

**SEELEY LAKE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT**  
**SEELEY LAKE, MT 59868**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING AGENDA**  
**For June 21, 2022**

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**Chef leads us in the pledge of allegiance.**

**II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

Scott Kennedy, Rita Rossi, Connie Clark, Jon Kimble, Kristy Pohlman Alyssa McLearn, Tabitha Bailey, Nathan Bailey, Lynn Richards, Michael Richards, Nate Nunnally, Wendy Nunnally, Frank Maradeo, John Baker, Alvis Miller, John Homen, Derline Lis.

**III. CORRECTION AND/OR APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Rita Rossi \_\_\_\_\_ Made a motion to approve the May 15, 2022  
Minutes: \_Connie Clark \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion. Motion carried? Yes

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA/CORRESPONDENCE**

Scott Kennedy: Any public comments

Rita Rossi: I have one, I've been in this dept. since 2001. I'm proud to be a member of this dept. and proud of the volunteers work with. We work well together, and I'm greatly offended by the remarks that have come in these meetings. When ignorant people come here to pick apart the calls, we have been on, and we cannot defend or explain our selves because of HIPA laws. I find it vary one sided put my life on the line to save others and many people have expressed their appreciation for us. I would also like to so, for those of you who have never talked to Chief Dave Lane but go along with those trying to destroy this dept it's sad, because he is a great Chef and has vast experience. The like of which you would know nothing about unless you speak to him. I'm proud to go on calls and help the people of this community and I'm only more impowered to stay on as long as I can. This board is meant to handle financial information and needs of this dept., to better service the community, we work hard at it quit comparing us to other dept... as every dist. is different, that's all I have to say.

Scott Kennedy: Any other comments?

Scott Kennedy: Any public comments

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Scott Kennedy:

In listening and re-reading Alysa Mclean's comments in previous papers, including past fire board meetings minutes, Alyssa is obviously not well informed as Seeley Lake Fire District as to Fire/EMT/Paramedic medical practices or procedures, which have further changed over the years, also protocols, rules or guidelines of the state or of fire district, or the fact this is a governing board.

Alyssa's refers to (and shown) real life scars she eludes to which are apparently from the vehicle accident she has noted. This is not from the care provided or from of the fault of the fire district.

I missed the February board meeting. Alyssa referred to 24 hour notice for agenda and notice of board meetings. This reference is incorrect. The district gives at least 48 hours' notice for agenda items to be actionable items discussed or adopted, though ministerial approvals are acceptable.

Alyssa referenced the posting agenda timely in that meeting, which was an oversight by the district assistant and this error was clearly acknowledged by V. Chairman Lewis. After brief public comments at that meeting, the Vice Chair allowed discussion without opposition. This is allowable discussion and no vote was taken and the items of discussion were tabled. Another incorrect statement by Alyssa Mclean was posting of district board meetings. The Fire District Board meetings are reoccurring regular scheduled for decades. They are further publicly posted in the local Pathfinder prior to meetings under COMMUNITY INFORMATION under LOCAL GOVERNMENT. They are also continually posted on the Fire District website. Regarding the Chairman comments in the March Pathfinder, the information provided to the Pathfinder was also reviewed by Chief Lane for accuracy and Vice Chairman Lewis, then submitted comments to Pathfinder.

Alyssa makes statements to topics are not reviewed or well thought out, is just another example of her criticism of the district, and now Kristy. There is extensive time and review as necessary of all ideas, proposals in the advancement of the fire and ambulance services and properly noticed and discussed at board meetings and included in the local Pathfinder. There is a plethora of information on the fire district website as well and available at the fire station. Alyssa fails to research or solicit the other side of the issues for her concerns formulating her own opinion, misguided, that has been derogatory, critical, demeaning, disrespectful, insulting to the district and individuals. Dramatizing and embellishing the facts, wanting people to resign, get fired and so forth. Alyssa points fingers at the board members again, and at VOLUNTEERS in her statements, and staff. This negativism has been on going ever since she started attending meetings and running for the board. Now we are in search for a new district administrative assistant due to this ongoing derogatory behavior effecting the district.

In concluding, I encourage the Fire District Board, staff, volunteer medical and fire service providers to move forward in light of these type of distractions. As a citizen, I appreciate everyone involved with the district for their extensive time responding and training and what they offer at whatever level! I appreciate the positive community response and support over the years as well. Sincere THANK YOU! Our district operations are running smoothly considering the challenges. Though we have the same challenges as any other department across the country and a few challenges with a handful of misguided individuals .

I am going to continue to represent this district to the best of my ability.

Scott Kennedy

Kristy Pohlman: I'm just asking if that was from you or was that from the board?

