

# Hebgen Basin Fire District

## Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2019

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Meeting was called to order at 1801 hrs.

**Board Members Present:** Ken Davis, Gay Mc Birnie, Kyle Goltz, Mike Gavagan

**Also in Attendance:** Chief Grube, AC Jessop, Lindsey Charlton, Ethan McDowell, Jeremy Gallagher, Cassandra Mitchell, Tyrel Stoker, Mikee Stoker, James, Mc Birnie, Carrie Egging, Landon Zimmerman, Will Polansky, Ryan Linhart, Katie Moen, Katie Ostberg, Jason Gras

**Recorder of Minutes:** Lindsey Charlton

**Public Comment for Items Not on Agenda:**

Carrie Egging addresses the board to make them aware of issues the crew feels is not getting resolved with Chief. A letter written by Ethan McDowell explaining his resignation from Local Union president was read out loud to board. McDowell has expressed he experienced health related issues and lack of sleep due to stress from Chief and board negotiations. Second issue Egging presented to board was the FireFighter1 certifications being Part of crew's employment, terms require that they must complete the Firefighter1 training within 6 months of hire date. The books have been completed by crew but now sitting in Chief's office waiting for his signature. Egging states that books must be completed and submitted to the state within 9 months after the first evolution signature. Once the book is completed by crew members, it then must be signed by Chief or Assistant Chief and mailed to main training office with the state to allow crew member to receive certification. Egging presented timeline of book completion to the time it was turned in to Chief for herself, Will Polansky and Ethan McDowell. All books were turned in to Chief in September and he has not completed his portion. Egging also shares that Ethan McDowell's original book has gone missing and he is now working on filling out a second one. Crew has sent several emails to Chief about the status of submitting their books and he has not responded. Board responds by asking Chief why Ethan's book went missing, why they are not signed and if there is a deadline to submit them to the State. Chief explains the books require approximately 500 signatures and it takes a while to go through and verify all tasks have been completed. Chief asked Ethan About his Book as he never received the first copy and is aware Ethan is currently filling out a second book. Chief states he has been working on Carrie and Will's books and they can still be turned in and accepted by the state. Cassandra Mitchel comments that she had to redo her book 3 times before it was sent in and she had to address it with Chief Waldron several times before she saw results.

Ken Davis responds that if the district has set conditions for employment and the crew is meeting them by time frame required then we need to make sure the district is holding up our end. Gay Mc Birnie requests that the Chief send out a confirmation email to board when books are signed and mailed.

**Approval of Minutes for February 12, 2019 Regular Board Meeting:** Ken Davis made a motion to approve minutes as written. Gay Mc Birnie seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

**Approve Claims/Deposits:** Ken Davis made a motion to approve the claims as presented. Mike Gavagan Seconded. All in Favor. Motion passed.

**Chief's Report:** See attached.

**New Business:****Ambulance Write-offs**

Chief Presented a list of Write offs to board in the amount of \$55,752.64. Write-offs consist of Third-party calls, bad address, foreign patients, Medicare and Medicaid balances. For Medicaid patients, we cannot bill the balance due to federal regulations, so we must write off 49% of our bill. Refusals will continue to be on spread sheet for the write offs to be approved by board.

Gay Mc Birnie motions to write off 55,752.64. Mike Gavagan seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Zoning Variance Request**

Gallatin County has asked for District to comment on zoning variance for property that is south of station 4. There is a structure that is supposed to be 12 feet from property line but is only actually 10 feet.

The section of the Station 4 lot is not big enough to build structure, and chief recommends that the board allow Gallatin County to issue variance. Chief is looking for a motion to sign off and respond that the District does not have an issue with the variance. The structure was built in 2003, changed hands several times and someone finally found the 2-foot error.

Mike Gavagan makes motions to allow chief to grant the 2ft variance and respond to Gallatin County. Gay Mc Birnie seconds. All in favor. Motion passed.

**Emergency Response Child Care Program**

Katie Ostberg and Lindsey Charlton collaborated to create an Emergency Responder Child Care Program. Katie presented program to board and is seeking approval to move forward with securing funding. For emergency drop-in there must be a large call volume. Little Rangers Learning Center's licensing committee is on board with the program. There are times when the district gets hit with multiple calls at the same and this cannot be predicted to secure childcare for responding staff or volunteers. The funding would cover LRLC operating costs in order to stay open later and meet the licensing requirements. Lindsey will be applying for the West Yellowstone Foundation Community Grant and hopefully get more funding from town or district. Drop in rate is \$5.00 per hour, per child. Program is anticipating the time frame of 5 hours for childcare unless a spouse or guardian can pick up the child earlier. Mike Gavagan comments that the board should help fund this program to get it running. Chief ads his thoughts to add a mechanism in here to have public works staff included in the event of a snow emergency with the town. Katie Ostberg states that if there is a declared emergency then the guardian program would cover childcare costs. The Emergency Response Child Care Program is for helping with short term childcare for emergency situations. Chief states that right now the District could do \$500.00 for this year and possibly \$1000.00 for next year to help with drop in costs. Kyle Goltz requested to have a budget amendment to add funds for program at future board meeting.

**Meeting adjourned: 656**

**Next meeting 4/9 at 6pm**