

WHITEFISH FIRE SERVICE AREA

Special Meeting Minutes

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 27, 2024

Station 22, 1345 Hodgson Road, Whitefish, Montana

Meeting called to order at 5:57 p.m.

Board members present: Dave Kauffman, Mark Carlson, Tom Moran, Ed McGrew, Jim Dyon

DC Haas, Executive Director

Guests present: Joe Perry, Big Drift Marketing, Chief Cole Hadley, John Vandenberg

The meeting was called to order 6:00 p.m.

Public Comments for Non-Agenda Items: None

Treasurer Report

Bills Due:

Insty Prints	\$195.00
Mail Room	\$2397.17
Costco	\$12.49

Moran comment on his work on the Flathead IT Spreadsheet

560 Unimproved Parcels

171 Residences and 1 business without 2023 WFSA assessments

Mobile Homes remain to be contact by mail.

WFSA to push non-assessments to Flathead Finance as part of upcoming 2024 GIS audit.

Motion made by Carlson to approve payments, second by McGrew. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Director Contract

The contract was signed and dated by all parties.

Work Session Discussion: Review and plan for the future of the WFSA

Q and A directed to Chief Hadley from all board members:

Homestead will likely build a station and continue with forming a district. It remains unclear how it will be staffed.

The greatest need continues to be all season water accessibility. An underground holding tank with a generator pump is needed for tender replenishment.

Training volunteers to operate tenders: CDL and NFPA requirements take time to qualify drivers.

What about a Big Mountain Annexation? Timeline is unclear at this time.

Chief Hadley states the location of the next fire station would likely be somewhere north of Whitefish viaduct.

What would it take to make WFD capable of a two-incident response 24/7: two additional firefighters per shift, adding as many as twelve additional firefighters to the current roster.

Flathead Planning Board/Board of Adjustment: WFSA needs to create a case study for the boards to reevaluate the need to require certified water on certain housing developments. Board member Dyon will help bring our findings to the planning board.

Motor vehicle accidents: WFD is currently contracting a study for recouping costs for MVA's and hazmat cleanup. There is also potential to bill Flathead County Fire Service area for response.

Chief Hadley has submitted a AFG Grant to request funding for the next WFD Engine: A 100 foot reach Quint ladder truck would help WFD rating (1 point), but would not be totally feasible for use in all WFSA calls.

Advantages: High point rescue, high water delivery, shorter wheelbase would make the vehicle useable on standard width roads without tight radius turns.

Disadvantage to WFSA: ISO boost would be restricted to a 2.5-mile road mile radius from WFD Station 21.

There is a possibility of a WFSA purchased Water Tender:

Advantage: Adds a needed vehicle to local fleet

Disadvantages: Would likely require additional fire personnel to be of regular use.

Training regimen would be NFPA with a FSTS Task book.

Chief Hadley states that a mutual aid tender only takes one firefighter from another department.

March Board Meeting Agenda Items:

Set a date for the next Planning Meeting.

Public Comment for Agenda Related Items: None

Flat rate increase proposal to Commissioners: Haas to summarize responses from stakeholder outreach letter and share with Commissioners by the end of April 2024.

Next Meeting: 6:00 p.m., March 19, 2024

Motion made by McGrew to adjourn, second by Carlson. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

/s/ DC Haas, Executive Director