Scott Kennedy: It's a mix but I will take full responsibility.

Kristy Pohlman: okay

## **V. FINANCIAL REPORT AND APPROVAL OF CHECKS AND WARRANTS**

Jon Kimble: We have the same issue as last month.

Scott Kennedy: Okay

Jon Kimble: well, we voted on expenses verses the entire statement. The still some deficiency in the revenue area. It's still showing a negative in the P and L of 30,000.00.

Dave Lane: How much

Jon Kimble: 30,000.00

Dave Lane: I believe that's in the unrecovered tax revenue yet. We won't see that probably till July.

Jon Kimble: Okay, so there is revenue but it's not there.

Dave Lane: It's still coming

Jon Kimble: Okay

Dave Lane: We also have ambulance revenue coming that is coming for June that is not in this report as well.

Scott Kennedy: you can also note that in your motion.

Jon Kimble: The and the assets don't equal owner equity and liability, they should add up. I'm not sure where the defiance

Scott Kennedy: We could table these till next month.

Jon Kimble: Hey I think we should do that.

Scott Kennedy: Okay well table that for next month.

\_\_\_\_\_ Made a motion to approve the May 2022 financial report in the amount of \$21103.73. \_\_\_\_\_ seconded the motion. Motion carried? Yes/No

## VI. REPORTS

1. Call Volume Dave Lane: So, for May of 2021 there were 24 calls and for May of 2022 there were 21 calls so a difference of 3 calls. Year to date by the end of May there was 105 calls and 2022 there was 95 calls. And I haven't ran the numbers yet, but I think were catching up pretty good this month, so well find out the next meeting.

2. Recruitment so recently we've handed out a couple applications for new volunteers' um if they turn out to be what they've spoken themselves to be, we have some real good resources coming to the dept. a lot of experience and skills that could potentially help as far as our growth goes. So, we did go through the hiring process for a fire fighter as approved we did have several applications and went through the interview processes and vetting process as well and a job was offered to a firefighter/EMT who meets the meets the qualification and exceed the minimum qualifications and we expect to at the end of the probation period to go to paramedic school. Were still looking on different schools both in the area and out oof the area. What would be financially best as well as educationally best for the district.so mixing those together were going to have a good paramedic. We did hire a office administrative asst, Lynnette Loney. She started and is currently going threw some of the additional training as well as job required of training such as being a notary. It's a challenging job I understand but she's fitting in well and expect good things.

3. Grants Update so grants update we are currently working on firehouse subs grant were looking for some new extrication equipment. Our current equipment still works, however as technology changed so are the vehicles and other item that we need to cute, spread and move around. Our tools do not meet those requirements. For example, we use amicus tools very good equipment, but the cutting tools produce about 60,000 PSI. It's a lot of cutting potential but the composite tools are causing the tools to produce over 220000 PSI. So almost four times the cutting power because of the new composites. For example, the stirring column has a rode that goes down the middle of it made of boron in many cases and our tools won't cut that, so were looking to upgrade that the new tools are a little lighter less cumbersome because there electric and you don't have to deal with the hydraulics and all those moving parts. So, for about \$38,000.00 that the grant was going to go for. Ill let you know how that goes in the future.

4. Updates/Actions Yes, so we currently had a utility trailer that had some snow damage, the

insurance company was notified, and they totaled the trailer. We'll be getting a check for \$5000.00 from the insurance co. I expect to have that today or tomorrow. and we will need to replace that trailer. and doing the research and looking around we did find a trailer its actually Gary Lewis. He has a brand-new trailer it's never registered and never used. He just used it to store some of his equipment, so its basically brand new, he wants \$8900.00 for it. The check we are getting is \$5000.00 so it's a difference of \$3900.00. Which brings up my next item we have a lot of antiquated equipment up at station two. Serviceable but we have moved beyond a lot of that equipment, when we updated the second up ambulance with the AFG grant, I don't remember exactly which grant it was. But we put a power pro and power load system into the second out ambulance so it would mirror the first out ambulance, that way the equipment was the same. In doing that, that left us the power load genre that was not compatible with the system. We've been just storing it, we have another one that was before the power load that was fully manual that's a Stricker equipment so its good equipment, but they are both not in service and probably won't be in service, so we surpluses that equipment for \$6500.00 for the two of them. That way we didn't have to throw them away, we got \$6500.00 for them and thar will offset the cost for the new trailer. So, any questions?

Jon Kimble: I have one, can we make that kind of a purchase with no board member with no conflict there?

Scott Kennedy: If is there is disclosure, and there is no objection.

Jon Kimble: well um

Dave Lane: I did look at other vendors looking in Missoula and in WA. Which is popular for trailer sales, that trailer goes for anywhere from \$11,00.00 to \$12,000.00.

