

SEELEY LAKE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING 6:00PM FIRE HALL
MEETING DATE: August 18 2020
MINUTES FOR: July 21, 2020

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

PRESENT

Scott Kennedy, Chair

Connie Clark

Jon Kimble

Dave Lane, Fire Chief

Lynn Richards, District Administrator

ABSENT

Gary Lewis, Vice Chair

Rita Rossi, Secretary

I. PLEDGE OF ALEGIANCE:

Chief Lane led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REGULAR MEETING CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Chairman, Scott Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Three trustees were present along with the Fire Chief and District Administrator. Scott thanked all the volunteers and chief for their hard work along with Michael Richards and the foundation for their support.

Also in attendance were community members Terry Lucke, Deputy Sheriff Ryan Dunster, Kurina Hawkinson, Dawn Butler, Alyssa McLean, Shirley Goudzwaard, Erica Gonzalez, Tabatha Bailey and Darlene Les; volunteers Marcelo Gonzalez, Nathan Bailey and Michael Richards. Jeff McLean and an unidentified female arrived at approximately 6:05 p.m. Also present was Andi Bourne with the *Pathfinder*.

III. MINUTES:

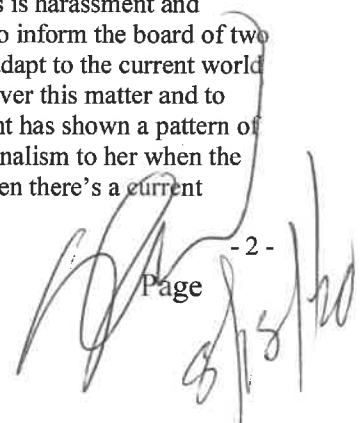
Connie Clark made a motion to approve the June 16, 2020 board minutes. Jon Kimble seconded the motion. Voting by voice, motion carried with none opposing or abstaining.

IV. VISIT WITH GUESTS/PUBLIC COMMENT FOR MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA/CORRESPONDENCE:

Public comment consisted of Alyssa McLean requesting to be put on the agenda for the meeting in August. Alyssa also read a statement from her phone which stated that on Tuesday, July 7th she was off work and at home when she made a post on her personal and private Facebook page which stated her personal opinion about the current employment of the fire chief. Nowhere on her post did she mention her own place of employment or defame anyone. On Thursday, July 9th around 9 a.m., Lynn Richards left a voice mail on my boss's personal and unlisted cell phone number in order to avoid speaking to her as she answers the phone at work. On the voice mail, Lynn represented herself as an entity of this department; she called from the fire house phone during business hours. Lynn offered a veiled threat about her personal opinions affecting their business and Lynn also mentioned professionalism. Alyssa stated she would play the recording but stated she only had two minutes. Alyssa stated this is harassment and completely inappropriate and unprofessional behavior by this department and she wanted to inform the board of two things. First, she has the right to voice her opinion and would recommend the department adapt to the current world of social media and public opinion. Secondly, she felt she needed to consult her attorney over this matter and to expect correspondence from her soon. It is her opinion and observation that this department has shown a pattern of mismanagement. In her opinion it's laughable that this department would preach professionalism to her when the office administrator is using department resources to bully members of the community; when there's a current

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pending lawsuit for embezzlement; your chief is speeding through town and can't handle high emotions on scenes and your chairman of the board is getting into scuffles at the bar over what she can only assume is HIPAA protected information. It is her opinion and observation that your pride and egos mean more to you than the lives of this community and it is her opinion that this playing dirty and trying to sabotage multiple members of the community by calling their employers will not intimidate or silence her. She is squeaky clean; always conducts herself in a professional manner and has the brains, connections and support to be protected from those kinds of incidents. Lastly, when she spoke on the phone about this to the director of Emergency Services Management for Missoula County, Adrienne Beck, (at this time Alyssa stopped, stating she was out of time).

No other public comment was made and there was no correspondence reported on.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Connie Clark made a motion to approve the June 2020 financial report in the amount of \$26,634.22. Jon Kimble seconded the motion. Voting by voice, motion carried with none opposing or abstaining.

VI. REPORTS:

1. Call Volume – Chief Lane reported there were 22 calls in June 2020 compared to 25 in 2019. Total calls for 2020 is 120 compared to 132 in 2019.

2. Recruitment – Chief Lane stated there are two new members who are working on their task books and expects them to be completed in about three months to get them totally on board. Two new applications were given out today.

3. Grants – Chief Lane reported that four grant applications have been submitted and just waiting to hear back.

4. Updates /Actions – Chief Lane stated he had a meeting with the emergency services manager along with leaders of other services with the county; there's going to be some changes in dispatching. Missoula Emergency Services (MESI) is cancelled a high percentage of the time as they're dispatched to every ALS (advanced life support) call. MESI is cancelled because after arriving on scene, we determine that we can transport the patient safely. It's our district and we take care of our community and believes we do a great job as does our medical director and others. So because of that, we're reducing the time that they (MESI) respond as automatic aid to the dispatch and will continue to respond as mutual aid which means when they're requested. The same thing will be with Life Flight. When they're dispatched it will be on a stand-by capacity. These changes will reduce public safety issues by not having multiple resources from multiple agencies responding to the same call; it gives the same patient care that people have been receiving for the past two years. The only difference is how they're dispatched. There will be another meeting in the near future that will deal with mutual aid that our department provides. If these new changes won't work then we'll switch back.

5. Membership Report – Michael Richards reported there's continued good attendance at trainings. The smoke trailer will be here in September and EMS endorsements on the medical side will continue. In regard to the pancake breakfast, there was a good turn out along with good feedback and people were very appreciative. The social distancing plan that the department and county health came up with worked well.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

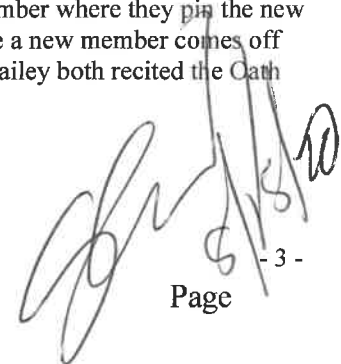
1. District Operations Manual/SOPs Approval – Connie Clark made a motion to approve the SOP, Administration of Oaths. Jon Kimble seconded the motion. Voting by voice, motion carried with none opposed or abstaining.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Swearing In & Pinning Ceremony of New Members – Chief Lane stated this is a long time fire tradition for swearing in new members coming off of probation and it's usually done by a family member where they pin the new badge on their uniform shirt. Chief Lane stated this ceremony will take place every time a new member comes off of probation as it welcomes them into our fire family. Marcelo Gonzalez and Nathan Bailey both recited the Oath of Appointment and family members pinned their new badge onto their uniforms.

IX. NEXT MONTH AGENDA ITEMS:

Reports;



X. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING:

Upon motion duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:15 p.m. The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 18, 2020.

Approved:



Chair of the Board





Clerk of the Board