**SEELEY LAKE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING 6:00PM FIRE HALL**

**MEETING DATE:** February 15, 2022

**MINUTES FOR:** January 18, 2022

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING**

**PRESENT ABSENT**

Connie Clark Scott Kennedy, Chair

Rita Rossi Secretary Jon Kimble

Gary Lewis, Vice Chair

Dave Lane, Fire Chief

Lakaya Lemons, Administrative Assistant

**I. PLEDGE OF ALEGIANCE:**

Chief Lane led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**II. REGULAR MEETING CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**  Gary Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Three trustees were present along with the Fire Chief and Administrative Assistant.

In attendance were John Baker, Shirley Goudzwaard; John Homen; Kristy Pohlman, Alysa & Jeff McClain. Also present was Andi Bourne with the *Pathfinder.*

**III. MINUTES:**

Connie Clark made a motion to approve the November 2021 minutes with corrections; Rita Rossi seconded the motion.

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

Kristy Pohlman stated “It was discussed last spring, April and may about how hiring a firm to come in and help with the recommended approach for assisting with the Mill Levy communications. You guys assured you were going to hold meetings for the community listing board and community members to make sure that the community vision aligned with the departments vision for the future. There was one informational workshop in June and then there has been nothing since, I’m curious to the statues of this approach and what the next steps are. The money has been approved to be spent but there are no line items showing that it has been spent, is there something I’m missing? And that money has been spent? I noticed the agenda items seem to be skipping these promised steps. I also wasn’t sure if we were going to, I see on the agenda that Shirley’s comments and questions were not addressed at the last meeting and while I understand that we are supposed to go to the chief with all our questions and concerns and no longer bring them to the board meetings, I do feel it is essential to keep the department transparent. You as the department are receiving public taxpayer funds and with that comes with responsibility of transparency, with 6- 15-minute board meetings we have seen in the last few years to discuss a budget that has grown exponentially over the last 7 years it seems you lost that element of that transparency, but then show the community the voice they are entitled to. I also would like to Mr. Lewis, I’ve been reading back over minutes and everything you know I think you do a phenomenal job running the meetings and voices are heard, you treat people with a professional curtesy and respect and that is greatly appreciated, you seem to run a thorough ship that allows for a meeting to be met with accomplishments, so I just wanted to say thank you for that because in a day and age where there is a lot of cruelty spread all over I see it in the school I appreciate your kindness in the board meetings so thank you. I understand you can’t answer any of these questions I just wanted the to be brought up in the next meeting as to the status of that company and the proposed Levy you guys were thinking about.”

Gary Lewis “I wish I knew but we will find out, we will be able to address that next meeting.”

Kristy “Thank you”

**V. FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF WARRANTS:**

Kristy “I actually have a question on that as well, I see that you have two auxiliary members receiving Pcoc checks just curious as to I mean, if they are not active fire members and they are receiving Pcoc checks that just seems kind of weird.”

Gary” Would you like to address that chief? I mean if they are making the call at that time of night, they get a Pcoc period, right?”

Dave” But they are not considered active members its only as they are available. They have backed off the department for personal reasons, but their certificates are still current, because they are still auxiliary, we can use the as we need them.”

Kristy” I guess I’m sorry I was envisioning auxiliary meant more of a support staff.”

Dave” That’s part of it but we can make use of auxiliary.”

Kristy” Awesome, thank you for answering that it’s just one of those weird questions.”

Gary” I actually have a question about our expenses then. Our bookkeeper are we doing something huge?”

Dave” We were, she is sitting next to you.”

Gary” So we were using terry as back up?”

Dave” Well we were using terry to fill in for the short comings before there was about 3 months that we knew we were behind in bookkeeping.”

Gary” So November that is why that number has increased because we were paying more hours?”

Dave” Because of training and taking care of the errors and taking care of a lot of issues we noticed over the months. You’ll notice December’s financials that number is roughly cut in half and from here on out it will be much lower as well, because Lakaya’s picked up on her job and the training is greatly appreciated on Terry’s point. Especially since she is retiring and pulling away from a lot of stuff she’s doing, and she is still willing to help us as needed.”

Gary” Excellent, that’s just seemed like a large amount.”

Connie” Question on page 2 Dave Lewis Pcoc, it says that he donated them back but there it’s still a $45.oo balance, it should be $0, correct if he actually donated it back.”

Dave” Yes, those will be corrected by the next meeting.”

Rita Rossi made a motion to approve the November 2021financial report in the amount of $18,189.06; Connie Clark Second the motion.

Connie” Question on page 1 since its December I don’t know why that fire recovery EMS is dated for January of 2022 shouldn’t that be November?”

Lakaya” I meant to put December, but I accidently put January 2022 sorry that was my mistake I can fix that.”

