

Minutes

Board meeting of Park County Rural Fire District #1

May 6th, 2024

The Board of Trustees of Park County Rural Fire District #1 met on May 6th, 2024, for a special meeting at 304 East Park Street, Livingston MT.

Trustees Present: Chairperson Lawellin, Secretary Lowy, Trustee Nelson, Trustee Fee, Trustee Donovan

Also Present: Chief Babcox, Rick McKiernan, Hillary Berg-Harmonay, James Harmonay

Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 6:08pm

Public Comment: Rick McKiernan spoke to the board regarding the Assistant Chief position saying that he [Rick], has been on the department for two years and Kim Dell has taught him a lot and has always been at the station and that he thinks she would make a good Assistant Chief.

Hillary Berg-Harmonay spoke to the board that she [Hillary] has been on the department for about three years now and Kim has been dedicated to serving the district with compassion and is an incredible resource and Kim represents the department well and is a huge leader in the community and does not see how anyone better could fit the role than Kim.

James Harmonay spoke to the board that Kim spends a lot of time here at the department and based on his previous experience as a professional firefighter, that Kim has the want and drive to be here that not many people do and Kim is a very willing person to be a part of the community and the department.

New Business: Discussion/Decision on the Assistant Fire Chief position. Chief Babcox spoke to the board regarding the interview process that lead him to his board recommendation of the person to fill the position. No names were mentioned during the discussion. There were five candidates, 3 internal and 2 external, one that is out of town and one that has recently started to attend trainings but is not a member of the department. Three scored close in the first round of interviews and two did not. The first round of interviews was a panel interview with Chief Babcox, Secretary Lowy and Firefighter Will Rotter. All the interviews took place on one Wednesday with 45 minutes allotted to each interviewee. There were 15 questions with 3 added in that were asked to all candidates as well as each interviewee being rated on an essay that was turned in with the application. The questions did not take up all of the interviewing time and the

rest of the time after the interview was spent in discussion with the panel discussing the candidate. The top 3 candidates were the internal applicants that moved on to a second interview that was one on one with Chief Babcox.

The second interview was 2 hours long with scenario-based questions and follow up questions from the previous interview including a detailed walk through of operating the first due structure engine. Chief Babcox explained to each interviewee what the meaning of Garrity was in regard to the investigation of a criminal matter and having an employee give up their 5th amendment right and how that statement can't be used with law enforcement in their investigation. Interviewees answers were all similar in the first step for them would be to call Chief Babcox. Chief Babcox was looking for an answer of turning to law enforcement.

CLOSED SESSION

The Board went into a closed session for further discussion, as the privacy of the employee outweighed keeping the meeting public and the right to privacy had not been waived by the employee or the Fire Chief.

RETURNED TO OPEN PUBLIC MEETING

Trustee Donovan called for question and a motion was made to approve Chief recommendation for Kim Dell to fill the Assistant Fire Chief position by Trustee Donovan. Second by Trustee Nelson. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion/Decision on the recommendation of a Trustee for appointment to the Board to the Commission. The Board has two seats open. Trustee Nelson turned in the paperwork for the open seat to the County Commissioners and will take on of the open seats. The second open seat needs to have someone appointed through acclamation for recommendation to be approved by the Commissioners. A motion was made for Chairperson Lawellin to fill the seat by Trustee Nelson. Second by Secretary Lowy. Motion passed. Trustee Donovan opposed.

Public Comment: The Commissioners are having a meeting the same day as the regularly scheduled board meeting. It was decided to move the board meeting to the Monday after May 20th, 2024, at 6pm. Trustee Nelson asked for the website to be placed on the Agenda for the next meeting to discuss the website and ensure the minutes from the Board meetings are published as well as the Agenda on the website. It was also asked to add discussion and revision of By-Laws to the Agenda for the next meeting as well. Trustee Donovan asked a question regarding something that gets CO out of the air. Chief Babcox reported back that we have 2 air scrubbers

To be installed

but is looking to bring to the board a discussion of getting the exhaust suckers for the bays for the trucks.

Adjournment: A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Secretary Lowy. Second by Trustee Fee. Motion passed unanimously.

Courtney Jo Lawell

Chairperson Lawellin

Kara Lowy

Secretary Lowy