

**BIG SKY FIRE DISTRICT “BSFD”
MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING OF AUGUST 22, 2018**

1. Call to Order

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

Present: Trustees Alan McClain, Carol Collins, and Deb Lewis; William Farhat, Fire Chief; Alecia Fischer, Office Administrator; Mara Mitchell Administrative Assistant

Absent: Trustees Renae Schumacher and Matt Dodd; Greg Megaard, Deputy Chief

a. Introduction of visitors and guests

Big Sky Fire Department: Battalion Chief Barker, Captain Gras, Firefighter Kendziorski, Firefighter Nowlin, Firefighter Parker, and Firefighter Phillips

Public: Community Member Steve Johnson

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

3. Consent Agenda Items

a. Approval of draft minutes of July 25, 2018 Regular Meeting

b. Financial Reports for July 2018

c. Monthly Financial Statements

d. Check Register: Checks 61167089 – 6117160

e. Correspondence

- **Motion Made and Seconded by Carol Collins and Deb Lewis to approve the consent agenda items of August 22, 2018. Passed Unanimously**

4. Fire Chief's Report

- Chief Farhat played a quick video of the Wigwam fire. Firefighters Kammann, Mohr, Nowlin, and Rush, spent about sixty hours over in Madison County assisting with evacuation notices and structure protection work needed due to the Wigwam fire. The fire was not in a position to be fought safely.

5. New Business

a. Jack Creek Road Condition and Egress Capacity Concerns

- Any development requests received in the future in Madison County Chief Farhat feels need to have a written paragraph stating that it is not prudent or safe to add density to the Madison County portions of Big Sky until the road egress issue is repaired as both private and public sections of the road are unsafe.

b. Ambulance Purchase and Request to Publish RFP

- Chief Farhat stated that he would like to use the funds allocated by Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD) for an ambulance remount project to instead go towards the purchase of a new ambulance. This would give BSFD three front line ambulances and one in reserve for maintenance needs.
- **Motion Made and Seconded by Carol Collins and Deb Lewis to approve Chief Farhat publish a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new ambulance and enter into an agreement with the company who has the most qualified proposal to make that purchase for a price not to exceed \$210,000, as long as, BSRAD approves Chief's Farhat request for a change in their appropriation. Passed Unanimously**

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- c. Final Budget for FY 2018-2019
 - See the board packet for the Final Budget
 - **Motion Made and Seconded** by Carol Collins and Deb Lewis to approve the final budget for FY 2018-2019. Passed Unanimously
 - d. Ambulance Bill Reduction Request
 - Chief Farhat stated that he was contacted by a patient’s husband regarding the charge for an ambulance transport. The patient and her husband both requested a reduction of the fee down to the resident rate despite the fact that they are not residents.
 - **Motion Made and Seconded** by Deb Lewis and Carol Collins to deny the request for reduction in fees for the ambulance transport. Passed Unanimously
 - e. Fire Chief Spending Authority
 - Chief Farhat stated that he did not see a reason to increase the amount of money he is authorized to spend without board approval from the current amount of \$50,000.
- 6. Old Business**
- a. Station 1 and 2 remodel projects update
 - Excavation at Station 1 has begun. More firm forecasts of scheduling will be given moving forward (what is happening the current week with forecasts for the following two weeks which will be updated weekly).
 - b. Training Facility on Big Sky Water/Sewer Property Update
 - Deputy Chief Barker is looking into options other than containers that Chief Farhat learned about at a conference in Dallas.
 - c. Cronin Update
 - BSFD’s attorney was subpoenaed to produce business records etc. regarding the work she did last year in relation to the allegation that Chief Farhat had a conflict of interest in dealing with “representatives of Yellowstone Club, Lone Mountain Land Company and their affiliates”.
 - See the board packet for the communication from Kim Christopherson to Brian Gallik
 - d. Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD) Memorandum of Understanding Update
 - BSFD’s attorney (Kim Christopherson) has researched Elizabeth Griffing’s March 15, 2018 opinion letter concerning BSFD’s proposed multi-year agreement for the Department’s operations funding by BSRAD tax revenue. Kim found that Ms. Griffing is incorrect with regard to both issues she addresses in her opinion letter.
 - Kim states that the argument that BSFD’s proposed agreement is not an “interlocal agreement” as defined by law is incorrect
 - Kim also found that the argument that BSRAD cannot enter into a multi-year agreement with BSFD because BSRAD’s appropriations process is an annual process, and except for long-term projects or capital expenditures, entering into a multi-year agreement constitutes an improper binding of the appropriation authority of future BSRAD Boards is incorrect as well.
 - See the board packet for communication from Kim Christopherson including references of Montana Code Annotated related to the above findings.
 - Steve Johnson spoke regarding his opinion that BSRAD needs to start making strategic investments and encourages BSFD to push forward with an interlocal agreement.
 - Chief Farhat is encouraged by the BSFD board to approach the BSRAD board and push to move forward with an interlocal agreement.

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7. Other Business

a. Christmas Party

- Trustee McClain mentioned changing things up and moving away from a Christmas party and towards a department event at a different time of the year.
- Alecia will reach out to department’s members for feedback.

b. Deputy Chief of Community Risk Management

- Interviews are August 29, 2018 and there is a candidate Meet and Greet on August 29, 2018 at Buck’s T-4.

8. Public Comment – None

9. Date for next regular meeting – September 26, 2018 at 8:30 am

10. Adjournment – 10:08 am

Respectfully submitted,

Alan McClain, Chair

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