

**BIG SKY FIRE DISTRICT “BSFD”  
MINUTES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING OF MARCH 24, 2021**

**1. Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order by Chair Alan McClain at 8:35 am

Present: Trustees Alan McClain, Carol Collins, Matt Dodd, and Debra Lewis (joined at 8:42); Greg Megaard, Fire Chief; Dustin Tetrault, Deputy Chief; Alecia Fischer, Administrative Officer; Mara Mitchell, Administrative Assistant

Absent: Trustee Renae Schumacher and Deputy Chief Seth Barker

a. Introduction of visitors and guests

Battalion Chief Bolton, Captain Hamel, Firefighter M. Mohr, Firefighter Migel, Firefighter Lee, Firefighter Parker, Firefighter Ducomb, Firefighter Ketschek, Firefighter Kendziorski (joined at 8:52), President Local 4732 Firefighter John Foster.

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

**3. Consent Agenda Items**

a. Approval of draft minutes of February 24, 2021 Regular Meeting

b. Financial Reports for February 2021

c. Check Register: Checks 6118939 – 6118996

d. Correspondence

- **Motion Made and Seconded by Trustee Collins and Trustee McClain to approve the minutes and the check register agenda as presented.** Passed Unanimously
- Trustee McClain inquired why according to the reports it appears BSFD is much stronger financially this year compared to last year. Chief Megaard stated that steps that BSFD has taken to tighten spending as a precaution has helped.
- Trustee Collins inquired as why an additional payment was made toward the remodel loan balance. Chief Megaard stated that it was made to decrease the principal balance and use a portion of a surplus of funds.
- **Motion Made and Seconded by Trustee Collins and Trustee Lewis to approve the financial reports as presented.** Passed Unanimously
- Trustee McClain asked Deputy Chief Tetrault if he had any additional information other than what is in the board packet correspondence regarding the current senate bills and house bills up for approval. Chief Tetrault did not have anything additional.
- Chief Megaard added that HB 385 regarding special districts is up for hearing February 25, 2021 which does pertain to BSFD. BSFD and all fire districts in the state are opposed to this bill.
- **Motion Made and Seconded by Trustee Collins and Trustee Dodd to approve the correspondence as presented.** Passed Unanimously

**4. Chief's Report – See Board Packet for Report**

- Trustee Collins asked who signs the Letter of Intent for the Resort Tax Application. Chief Megaard reminded the board that in 2020 it was decided that Chief Megaard would be the individual to sign.
- Trustee McClain asked the current status of staffing at Station 2. Chief Megaard stated that Station 2 will remain staffed 24/7 through the end of ski season and that hopefully with the hiring process this year Station 2 will move to being staffed 24/7/365.

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**5. New Business**

- a. Status of Big Sky Fire District’s Attorney
  - Chief Megaard informed the board that Kim Christopherson has taken a job in Nashville, TN. Per Chief Megaard’s request she did recommend an individual as a replacement. Chief Megaard is hoping to have more information on a replacement possibly for approval at April’s meeting.
- b. Battalion Chief Promotion
  - Captain Jeff Bolton has been promoted to Battalion Chief which leaves an opening in the Captain Training Officer position.

**6. Old Business**

- a. 2021-2022 Annual Budget Discussion and Adoption
  - Chief Megaard presented the FY 2021-2022 Budget. He stated that the main expense increase is due to wages, salaries, and benefits. The budget does propose rebuilding 1214, as well as, purchasing a replacement engine which both projects were pushed out last year due to Covid. The budget was a collaborative process. The recommendation from the budget committee (Trustee Collins and Trustee McClain) is to adopt the budget presented.
  - **Motion Made and Seconded by Trustee Collins and Trustee Lewis to adopt the FY 2021-2022 Annual Budget as presented. Passed Unanimously**
- b. Local 4732 Union Contract Update
  - The Collective Bargaining Agreement is still in process. Chief Megaard hopes to present it at April’s meeting for approval.
- c. Fire Chief Performance Review Update
  - Trustee McClain stated that the review will be pretty general due to Covid. Questions will be given to Chief Megaard and the answers will be given to the board. There will be a virtual meeting to review and evaluate.
  - Chief Megaard stated that he is not opposed to having an open review process. He also encouraged the committee to reach out to the Deputy Chief’s and Administrative Officer to evaluate his performance as they report directly to him.
- d. Spanish Peaks ODP Update
  - Chief Megaard stated that the last meeting was both cooperative and productive.
  - Trustee Collins and Trustee Dodd are both appreciative of the work Chief Megaard and Chief Tetrault put into the agreement.
  - Deputy Chief Tetrault summarized that a RID will be sought following the final plat approval of the Southern Comfort development. The RID implementation is likely 2-3 years out.

**7. Other Business**

- Trustee McClain asked Chief Megaard for a CARES Act update. Chief Megaard stated that BSFD has received payment for the first submission in the amount of \$1,094,614.73. There will be a meeting with the committee to evaluate and determine where funds will go.
- Deputy Chief Tetrault wanted to inform everyone that Representative Jane Gillette was wonderful and great to work with. She crossed party lines to support SB 178.
- Trustee McClain asked President Foster for an update on items in legislation. President Foster stated that HB251 was shut down with over 500 union members, including Firefighter Parker and Firefighter Kendziorski present and party lines were crossed to shut the bill down as well.