Rita Rossi made a motion to approve the December 2021financial report in the amount of $24,699.12; Connie Clark Second the motion.

**VI. REPORTS:**

**1. Call Volume** – Chief Lane reported there were 23 calls in December 2020, compared to 18 calls in December 2021. Total calls for 2021 are 366 compared to 307 in 2020.

**2. Recruitment –**Chief Lane reported that we have 3 people that we have recruited in the last couple months, two are going through the process to be vetted in the department with their task books. One is doing quite well; one is in a standstill for some certification things that need to be addressed. The 3rd person just turned his application yesterday, so we are just getting in the background check for him.”

Connie” Are all of those at this point all fire or is it a combo of EMS/Fire.”

Dave” At this point none of them have EMS certifications but will not prevent them in the future.”

**3. Grants –** Chief Lane stated “I’m hoping that we had our final audit for the AFG Grant that was completed last week. We are still waiting for our funding on our RFC grant the Rural Fire Capacity Grant through the DNRC.”

**4. Updates /Actions** – Chief Lane stated “We have posted a paramedic & EMT position there has not been any activity whatsoever for the paramedic position. The EMT position we have received one application; I have explained the situation to that applicant as far as not having a position yet. As you look farther down the agenda, you’ll see next month I’d like to discuss that topic a little bit further, so there has not been any activity at all in hiring somebody. We have two people in EMT class right now, one is Lakaya and Steve Larmour is the other person, there going through the EMT class in Missoula. So hopefully by beginning of march we will have 2 more EMT’s we can rely on.”

Gary” So we really need a paramedic though, right?”

Dave” Yes”

Gary” so if we are training our own EMT’s, I don’t know if we want to hire one, but I guess that will be a discussion later.”

Dave” that was kind of an option at the time because our EMT’s were getting tired there wasn’t that much relief and now that we are going to get couple more that kind of gives us a little more room for the EMT’s however we still need ALS coverage.”

Gary” And if we hire someone, we can put there hours down.”

Dave” They’re no longer volunteers.”

Gary” So you can use them for relief instead.”

Dave” or”

Gary” Well like if we go EMT instead of Paramedic”

Dave” Oh, if you go EMT instead of Paramedic”

Gary” And still hire a person so they have a longer shift”

Dave” They will no longer be an EMT, you can’t volunteer for something you are working for.”

Gary” Oh your right”

Dave” So they would be an EMT, but they are will no longer be a volunteer.”

Gary” Is there a volunteer that wants the paramedic position?”

Dave” There is a volunteer that wants the paramedic position.”

Gary” It’s just training right?”

Dave” It’s off in the future ha-ha “

**5. Membership Report –** John Homen stated “We are deciding on what to do with our fourth of July celebration, Last year we seemed to have been a little flat footed getting started. We had a successful Pancake Breakfast, but we need a little time preparation to do this benefit but other than that there are no issues with the membership.”

Gary” Still ongoing training and that stuff?”

Dave” We still have Rick Paulson coming out twice a month to do our fire training as we discussed in the past to get people up to speed, continuing with our EMS training in between those days he can not make it out here and that should b done about June or July.”

Connie” Can I ask where you were posting the job listings?”

Dave” Most of those postings have been online, we did have some in the beginning that were posted in the pathfinder, we did have some on craigslist. I actually got two calls with that ad, the national stuff on the daily or there’s another version of the daily in the national I used, and I got no response.”

**VII. OLD BUSINESS:**

1. **District Operations Manual/SOPs Approval**-

Gary” Going through the notes on the minuets, I wasn’t here on that meeting, but it looks like most of that got answered at the end of that meeting that you brought up.”

Shirley Gouzwarrd” Yes, we had a little discussion after the meeting.”

Gary” Ok, so you’re comfortable with (Shirley Nodded her head), Alright”

Dave” We will put it on the agenda next month so the rest of the community can know what we talked about.”

Kristy” Awesome thank you, that’s helpful”

**VIII. NEW BUSINESS:**

Connie” I probably should have asked in old business, it was just a random thought the person we were going to work out a payment agreement, that’s following through and handled?”

Dave” We made an agreement they ae adhering to what our agreement was.”

Connie” Perfect”

Lane” So we will find out in another 10 months on how it went, but the bill is being paid?

Gary” That’s good if both parties has made it easier.”

**IX. NEXT MONTH AGENDA ITEMS**:

January Financial Report, Update on Levy Discussion, Public answer to Shirley Goudzwaard Questions

**X. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING:**

Upon motion Clark seconded, the meeting adjourned at approximately 6:25 p.m. The next regularly scheduled monthly meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, 2022.

Approved:

Chair of the Board Clerk of the Board