

Hebgen Basin Fire District

Meeting Minutes

December 10, 2019

Meeting was called to order 1800

Board Members Present: Ken Davis, Gay McBirnie, Kyle Goltz, John Costello, Mike Gavagan

Also in Attendance: Chief Grube, AC Jessop, Lindsey Charlton, William Polansky, Brad Wittrock, Jeremy Gallagher

Recorder of Minutes: Lindsey Charlton

Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda: No public comment.

Approval of Minutes for November 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting: Ken Davis Approves Regular Board meeting minutes with grammatical errors corrected. Gay McBirnie Seconds. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Approve Claims/Deposits: Ken Davis motion to pay claims. Mike Gavagan Seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

Chief's Report: See attached.

New Business:

Update Volunteer Reimbursement Policy #133

Chief proposed making a change to the cell phone part of the Volunteer Reimbursement Policy # 133. The policy was initially created because data was charged for pages received and this helped cover the cost with volunteer personal phone bill. Volunteers that are enrolled in the Pay Per Call Program are receiving compensation and cell phone contracts are now unlimited. We do not pay for paid staff phones and so we should not pay for paid volunteer staff phones. We have one volunteer that cannot have a second job so he cannot take advantage of the Pay Per Call Program. The updated cell phone policy allows that type of volunteer to receive some kind of reimbursement for being on call. Ken Davis made a motion to adopt Update Volunteer Reimbursement Policy. John Costello seconds. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Update Ambulance Billing Policy #129

In February of 2017 Chief asked board to amend ambulance billing rates from \$850.00-BLS, and \$1000.00-ALS to \$1100.00-BLS and \$1400.00 ALS. This was when District was migrating to electronic system and rates were not updated as expected. Currently the district is behind comparable districts with billing rates. Big Sky charges in district resident rates and in district non-resident rates and out of district rates. Central Valley charges \$1000.00 for BLS and \$1250.00 for ALS. Big Sky has interfacility transfer rates so when a doctor says this person need to go by ambulance, Medicare pays more. Chief would like to increase ALS to \$1550.00, BLS to \$1150.00 and the mileage rate to \$20.00 per mile effective 01/01/2020. Chief would like residents to provide District with proof of residency to get a discount. Chief explained that there are many variables to consider such as Medicare, Medicaid, and private insurance patients. Chief reached out to District legal team to review and they responded that rate increase and discount is non-discriminatory. This change could potentially generate an extra \$50,000.00 in revenue. Mike Gavagan added that it seems fair for our billing policies to be comparable to Big Sky and Central Valley. Ken Davis states that the loaded mile rate seems high and this is something people already complain about.

Mike Gavagan made a motion to Update Ambulance Billing Policy #129. Ken Davis Seconds. All in favor. Motion Passed.

Resolution Calling for Trustee Election

This year the District received the paperwork before the board meeting. Board is required to do a resolution for open trustee position. Date of election will be May 5, 2020. Declaration of Candidacy must be returned by February 10, 2020. If we get more than one applicant for position then it will go to election. Mike Gavagan

made a motion to approve Resolution Calling for Trustee Election. Gay McBirnie Seconds. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Appointment of Trustees to CBA Negotiating Team

On June 30,2020 the current contract with union expires and Chief would like to start negotiations early to reach agreement before it expires. The District will need two board members to participate. Mike Gavagan recommends that the board chair should be on that panel. Ken Davis stated if the negotiation process extends into summer he will not be available. Mike Gavagan and Kyle Goltz both volunteer to represent the District for the negotiation team. Ken Davis recommends that the local should have two constant faces through the whole process to help make negotiations consistent. Kyle asks local members present if they have made a decision on who will be taking part in negotiations. Jeremy responded that they sent a few members to some training and they have not decided who will be in the negotiations. Kyle asks that when the local decides to let the board know as they would prefer to get ball rolling by February.

Ken Davis made a motion to appoint Mike Gavagan and Kyle Goltz to the negotiation team to represent District. John Costello seconds. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

Next meeting 01/13/2020 Monday at 6 pm

Meeting adjourned: 18:53