

**POLSON RURAL FIRE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES – APRIL 10, 2007**

Board trustee members present: Ross Hoyt, Alison Meslin, Fred Nelson.

Board trustee members absent: Steve Lozar.

Staff Present: Fire Chief John Fairchild.

Guests: Lester Johnson, Tom Sadecki, Terry Gembala, President of Volunteer Fire Department, Chris McGuinness.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hoyt at 4:38 p.m.

Rural Fire Board Meeting Minutes March 14, 2007 and Special Meeting March 21, 2007: Trustee Nelson clarified the March 14th minutes the intent regarding the interlocal agreement is to review the agreement and make some changes. The letter from Mayor Clavadetcher implied termination of the agreement. Chairman Hoyt talked with the mayor and clarified the intent is to review the agreement. **Motion Trustee Nelson, seconded Trustee Meslin to approve March 14th and March 21st minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

Treasurer's Report:

Operating Fund Balance	\$ 21,092.72
Capital Improvement Fund Balance	\$ 43,519.49
Voted Levy	\$ 956.88

3-21-07 Special meeting bills	\$ 770.00
March 21, 2007 Special meeting check numbers 3377- 3383, both inclusive (paid March 22, 2007)	

4-10-07 Monthly meeting bills	\$ 9,752.60
Check numbers 3384 - 3397, both inclusive (paid April 10, 2007)	

Bills: The following payments were clarified 1) Check #3397 to G & M Auto Tech in the amount of \$204.18 is a standard oil, filter & service to the new pumper #326. 2) Check #3387 to L.N. Curtis in the amount of \$1,881.50 includes a new folding tank at \$1,338.50, supplies gloves, gear bag, and ground cover for #326. The supplies for #326 purchased last month and this month are part of the budgeted \$17,000 to equip the new trucks. 3) Mission Valley Power account has an applied credit for three years of light pole charges for a 200 watt light instead of the 100 watt light. The difference in the lumen charge is \$85.04. Trustee Meslin volunteered to send a thank you to MVP customer service representative, Geri Hall. Chairman Hoyt reported the new light is installed and the service connect and use will appear on the May bill. **Motion Chairman Hoyt, seconded Trustee Nelson to pay bills. Motion carried unanimously.**

Correspondence:

Chairman Hoyt reported Lake County Commissioners received a letter of resignation from Trustee Ron Ryan. Ron is currently employed out of town and is unable to physically be present at Board meetings with any regularity. Trustee Lozar indicated his job commitment will change in April and then able to attend meetings. The Commissioners will publish the vacancy in local newspapers, interview the applicants, submit a list to the board for a recommendation, then the commissioners will appoint a trustee to fill the appointment to April 30, 2008. The process should be completed by the end of May.

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Old Business:

MINUTES ON WEBSITE - Chief Fairchild reported the approved board minutes sent to Public Relations Officer, Karen Sargeant to be forwarded to the website.

REPORT ON TENDER - The board viewed pictures of the new tender/engine #326.

OUT OF SERVICE SUPPLIES – The department donated jackets and old pieces of equipment that were taken out of service to a department in eastern Montana. The department sent a thank you expressing appreciation.

New Business:

CHIEF'S REPORT - New equipment for engine #318 has been received. Chief Fairchild and the truck committee will leave April 11th for Appleton, Wisconsin to inspect the new engine #318. During Chief Fairchild's absence, a mutual aid agreement is in place with Finley Point and Ronan Fire to respond. The insurance company requires ten hours of training on the new trucks before putting the truck into service.

BUDGET CONCERNS - Trustee Nelson reported due to protested taxes by PPL and Northwestern Energy the operating budget will be short \$13,684 and the voted levy will be short \$8,520 for a total of \$22,205. Senate Bill 539 introduced in the 2007 Montana State Legislature would allow for local governments to access a portion of the funds. The loan payment on the new trucks is \$44,120 semi-annually.

INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT - Trustee Meslin suggested review and perhaps changes in the agreement by the board. Chairman Hoyt thought the agreement should be reviewed with the city when a city manager is hired. The board may wish to review the agreement during a work session.

HAND REELED HOSE – Volunteer Fireman Terry Gembala suggested the board approve giving the hand reeled hose to another department. **Motion Trustee Nelson, seconded Trustee Meslin to give hand reeled hose to another department. Motion carried unanimously.**

CONTRIBUTION FOR USE OF UTILITIES - Trustee Meslin presented a check in the amount of \$120 from the Big Arm Association for six months (January – June 2007) for use of the Big Arm Fire Station meeting room.

SALE OF WILDLAND SLIDE-IN – Wolf Point Fire Department is still interested in purchasing the slide-in. **Motion Trustee Nelson to sell the slide-in and put the money back into the capital reserve fund.** Trustee Meslin indicated there seems to be some confusion with the need and then not needing the slide-in. When the units were purchased last year there was an indication the units were worth a lot of money and now other departments aren't interested in paying top dollar and also the basis the DNRC truck may be pulled from the Big Arm Station and now the truck is to stay in Big Arm. Chief Fairchild has concerns regarding the shortage of available funds during the wildfire season if equipment should break down. The slide-in isn't being used and the department would be better to have the cash available for an emergency. The department does not have funds to purchase a truck for the slide-in. Trustee Meslin has concerns with the condition of the 1987 Chevy for the upcoming fire season. Trustee Nelson and Chief Fairchild indicated if a crisis should arise a solution would be to replace the engine or transmission within a couple of days instead of purchasing a new truck. Trustee Meslin referred to a current advertisement in the Missoulian listing a type 6 for \$9,500. The offering amount of \$8,000 is probably realistic since the hose will be removed from the unit. Chairman Hoyt discussed the upcoming wildland fire season indicating the DNRC furnishes a truck, but if the truck is needed elsewhere the DNRC comes to get it. He would like a confirmation from local DNRC representative, Dave Poukish, stating the truck will stay in Big Arm. Trustee Meslin indicated the DNRC truck issue was discussed at a meeting with Irvine Flats residents the truck would be available in the Irvine Flats location. Dave indicated residents could be certified in wildland training and respond in the Irvine Flats area. Fire Chief Fairchild indicated the board should go on record clarifying the DNRC is placing a truck in the Irvine Flats area, therefore the placement of the truck is not a request of the Polson Rural Fire Board. **Chairman Hoyt called for the question, previous motion by Trustee Nelson, seconded Chairman Hoyt to sell the slide-in for \$8,000 and put the funds back in the capital reserve fund. Motion carried unanimously.**

WEED CONTROL - Trustee Meslin reported Tim Beebe volunteered to spray weeds at the Big Arm Station with roundup weed control at his expense. Fire Chief Fairchild asked if Mr. Beebe has a state certification and suggested a waiver signed. **Motion Chairman Hoyt, seconded Trustee Nelson to proceed with weed control at the Big Arm Station as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.**

Meeting adjourned 5:10 p.m.