

BIG SKY FIRE DISTRICT “BSFD”
MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING OF MARCH 25, 2020

1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Chair Alan McClain at 8:30 am

Present: Trustees Alan McClain, Carol Collins, Matt Dodd, Deb Lewis, and Renae Schumacher; Greg Megaard, Interim Fire Chief; Dustin Tetrault, Deputy Chief; Alecia Fischer, Administrative Officer; Mara Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

a. Introduction of visitors and guests

Battalion Chief Barker, Battalion Chief Pruiett, Captain Loomis, Captain Bolton, Captain Gras, Firefighter Farmer, Firefighter Clark, and President Local 4732 Firefighter John Foster, Jon Olsen with Lone Mountain Land Company, and Commissioner Jim Hart joined at 8:57 am

2. Public comment for items not on the agenda

- President Local 4732 Firefighter John Foster wanted to make the board aware that Local’s all over the country are having to redo contracts among other things given the situation with COVID-19 and their departments. Local 4732 has not had to do very much because Chief Megaard and Big Sky Fire Department have been very professional throughout everything.

3. Consent Agenda Items

- a. Approval of draft minutes of February 19, 2020 Regular Meeting
- b. Financial Reports for February 2020
- c. Monthly Financial Statements
- d. Check Register: Checks 6118296 – 6118345
- e. Correspondence

- **Motion Made and Seconded** by Trustee Dodd and Trustee Lewis to approve the consent agenda of March 25, 2020 as presented. Passed unanimously

4. Chief’s Report – See Board Packet for Report

- Chief Megaard stated that as of the morning of 03/25/2020 there are currently 19 cases of COVID-19 in Gallatin County and 53 cases in the state of Montana. The county closest to Gallatin County is Yellowstone County with 8 cases.
- Deputy Chief Tetrault stated that he applied for a FEMA Grant that had support from both Gallatin and Madison Counties (as both counties top priority) for improvements for BSFD’s Training Room so that it can function better as an Alternate Emergency Operations Center. Notification on being awarded the grant (amount applied for is \$100,000) or not should be released around July.

5. New Business

- a. IAFF Local 4732 Informational Training – See Board Packet for Informational Sheet
- b. Fire Chief Position Description and Residency Requirement

- **Motion Made and Seconded** by Trustee Collins and Trustee Lewis to adopt the updated Fire Chief Job Description as presented. Passed unanimously

6. Old Business

- a. ESCI Standards of Cover Document Progress Update and Possible Presentation
 - Chief Megaard stated that with everything going on with the COVID-19 situation he and Chief Tetrault have not had a chance to address the ESCI documents.
- b. Fire Chief Search Committee Update
 - Trustee McClain stated that with the Fire Chief Position Description changes approved the board can continue to move forward with the hiring process and will potentially have more to offer next month.

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- c. Big Sky Resort Area District (BSRAD) FY 2020-2021 Application Review
- Trustee Collins asked if maintenance fees need to be added. Chief Megaard stated that typically maintenance is not included with capital.
 - Chief Megaard encouraged all of the board members at all of the BSRAD meetings related to the Resort Tax funding as board presence has been requested by BSRAD.
 - **Motion Made and Seconded** by Trustee Collins and Trustee Lewis to approve the BSRAD FY 2020-2021 Application as presented. Passed unanimously
- d. Spanish Peaks ODP – Madison County Update
- Jon Olsen spoke to explain Lone Mountain Land Company’s (LMLC) position,
 - LMLC wants to be good community members and is not opposed to a fire station in Spanish Peaks. They feel that because the station would serve more than Spanish Peaks it is not fair and reasonable for one development to fund the station 100%.
 - Jon Olsen stated that LMLC is not asking for anything new from the original ODP from 2003, just asking for an extension.
 - LMLC wants to work with BSFD and dedicate one acre of land that would work for both parties, as well as, negotiate what a fair and reasonable contribution from Spanish Peaks would be.
 - Trustee Collins asked Jon if the original ODP included the hotel currently being built. Jon stated that the size of the actual structure has increased, but if the size of the amenity buildings planned (and designated as the Crossroads area) on the original ODP are included with the size of the original hotel the square footage and use would be fairly consistent with what is going on now. The site and the building got bigger, but the amenities and use has not changed.
 - Trustee McClain asked Chief Megaard and Deputy Chief Tetrault to comment what BSFD feels responsibility is for servicing the Spanish Peaks area. Chief Megaard stated that the majority of Spanish Peaks is outside the five mile radius. Both the Master Plan and Standards of Cover address this issue along with the building currently going on there and distance from Station 1.
 - Jon Olsen stated that the one acre parcel is all that is listed in the response letter, but LMLC realizes that they should have a higher level of commitment and have some sort of reasonable contribution.
 - Jon Olsen pointed out that currently only the Madison County ODP is up for renewal currently. The Madison County portion is 290 units – 92 units are platted currently with 198 left to build. LMLC is hoping for an agreement to be reached and approved at BSFD’s April regular board meeting.
 - Trustee McClain and Chief Megaard asked Jon to redraft LMLC’s letter to fully represent what is being stated at this time.
 - Trustee Collins and Trustee Dodd will form the committee to review Spanish Peaks ODP along with legal, Chief Megaard, and Deputy Chief Tetrault.

7. Other Business

- Trustee Collins thanked the BSFD staff for all their hard work and due diligence during this time.

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8. Public Comment

- Battalion Chief Barker voiced that he appreciates the board’s efforts and believes the current BSFD Board of Trustees is the strongest board in his 20 years with BSFD. He stated that Fire Chief search and the future leadership of the department is at the forefront of everybody’s mind. The department is currently in crisis mode dealing with COVID-19. He pointed out that it has been 100 days since former Chief Farhat submitted his resignation and he feels that it is absolutely important for the board to put this issue at the top of their list.
- Trustee McClain stated that he recognizes this and is aware, but there is a process.


9. Date for next regular meeting – April 22, 2020 at 8:30 am

10. Adjournment – 10:06 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