

**BIG SKY FIRE DISTRICT “BSFD”  
MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING OF JULY 25, 2018**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Alan McClain at 9:01 am

Present: Trustees Alan McClain, Carol Collins, Matt Dodd, Deb Lewis, and Renae Schumacher; William Farhat, Fire Chief; Alecia Fischer, Office Administrator

Absent: Greg Megaard, Deputy Chief and Mara Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

**a. Introduction of visitors and guests**

Big Sky Fire Department: President Local 4732 Firefighter John Foster, Captain Hamel, Firefighter Ketschek, Firefighter DuComb, Firefighter Mohr, and Firefighter Parker

Public: Jolene Palmer with the Lone Peak Lookout

**2. Public comment for items not on the agenda – None**

**3. Consent Agenda Items**

a. Approval of draft minutes of June 27, 2018 Regular Meeting

b. Financial Reports for June 2018

c. Monthly Financial Statements

d. Check Register: Checks 61167037 – 6117088

e. Correspondence

- **Motion Made and Seconded by Carol Collins and Deb Lewis to approve the consent agenda items of July 25, 2018. Passed Unanimously**

**4. Fire Chief’s Report**

- Chief Farhat played a quick video of the Bacon Rind fire. He also explained that the fire is being monitored, but not actively fought due to the extreme terrain.
- Emergency Reporting is BSFD’s reporting software. It shows the diversity in the call types, the training the shifts do, the commercial occupancies and code enforcement inspections, the fire hydrants and fill sites, the equipment and apparatus maintenance.

**5. New Business**

a. Max Mills Resolution 2018-1002 – Gallatin County

- **Motion Made and Seconded by Carol Collins and Matt Dodd to approve Resolution 2018-1002 requesting the maximum number of mills from Gallatin County. The funds will be used to help maintain the BSFD’s current level of service. Passed Unanimously**

b. Max Mills Resolution 2018-1003 – Madison County

- **Motion Made and Seconded by Carol Collins and Matt Dodd to approve Resolution 2018-1003 requesting the maximum mills from Madison County. The funds will be used to help maintain the BSFD’s current level of service. Passed Unanimously**

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- c. Local Governance Initiative Discussion
    - Chief Farhat pointed out that BSFD’s average funding from resort tax is 15% of their total allocations. If the department did not receive funding from Resort Tax the community’s property taxes would have to increase to make up for the loss of funding.
    - Chief Farhat stated that even if a local government was to be put in place it would not take the place of the fire district or the responsibilities of the fire district’s trustees under state law.
  - d. Budget Adjustment – Request to purchase 14 VHF/800MHz radios with department reserve funds
    - With the funding of a new radio system in Big Sky, BSFD will need to update the department’s mobile (vehicle mounted) radios in order to utilize the system.
    - Big Sky Resort Area District funded the radio system but not the radios for BSFD or the Gallatin County Sheriff’s Office.
    - Chief Farhat stated that should BSFD receive the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant for the new radios, the majority of these funds (minus the department’s matching requirement) would be replaced by the grant.
    - Trustee Collins mentioned possibly increasing Chief Farhat’s approved level of spending (currently approved to spend \$50,000.00) without board approval in a future board meeting.
    - **Motion Made and Seconded by Carol Collins and Deb Lewis to approve a budget adjustment and approve the purchase of 14 VHF/800MHz radios with department reserve funds.**
- 6. Old Business**
- a. Station 1 and 2 remodel projects update
    - Chief Farhat does not have an update at this time.
  - b. Training Facility on Big Sky Water/Sewer Property Update
    - Chief Farhat just got the agreement from Kim Christopherson that he will be reviewing before the next meeting.
  - c. Big Sky Resort Area District Memorandum of Understanding Update
    - The agreement was approved at Big Sky Resort Area District’s last board meeting. What it sets forth as a framework is the number for operational money for this year was accepted because they approved it. The goal moving forward is to only increase that number by three percent next year and the following year.
- 7. Other Business**
- a. Hiring Process Update
    - Alecia and Deputy Chief Megaard are completing phone interviews to narrow down the list for entry level people. Application process for the Deputy Chief position recently closed and will be moving forward with that.

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- b. Big Sky Community Organization (BSCO)
- Trustee McClain stated that he recently was informed BSCO is in the process (possibly 2 years out) of putting some sidewalks in through the Westfork Meadows neighborhood.

**8. Public Comment** – None

**9. Date for next regular meeting** – August 22, 2018 at 9:00 am

**10. Adjournment** – 9:40 am

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Alan McClain, Chair

  
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Board Member

cc: Board of Trustees  
Fire Chief William Farhat  
Local 4732  
Gallatin County Board of Commissioners  
Gallatin County Clerk & Records Office  
Madison County Clerk & Records Office