Jon Kimble: so, you have shopping recorded.

Dave Lane: I didn't record it I've just been shopping around

Kristy Polman: I was going to say to cover our butts with the snow mobile club, we would always get three quotes. That would cover our butts with the club. That's what we did with Kurt's.

Jon Kimble: It makes sense to save the money, document it.

Dave Lane: Absolutely, so at next month's meeting expect for me to ask to make these purchases with the documentation.

5. Membership Report Dave Lane: nothing except for preparing for the pancake breakfast.

## **VII. OLD BUSINESS**

1. Policies Approval Dave Lane: so, there's a couple new SOPs, the sops need to be approved or I need to rework them, or whatever the board decides. There's two SOGs that don't need to have board approval I just put them in so that you would the information.

Connie Clark: I have a question on the uniforms. all will be the property of the employees and that.

Dave Lane: the uniforms themselves would be properties of the employee, I believe there's another SOP or maybe the same one I don't have them in front of me. For the uniform allowance, because that uniform allowance, allows the employee to buy their own, other than PPE.

Connie Clark: But that moneys coming from the district.

Dave Lane: Yes, and that's part of their wages and benefits

Connie Clark: I disagree with this, that all uniforms should be the property of the employee. As a volunteer over at the thrift store, we always had things come in and id call or bring them back. I don't people if they're not active should be wearing the uniform. In my opinion

Dave Lane: Okay were listening

Connie Clark: Okay

Jon Kimble: I kind of support it if the district was paying for the uniform why would they turn them in when they were no longer employed.

Dave Lane: Their making other purchases outside of the shirts and pants. As part of their uniform whether it be boot, hats protective eye wear flashlights there's things that we provide obviously the fire PPE but there's.

Jon Kimble: I think the idea is that if we purchase something that reflects the Seeley Lake Fire dist.as an organization and we pay for it shouldn't we get it back.

Dave lane: You mean it shouldn't be part of the wages and benefits or part of the dist. uniform.

Jon Kimble: well, they're not having to do the and they get the benefit of wearing the uniform.

Dave lane: so, it should be part of the district uniform allowance?

Jon Kimble: I'm a little bit um do you pay that money to the employee to go get the uniform?

Dave Lane: No, we have venders that we use, so the employee would fill out a purchase request form summit that to the office and we would make the purchase on their behalf. So, the money come out of the uniform allowance for the employee, out of the wages and benefits.

Jon Kimble: So, they never see that money

Dave Lane: They don't see the money, if they don't use all the money than it rolls over to the next year to begin the next amount.

Connie Clark: Also, if they don't stay with the dept., they loss that fund.

Dave lane: Yes

Connie Clark: Well, I still feel if you're not an active member, in my history we have seen some of the worst-case, scenario.

Dave Lane: I understand but this is not a volunteer.

Scott Kennedy: This is not a volunteer

Dave Lane: I can tell you that every dept that I ever worked for I still have their uniforms.

Kristy Polman: Is the clothing allowance a taxable benefit to them, is it considered a taxable wage or benefit for them.

Dave Lane: Its part of their benefit package

Connie Clark: Okay well everyone gets a opinion and that's mine.

Dave Lane: I'll do whatever the board wants.

Scott Kennedy: In doing that it keeps the uniforms consistent too.

Dave Lane: Yes

Scott Kennedy: if they just go buy their own its going to be different could different.

Jon Kimble: does this procedure change that allowance? The \$650.00 A new amount?

Dave Lane: Its new to this dept. because we have never had a paid employee before, so as purchases are made you will see that line item in the budget. And we will keep a record in the office, exactly what the expenditures were against that line item.

Connie Clark: Which is all fine and good until their no longer in the department.

Jon Kimble: IN the case of the volunteer do we issue them a uniform.

Nathan Bailey: After you get out of the service do you turn your uniform back in.

Jon Kimble: Um ya no one gives then back.

Nathan Baily: should that be the same thing than, that's my opinion you keep your service uniform this isa service, we provide service it's the same thing.

Dave Lane: So, I didn't hear your whole question

Jon Kimble: Are we doing a similar thing for the volunteers. Does the district buy the uniforms that volunteers put on?

Dave Lane: No, we buy the t-shirt and give them caps and a heavy winter jacket that we proved.

Connie Clark: After so much service.

Dave Lane: After a year of service, they get the heavy jacket, the t-shirts when they finish their task books. So, their basically out of probation at that point. And then we do request to have those back. They also get a class B uniform shirt, that we request to be returned every time.

