

Minutes

Board meeting of Park County Rural Fire District #1

January 8th, 2024

The Board of Trustees of Park County Rural Fire District #1 met on January 8th, 2024, for their regular meeting at 304 East Park Street, Livingston MT.

Trustees Present: Chairperson Lawellin, Secretary Nelson, Trustee Fee, Trustee Lowy, & Trustee Donovan arrived at 6:21pm

Also Present: Chief Babcox, Asst. Chief Anderson, Vickie Jo Shipley, Elijah Nazari, Ashley Sites, Chris Satterfield, Jordan Caoile

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:07pm

Public Comment: An Association update was given by Ashley Sites to the board. Firefighter Sites reported that Santa on the Fire Truck was over, and it went well. Firefighter Sites reported that there were at least 500 gifts given out to kids. The Association has also been working on a personal letter from the Association to the Governor regarding DOT. The Association is also holding elections at the February meeting for President and Treasurer.

Minutes: The December Board meeting minutes were read by Secretary Nelson. A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended by Trustee Fee. Second by Trustee Lowy. Motion passed unanimously.

Sign Claims and Warrants, Financial Report: See Attached. Financials were read by Vickie Jo Shipley. Signed and approved December 12th-31st 2023 warrants and claims #14915-14928=\$47,444.58. Signed and approved January 1st-8th 2024 warrants and claims #14929-14945=\$49,193.47. Without the December tax income, the current bank balance is \$290,922.36. There was \$348,391.19 deposited for November taxes. Capital Improvement Fund has \$120,749.62. A motion was made to approve the November financials by Secretary Nelson. Second by Trustee Fee. Motion passed unanimously.

Chiefs Report: See Attached.

Old Business: Update on winter freeway closure. Chief Babcox reported to the board that he had a meeting with Sheriff Bichler to discuss the issues with DOT. The discussed plan was to potentially speak to the DOT director in Helena and update the MOU. As Sheriff Bichler and Chief Babcox handle a lot of liability daily regarding their jobs, being able to assist and lower the gates would not increase any liability either of them has and the MOU would cover the transfer of liability. The board reported that they would like a meeting with the County Commissioners to lay out a plan with them for help or to at least get that on the official record and tell them that the Board plans to take this issue to the next higher level. The main intention is to add an amendment to the current MOU to allow the lowering of the gate in an emergency incident. Chief Babcox reported that he would like Greg Coleman to keep him informed of the intentions with Commissioner and to get on the agenda. Secretary Nelson mentioned that it would be good to get on the agenda to have some Firefighters come as well to speak about their experiences to the Commission. Commissioner Donovan made a motion to write a letter of support to amend the current MOU. Seconded by Trustee Fee. Discussion: It was discussed the Trustee Lowy would potentially write the letter, as well as get the board on the next agenda for a commissioners meeting. Chief Babcox will decide which fire department members will come to the meeting to explain their perspective on being on the interstate. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business: Discussion/decision on department goals and district needs. Chief Babcox reported that the back door at Station 1 is used primarily by the residents, as well as some department members. Chief Babcox reported that years ago ^{there} used to be snow catchers, but there is no room for them to be back. Heat tape has been tried and does not work well in that area. Chief Babcox will investigate getting an overhang or a covered porch type for the area in the back. Chief Babcox also would like to fix the concrete pad at Station 2 as there are places the pad has cracked. Trustee Lawellin told Chief Babcox to look into getting a bid for the project to get it fixed. As for department goals, Chief Babcox reported to the board that all the line officers have been asked to look into taking at least one leadership class this year to further education. Chief Babcox reported to the board if there were anything they would like to see the department do this year. Trustee Lowy asked if the department could start to post more on social media as a department goal. Chief Babcox reported he would like to see a weekly summary on the Fire Chiefs report. It was also discussed to look into security systems for all three stations.


Paperwork for the loan bid for the new extrication equipment was given to the board members to be signed and returned for approval by the company the department is going through to get the loan.

All new trustees were given a checklist of application to fill out for the County Clerk and Recorder that is due in 1 month.

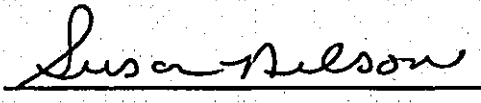
Public Comment: KOA reached out to the department and Asst, Chief Anderson will be reaching back out to them. A new contract was sent to the head office in

Billings. Asst. Chief Anderson updated the board that the new radios approved at the last meeting have been order and arrived and are in service.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Trustee Fee. Second by Trustee Lowy. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting ended at 7:50pm.



Chairperson Lavellin



Secretary Nelson