

WHITEFISH FIRE SERVICE AREA

Board Meeting Minutes

6:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Station 22, 1345 Hodgson Road, Whitefish, Montana

Call to Order: 5:57 By Kauffman

Attendance: Kauffman, Carlson, Dyon McGrew, Moran excused (illness), Haas

Guests: Eddie Smith, Slade House, Don Montgomery, Joe Perry, Nick Lombardi, Marc Moen, Brenda Moen, William A. MacDonald, Chief Hadley

Approve meeting minutes:

- February 20, 2024, Board Meeting: add “and prepare agenda” and “Treasurer” to Haas
- February 27, 2024, Planning Meeting
- March 04, 2024, Special Board Meeting

Motion to approve meeting minutes made by Carlson, seconded by Dyon. Motion carried.

Approve March 19, 2024, Agenda: Motion to approve agenda made by Carlson, seconded by Dyon. Motion carried.

Public Comments for non-agenda items:

- Mr. and Mrs. Moen introduced themselves.
- Eddie Smith: Mr. Smith provided a possible funding plan to help the WFSA. Smith stated that the (possible district) 11.74 mill would be a break even point. The floating mill rate is not guaranteed, especially with a document inflation rate. His point is that we would never catch up to the city contract fee, which increases annually. Our income would never catch up to the city contact rate. Smith suggested a 25% increase for each of the next four years. When converted to a district, the established mill rate. A four-year plan is needed to capture this proposal for funding. Smith discussed the funding model with Commissioner Brodehl, who verbally approved the plan, with proper documentation.
- Will MacDonald presented a draft MOU describing a plan for the Homestead to provide land and up to 1 million to build a fire station on Farm to Market Road. Mr. MacDonald states there is a need for fire protection in that area, and the Homestead is committed to help. He expects others in the area to provide additional support. The MOU is dependent on the WFSA forming a fire district by 2029.

Treasurer Report/Communications tabled until the April Board meeting. Motion made by Carlson to pay bills, seconded by Dyon. Motion carried.

McGrew, Financial Books: McGrew states all financial records remain at the fire hall. Discussion followed. Motion made that bookkeeping and receipts be kept at the hall, unless preapproved by the Board. Motion made by Carlson, seconded by McGrew. Motion carried.

Haas, Executive Director Report:

- Community/Government Outreach comment summary to date, about 77.18 approved the rate increase. Comments continue to be received.
- Haas to request Commissioners meeting this week.
- April 4 meeting with Dana Smith, McGrew, Dyon and Carlson recommend Haas meet without the Board present.
- Mobile Homeowners and audit. Moran is continuing with line by line audit. Board suggested that Haas ask the county about collecting back taxes when meeting with Commissioners.
- Discuss options for scheduling regular strategic planning meetings. Tuesday, April 09,

Ongoing Business, purchase of E-ONE Type I Engine:

Carlson gave WFSA history of purchasing past engines. Purchase of engines shows cooperation with Whitefish Fire. Hadley states current WFSA payments goes into City General Fund. An engine purchase goes directly to the Fire Department. Discussion about engine typing and various pricing options ensued.

Motion made by Carlson to purchase the Type I Engine, seconded by McGrew. Discussion occurred concerning several issues with a \$600,000 purchase. Call for Question, restate the motion, read back motion to purchase the Type I Engine. Discussion continues. Motion withdrawn by Carlson. Haas to seek an MOU with the City.

Motion to hold Special Board Meeting by Carlson, seconded by McGrew. Motion carried. Haas to send out Agenda tonight for March 22, 2024, meeting.

Review Bylaws for editing not discussed.

Public comments on agenda items: Audience thanks Board for delaying purchase.

Next Board Meeting: March 22, 2024, Special Board meeting for Engine Purchase.

Motion to Adjourn was made by McGrew, seconded by Dyon. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

This meeting was digitally recorded.

Submitted by DC Haas, Executive Director