Scott Kennedy: Rita

Rita Rossi: I got nothing, I understand your point

Scott Kennedy: But it's a benefit in consistency also, so they're going to bring the uniform back to you, and you don't want to pass it out to another employee

Rita Rossi: And isn't it fit?

Scott Kennedy: were not doing ten or fifteen people right now were talking one right now.

Rita Rossi: And it's fit to that person, their measured for it and everything

Scott Kennedy: It's going to have their insignias, captain, lieutenant and all the patches and stuff.

Kristy Polman: from a financial standpoint if the clothing allowance is a taxable benefit than you guys are paying payroll tax on that whole amount, maybe that would make sense how that is split up. And you guy provides the specific uniforms with the insignias and so forth so their all consistent and then they get a smaller spending allowance that their spending on eye protection and boots and things that they can use somewhere else. It might make sense to save some payroll taxes and not pay on that whole amount if you're going to just turn around and buy it for them anyways. Just a thought,

Frank: On your whites and on your blues is the position embroidered in them or is it just on the badge

Dave Lane: For the paid staff its embroidered, on the class B they use a name tag. And the embroidered stuff is also in the policy, so it doesn't very.

Jon Kimble: do you have a motion to revise or restate it another way. Connie Clark: I make a motion that we revise it or we cute back the dollar in that uniform fund.

Dave Lane: The uniform fund is the way it is because the pants are \$110.00 a pair, shirt are thirty to forty dollars a shirt so if they want. Well give them a shirt I think its four t-shirts a year and if they want extra hats, they must buy them at cost, it adds up pretty

quick. So, that's the reason that's that way if I can say a pone separation our uniforms are property of district instead of property of employee.

Scott Kennedy: are you okay with that Basically return the property when you leave. We can always change this later if we change our minds, but this seems to solve the issue fr now.

Connie Clark: well, that's the only line I'm having a problem with.

Scott Kennedy: Are you ready to make a motion. Anybody got a motion; do we need a second.

Jon Kimble: ill second

Connie Clark: To receive that line

Scott Kennedy: all in favor.

Dave Lane: So, this is being approve with the revision of that line?

Scott Kennedy: Yes, to return property.

Kristy Pohlman: Did it say in that policy that employee gets taxed on it cause if they have to give it back, they should not get taxed.

Dave Lane: The employees don't get taxed.

Kristy Pohlman: well, you have to pay patrol tax on them because it would be considered a...

Dave Lane: But that doesn't come from the employee it comes from the district

Kristy Pohlman: But I guess what I'm trying to say did it mention anything in there because, because at that point you'll need leave out that line

Dave Lane: NO

Scot Kennedy: Motion on the table, second it all in favor.

All say "I"

2. Budget Review; Dave Lane: Last month when you read the budget there was some recommendations to increases different line items those increase are the heights in column H.

Connie Clark: so those changes were only in the utilities and the fuel.

Dave Lane: it was what ever you had had identified last week. Professional maintenance was another one.

Scott Kennedy was another one.

Jon Kimble: It look like the changes we were looking for.

Dave Lane: Good

Scott Kennedy: Rita you good?

Jon Kimble: Let's make a motion to accept the budget

Rita Rossi: I second it.

Scott Kennedy: All in favor

ALL: say "I"

## **VIII. NEW BUSINESS: (BRIEF MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENTS AFTER TOPICS AS NECESSARY)**

Scott Kennedy: Lets close the meeting due to privacy right to discuss the Chefs performance and pay scale.

Andy Borne: When your done will you reopen the meeting about if you're doing a raise or not?

Scott Kennedy: Well, see where it goes, we don't know until

Dave Lane: It must be reopened

Andi Borne: Yeah, you must reopen

Scott Kennedy: Yeah, we will reopen

Andi Borne: You will reopen. Okay perfect.

1. Chief's Raise

Scott Kennedy: Okay the meeting is reopened up at 7:10pm. The board voted to raise the Chefs pay by % 4. so that's affective,

Andi Borne: Shouldn't that vote have been in the public. The vote should have been motion made, seconded and so on.

Scott Kennedy: We can do that.

Andi Borne: Okay that would be great

Scott Kennedy: Okay make the motion vote.

Rita Rossi: I make a motion that we give the Chief a 4% raise.

Connie Clark: I second it.

Scott Kennedy: all in favor, Rita, Connie and Scott say "I"

Any opposed?

Jon Kimble: apposed

## **IX. NEXT MONTH AGENDA ITEMS**

June Financial Report

## **X. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING: July 19, 2022**

**Scott Kennedy: Lets make a motion to adjourn.**

**Jon Kimble: I make a motion to adjourn.**

**Rita Rossi: I second**

**Scott Kennedy: all in favor say "I"**

**All: say "I"**