

**POLSON RURAL FIRE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – MAY 14, 2008**

Board trustee members present: Ross Hoyt, Fred Nelson, Alison Meslin, and Jim Manley.
Board trustee member absent: Dave Ottun
Staff Present: Fire Chief John Fairchild
Guests: Polson City Councilman Tom Jones, Volunteer Fire Personnel Terry Gembala, Jeff Meslin, Steve McCoy and Jodi O'Sullivan.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hoyt at 7:00 p.m.

Minutes April 9, 2008 Rural Fire Board Meeting: Motion Chairman Hoyt, seconded Trustee Nelson to approve minutes of April 9, 2008 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Treasury Report:

Operating Fund Balance	\$ 57,382.96
Capital Improvement Fund Balance	\$ 77,841.79
Voted Levy Fund Balance	\$ 14,104.28

Paid bills in the amount of \$ 1,588.23

Check numbers 3661- 3669, both inclusive
(paid May 14, 2008)

PPL protested taxes were released in April 2008. The above fund balances include PPL released taxes and interest to the operating fund of \$19,583.38 and PPL released taxes and interest to the voted levy fund of \$12,176.21.

Chairman Hoyt accepted the treasury report as submitted.

Motion Trustee Nelson, seconded Trustee Meslin to transfer \$19,000 of the PPL protested tax collections in the Operating Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills: Trustee Meslin noted L.N. Curtis invoice included one pair of bunker boots \$123.00 and one pair of leather boots \$304.00. The itemized category report does not indicate who received the boots. Fire Chief Fairchild indicated the boots are for firemen Clapp and Boucher. **Motion Trustee Meslin seconded Chairman Hoyt to pay bills. Motion carried unanimously.**

Staff Report: Fire Chief Fairchild reported hydro tests were completed on air pacs with one tank failing the test. June training session will include a haz mat scene. The 2008 Montana DNRC Incident Rental Agreement was presented for Chairman Hoyt's signature. Trustee Meslin questioned the city vehicles listed on the contract and requested the city complete a separate contract. **Motion Trustee Nelson second Chairman Hoyt to remove city vehicles from the contract; then authorize the chairman to sign the contract Motion carried unanimously.**

Correspondence: The board received a letter from the Polson volunteer fire department membership regarding Polson rural water tender 319. The membership with the support of Fire Chief Fairchild request 319 moved and removed from service. **Motion Trustee Nelson, seconded Trustee Manley to take water tender 319 out of service. Motion carried unanimously.** All loose parts will be removed and with approval of Lake County Commissioners the tender will be parked at the Lake County lot located on 1st Street East outside the fenced area. Trustee Meslin suggested the tender advertised for sale. Fire Chief

Fairchild will research options for sale and report at the next board meeting. (Copy of letter attached to file minutes). The board also received a letter from the volunteers regarding current issues being discussed by the Polson City Council and Polson Rural Fire Board. The volunteers wrote "we want to go on record as stating that we do not feel that such a separation would ultimately be of benefit to anyone: the City Council; the Rural Board; the Fire Chief; the volunteers of the Department; and most importantly the community we serve." (Copy of letter attached to file minutes).

Old Business:

WESTERN STATES INSURANCE POLICY - Fire Chief Fairchild reported inland marine includes any movable parts either off the truck or out of the station such as hand tools or radios; also the fire boat is insured on the rural policy. Trustee Manley indicated the boat is in the ownership of the volunteers. The previous boat donated by the Lake County Sheriff's department was on the policy. Western States was not notified of the policy change with the current billing, the premium charge is for the previous boat. The current boat owned by the volunteers has a reduced value, therefore an insurance refund will be issued. Trustee Manley indicated it would be helpful to know the cost of the premium. The title of the boat is in the name of the membership (volunteers), therefore can the rural fire department legally insure the boat. Chairman Hoyt suggested Fire Chief Fairchild request additional information from Western States and report at the next meeting.

AUDIT – Documents were provided to the auditor April 24th to begin the off premise audit. Bonnie will contact the auditor regarding an anticipated entrance conference date. The contract states date to commence audit work April 7, 2008 and date to submit final audit report June 2, 2008.

ANNEXED RURAL PROPERTY BY CITY – The correspondence to the city was also forwarded to City Attorney James Raymond and City Manager Jay Henry. Trustee Nelson suggested Councilman Jones discuss the issue at the next city council meeting.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT – Trustee Manley reported on the May 6th meeting with the city council members. Mayor Marchello suggested a committee of the rural fire board and city council meet to review proposals Tuesday, May 20th. In the meantime, City Attorney James Raymond and Trustee Manley are working on changes and possible drafts for changes. Unfortunately there is nothing optimistic to report. Referencing the letter from the Polson volunteer firefighters there seems to be some misunderstanding, and rumors of a potential split into two departments a city fire department and a rural fire department. It is not the intent of the board to separate the city and rural departments. It is the position of the Polson Fire Department the membership is a separate sovereign entity and that neither the city council or rural board has any authority over the membership. The board does not wish to exercise authority or split the membership. The board recently created two rural fire companies the Polson Rural Fire and the Big Arm Rural Fire. The board does not wish to exercise authority over the fire chief as a city employee. The board's interest is in the rural fire companies and the rural firefighters. It is in the best interest of the community to cooperate as a joint effort.

LAND AND BUILDING ACQUISITION – Trustee Meslin and Ottun met with Lake County Commissioner Mike Hutchins and fairgrounds manager Dave Graham. After walking the site the county agreed to increase the size of the parcel to 200' X200'. The commissioners requested a letter of interest and after the lease is signed requested the area fenced. Trustee Manley reviewed the lease provided by the county. He suggested the board request a 10 year lease with a \$1 per year lease payment. Changed liability insurance coverage to \$750,000. **Motion Trustee Nelson, seconded Trustee Meslin submit**

lease to Lake County Commissioners and authorize Chairman Hoyt to sign lease following meeting with Commissioners. Motion carried unanimously.

Trustee Meslin reported USDA has funds available \$35,000 grant and \$65,000 loan at 4.50% for 40 years. The financing package does not fit the 10 year lease offer by the county. Charlo fire will be constructing a 70'x100' building borrowing \$150,000 for 30 years with an annual payment of \$10,000. Fisher River Valley constructed a 72'x80' building for \$142,000. Smith Valley built a 158'x80' building for \$1.5 million with a 20 year loan. Tentative local loan interest rates are 4.89%; 1% below prime adjusted annually with current rate at 4.0%; 5.04% fixed. Estimated payments on a \$100,000 loan is \$12,000 to \$13,000 annually. A floor plan for the building was reviewed. **Motion Trustee Nelson, seconded Trustee Manley to obtain bid proposal to construct chain link fence per county specification. Motion carried unanimously.**

New Business:

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - Motion Trustee Manley, seconded Trustee Nelson to appoint Ross Hoyt as chairman. Motion carried unanimously. Motion Trustee Manley, seconded Trustee Hoyt to appoint Fred Nelson vice chairman; and Alison Meslin secretary-treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

FY '08-'09 BUDGET – Lake County Clerk & Recorder provided a budget form to complete and submit by June 10, 2008. Chairman Hoyt and Trustee Meslin will serve on the budget committee with Fire Chief Fairchild.

Comments from public: None

Meeting adjourned 8:09 p.m.

Ross Hoyt, Chairman

Alison W. Meslin Secretary-Treasurer