

Hebgen Basin Fire District
Board Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 1800 hrs.

Board Members Present: Ken Davis, Kyle Goltz, Mike Gavagan, John Costello, Skip Morris

Also in Attendance: Chief Grube, AC Jessop, Lindsey Charlton, Troy Hunter, Pierre Martineau, Jane Martineau, Deputy Matt Stubblefield, Will Polansky, Landon Zimmerman, Dan Sabolsky

Recorder of Minutes: Lindsey Charlton

Public Comment: Pierre Martineau, the chairman of the West Yellowstone Senior Center presented Chief and the crew with an appreciation plaque. The Crew has been delivering lunches for the meals on Wheels program on Wednesday and Fridays. Pierre thanks the board for allowing Fire District to help out the community during a time of need.

Approval of Minutes for June 09, 2020 Regular Board Meeting: John Costello motions to approve minutes as written. Mike Gavagan Seconded. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Approval of Minutes for June 30, 2020 Special Board Meeting: Mike Gavagan motions to approve minutes as written. Skip Morris Seconded. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Approve Claims/Deposits: Ken Davis motions to approve the claims as presented. Skip Morris Seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Chiefs report. See attached.

New Business

West Yellowstone Airport Year Round Request

Troy Hunter from Choice Aviation addresses the board and requests a letter of support for the Airport to be open for year round operations. Troy states that the project has been approved by the FAA but they would like to see a letter of support from different agencies in West Yellowstone. The Cares Act funding will help with infrastructure and operations but there will also be rental car revenue, lease agreements that will move to year round, and private donors to support year round operation for the next 5 years. Troy reports that Air Methods expressed an interest in seeing better plowed surfaces and having a fixed wing stationed onsite. John Costello asks about the tire testing that takes place at the airport in winter. Troy responds that the tire testing will be in violation of the FAA funding because the airport cannot sublease due to the grant qualifications. Chief asks Troy what the cost will be to maintain the airport year round. Troy states the annual budget is \$540,000.00 with 90% of funding coming from airline taxes and aviation sources. The acquisition of new snow removal equipment will be covered 90% by FAA. Skip Morris expresses concern for the Fire District submitting a letter since the District Board is not a planning Board. Skip recommends soliciting letter from Town or Chamber first. Dan Sabolsky comments that the Town Council has already discussed this subject based on letter that was sent to the Mayor. The Town of West Yellowstone will be endorsing this project providing the town will not be expected to support it financially. The Town will be having more meetings about this due to the Airport requesting to connect to Town sewer system. Mike Gavagan motions to submit a letter of support based on potential needs of the District with no limitations. No Second. Motion failed. Ken Davis motions for District to write a letter of support that details specifically how year round operations would benefit the District in future operations. Mike Gavagan Seconds. Motion passed 3-2(Skip Morris and John Costello voted nay).

Ambulance Write-off s from Collection Agency

Chief presented a list of ambulance write off that hit the 5 year mark and can no longer be collected through CB1 Collection agency. John Costello motions to approve write off of collections debt in the amount of 123,808.39. Skip Morris Seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

Resolution #202008-1

Resolution to Charge for Rescue/EMS calls on Forest Service Federal Entitlement Lands

Chief explains that there was two resolutions on agenda and the District's attorney suggested to merge them into one. The resolution Chief presented to Board is stating that the district is not obligated to respond to EMS calls located on federal lands unless requested. Chairman Goltz reads resolution out loud to the board then requested a discussion. Chairman Goltz states that Chief has done his diligence with commissioners and believes that this is what PILT funding was intended for. Chief explains that with this Resolution the District will be putting the County on notice that we will not respond to calls on Forest Service Entitlement Land unless requested and at time of request there will be a charge billed to the county. SAR calls currently make up only 8% of District calls. Will Polansky comments that he does not disagree with anything that has been said but the Districts business is a time sensitive business and adding another layer to the process by requiring a request to respond could cost lives. The 8% could be a local or a family member and often with many calls seconds matter. Mike Gavagan states that there would not be an additional layer to the SAR calls, the dispatch decision comes from the SAR coordinator who would be handling call from start to finish. Skip Morris motions to adopt resolution #202008-1 to Charge for Rescue/EMS calls on Forest Service Entitlement Lands. Ken Davis Seconded. Motion Passed 4-0. Mike Gavagan abstained from voting due to a conflict of interest.

VFIS Accident and Sickness Policy

Chief sent a copy of the policy out the board to review. After the death of a juvenile male within the community, Chief wanted to find more support for the staff. The new policy offers PTSD benefits, long term disability, accident on scene coverage and additional support for staff. The total per year would be \$5,383.00. Skip Morris requests to hear more about the policy and John Costello request the Chief have Chris from VFIS attend next board meeting. John Costello motions to table until next board meeting. Ken Davis Seconded. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Gallatin County Rescue Task Force Agreement

Chief reports to the Board that Gallatin County secured a grant to fund task force and we have received the ballistic vests and helmets. The Task Force Agreement will allow for District to assist when we have a severe incident in our area. Chief sent two crew members to training where they will have the skills to enter a warm zone to extract critical patients. Ken Davis motions to Approve Gallatin County Rescue Task Force Agreement. John Costello Seconded. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

YNP Contract Proposal Bid

Chief forwarded a 30 page proposal for bid from Yellowstone National Park to the board for review. The NPS is requiring Fire and ALS coverage 365 day per year available 24 hours a day, 7 days per week. The proposal also requests an hourly rate and states the maximum collectively for 5 years is \$265,000.00. Chief states that we can't determine an hourly rate when we cannot plan for how many hours the crew would be on scene, if it's a transport or non-transport call or even determine the nature of injury in advance. Kyle Goltz adds that the District cannot enter into a contract like this for \$52,000.00 per year. Chief asks for board approval to submit a bid for the proposal with requesting year 1-\$200,000.00, year 2-\$210,000.00, year 3-\$220,000.00 and so on for up to five years. Ken Davis motions to allow Chief to submit a bid for fire/Ems services as he has presented to the board. Mike Gavagan Seconds. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned: 7:43PM

Next meeting 8/11/20 at 6pm