on the Work Session and ask Kate about having a quorum.

More discussion on the building loan without a fee increase.

Discussion on the possible need for Engine replacement or repair.

Discussion on the Building Reserves with other upcoming expenses along with the apparatus replacement strategy.

Discussion on reserves for this year and beyond.

More discussion on the letters sent to the commission against the fee increase.

Discussion on where to send letters to the Commission.

Discussion on the Board staying with the \$250 increase.

Discussion on who will attend the next meeting.

Discussion on a Work meeting on Wed, Aug 9th at 7pm.

Norbert presented a report to the Board on the fire fees that were charged since 1996.

Discussion and comparison on a home with a value in the \$600,000 range and fees paid in nearby Service Areas in 2020 and 2022.

More discussion on the newsletter and the fee increase.

Discussion on what could happen to the Fort Ellis Fire Service Area without the fee increase.

Discussion on the fire laws sent from Kate for the Board to review.

Discussion on what needs to be discussed at the Commission Work Session. The work Session will be attended by Chief Mike Cech, Assistant Chief Frank Boynton, Board Vice President Norbert Hackl, and Board Treasurer Gerald Groggel on August 14th.

The Commission will be sending the Chief a letter.

Discussion on public comments with the Commission.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Meeting Adjourned at 8:22 pm

Next board meeting Monday, August 14, 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: _____