

Hebgen Basin Fire District
Board Meeting Minutes
November 09, 2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm

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

Also in Attendance: Chief Grube, Lindsey Charlton, James Jessop, Carrie Egging, Kendall Carr, Tyrel Stoker, and Cassandra Mitchel

Recorder of Minutes: Lindsey Charlton

Approval of Minutes for October 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting: Mike Gavagan motions to approve minutes as written. Skip Morris Seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Approval of Claims/Deposits: Ken Davis motions to pay claims as presented. Skip Morris Seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Public comment

Cassandra Mitchell addressed the Board as President of Union. Cassandra states that 3 years ago Ethan McDowell came to the Board with issues he was having, ended up quitting the department and quitting firefighting as a whole because of the issues with Chief and department. Cassandra reports that the crew is in in crisis mode and they had sent letters to the board and have asked for it to be added at the agenda and it did not happen. The Board stated that it does not get involved in personnel matters and labor relations, but the Montana Code Annotated Section 7-33-2104, called "Operation of Fire Districts" states that the board should have five trustees to manage and govern the district and that includes managing Chief Grube. Cassandra states that the crew is not asking that the Board take sides, just take it seriously and face it head on. The staff feels that they are at a crisis mode with issues with chief, and they are asking that the Board acknowledge these items and add then to the agenda for next meeting. The crew request that the Board hears their side, then let chief state his side, and also ask the Board to appoint a third party to assess the climate and report back to Board. The mental health situation in this department is impacting the crew's job and they are asking the Board to take action and do it quickly.

Chief's Report: See attached.

Next regular meeting: 12/14 /2021 at 6pm.

Meeting adjourned: 6:21