

SEELEY LAKE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING 6:00PM FIRE HALL
MEETING DATE: April 16, 2019
MINUTES FOR: March 19, 2019

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

PRESENT

Scott Kennedy, Chair
Gary Lewis, Vice Chair

Connie Clark
Rita Rossi
Dave Lane, Fire Chief
Lynn Richards, District Administrator

ABSENT

Rachel Jennings, Secretary

I. PLEDGE OF ALEGIANCE:

Chief Lane led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. REGULAR MEETING CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:

Scott Kennedy called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Four trustees were present along with the Fire Chief and District Administrator.

Community member present was Shirley Goudzwaard and department member Michael Richards arrived at approximately 6:06 p.m.

III. MINUTES:

Connie Clark made a motion to approve the January 15, 2019 board minutes. Rita Rossi seconded the motion. Voting by voice, motion carried with none opposing or abstaining.

There were no minutes for the February meeting as it was cancelled due to not having a quorum.

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

There were no public comments made at this time nor any correspondence to report on.

V. FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:

Gary Lewis made a motion to approve the January 2019 financial report in the amount of \$26,933.14. Connie Clark seconded the motion. Voting by voice, motion carried with none opposing or abstaining.

After discussion, Rita Rossi made a motion to approve the February 2019 financial report in the amount of \$41,477.33. Connie Clark seconded the motion. Voting by voice, motion carried with none opposing or abstaining.

VI. REPORTS:

1. Call Volume – Chief Lane reported there were 24 calls in January 2019 compared to 19 in January 2018. In February 2019 there were 27 compared to 15 in 2018. Total calls for 2019 is 51 compared to 34 in 2018. Connie questioned if the department's ambulance service is transporting on the majority of EMS calls or is the ambulance handing off to another service. Chief Lane stated the department's ambulance rarely hands off as we're training the staff to be more confident and comfortable in their patient care to allow us to transport without rendezvousing.

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2. **Recruitment** – Chief Lane stated it’s frustrating; without town growth, it’s hard to increase our recruitment. Chief Lane has approached the high school in regard to the cadet program; one person has applied who is underage. Chief Lane has made some flyers which will be given to the school tomorrow to try to encourage more youth to sign up. Several members have departed due to relocating to other areas. The department is trying to give as much information and incentives to improve recruitment.
3. **Grants** – Chief Lane reported there’s been no word yet on the \$75,000 AFG Grant nor the \$6,000 rolling grant for the RAD57. Will continue pursuing grants.
4. **Updates /Actions** – There were no other updates/actions reported on.
5. **Membership Report** – Volunteer member Michael Richards stated there was nothing new to report on.

VII. OLD BUSINESS:

1. **District Operations Manual/SOPs** – The two SOPs for approval tonight are ADMIN 15 Drug & Alcohol Free Workplace and ADMIN 16 Use of Social Media. Scott Kennedy stated ADMIN 15 was reviewed by the county attorney and his recommendations/additions are highlighted in “yellow.” Rita Rossi made a motion to approve both ADMIN 15 & 16. Connie Clark seconded the motion. Voting by voice, motion carried with none opposing or abstaining.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Discuss Franchise Agreement** – Chief Lane stated in his past experiences there were always franchise agreements in place to protect their EMS service and understands in the past there was an attempt to start another ambulance service in Seeley. Chief Lane is requesting to start a conversation whether the department needs a franchise agreement for our district and if so, what is the process and is the board willing to give the department’s ambulance service the agreement where our service would be the sole provider for this jurisdiction. Currently, Missoula Emergency Services (MESI) has a franchise agreement with Missoula County, so they provide county wide EMS services. As an example, our department’s ambulance service was asked to transport a patient from St. Patrick’s Hospital to Seeley. In order to do that without violating MESI’s franchise agreement, Chief Lane needed to obtain MESI’s permission as it was in their jurisdiction. After further discussion, the board gave Chief Lane the direction to discuss this with the county attorney to see what all is involved.

2. **Discuss EMS/Fire Rate Increases** – Chief Lane stated it’s been a very long time since the department’s ambulance rates have been increased. Chief Lane feels it’s time to adjust the rates as costs for services has increased and the department’s rates are well below our surrounding partners’. Chief Lane suggested to increase the mileage rate from \$15.00 per loaded mile to \$22.00 as others rates are anywhere from \$20 to \$26. Would also like to increase the 911 Response fee from \$50 to \$150 as the \$50 is below the standard to what others are charging. The Fire Services & Suppression fee is part of the Fire Recovery Act for our ability to be reimbursed by insurance companies for motor vehicle accidents. We are now able to charge for those incidents as insurance companies have set aside funds for such things. The fire service fee of \$300 will be deleted as that is a duplicate fee. A question was asked if property taxes covered fire & EMS services. Property tax revenue is for the budget items only not for services rendered. After further discussion, Rita Rossi made a motion to approve the new rate increases. Gary Lewis seconded the motion. Voting by voice, motion carried with none opposed or abstaining.

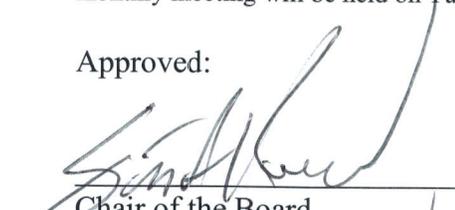
IX. NEXT MONTH AGENDA ITEMS:

Reports; District Operations Manual/SOPs Approval, Franchise Agreement

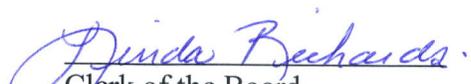
X. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING:

Upon motion duly seconded, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:32 p.m. The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 16, 2019.

Approved:



Chair of the Board



Clerk of the Board