

**POLSON RURAL FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING
MINUTES JUNE 8, 2011**

Board trustee members present: R. Jack Clapp, Dean Sams, Beth Hoel, Fred Nelson, Steve Stanley.

Board trustee members absent: None

Staff: Fire Chief John E. Fairchild, Board Clerk Bonnie M. Manicke

Guests: Residents - Tom Eddy, Jim Sisler, Jerry Peterson, Alan Fillman, Lee Manicke, Jim Sisler, Rory Horning, Roger Rogers.

**Meeting called to order 7:00 p.m. at Fairgrounds Rural Fire Station No. 4 by Chair Clapp.
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.**

Minutes May 11, 2011 Polson Rural Fire District Board Meeting: Mr. Eddy stated he contributed comments to the minutes regarding Resolution Number 20 vehicle incident response itemized billing. He would like an opportunity to review the minutes and voice public input. Chair Clapp noted the minutes were not available to the public prior to the meeting, therefore, public input is not available. June, 2006 the board passed a motion requiring the minutes approved by the board prior to public release. It is appropriate for the board to approve the minutes then the minutes will be published. If a correction is suggested by the public, the board will review the comments at the next meeting. **Motion Trustee Stanley to accept the minutes of May 11, 2011 as presented, second Trustee Hoel. Motion carried unanimously.**

Communications: Big Arm Association June scheduled use of Big Arm Fire Hall. May 31st 9:00 a.m. Committee meeting; Thursday, June 2nd 10:30 a.m. community coffee hour; Thursday, June 9th and Friday, June 10th Montana Preservation Alliance and Big Arm Association Touchstone Project Workshop 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Other community groups use: Sunday, June 26th 2:00 p.m. Silver Rock Pine Home Owners Association. The May schedule presented to the board last month did not include the May 31st committee meeting. Repairs were scheduled for the Big Arm Station May 31st. The board is concerned with heavy equipment at the station during the meeting. The board suggested the Big Arm Fire Hall activities communication forwarded the first Wednesday of the month to avoid conflicts. Letter dated May 20, 2011 signed by Marshall and Betty Bjork to members of Polson Rural Fire District Board. *As citizens and taxpayers of Lake County, we are strongly opposed to the "crash tax." We appreciate all that our many volunteer firemen do for us, but we disagree with, not only the tax, but also the way it is being implemented with no vote by our citizens.* **Motion Trustee Stanley to approve communications, second Trustee Hoel. Motion carried unanimously.**

Claims: Trustee Hoel noted the mechanical repairs on Engine #327. Trustee Nelson noted the payment for excavation repairs at the Big Arm Station. All the repairs were completed with payment due. **Motion Trustee Sams to pay May 2011 claims as submitted, second Trustee Nelson. Motion carried unanimously.**

Treasury Report for month ending May 2011:

All funds reflect May revenue posted.

Fund #7245 Operating Fund Balance	\$ 33,729.43
Fund #7244 Voted Levy Debt Svc. {Fire Apparatus}	\$.00
Fund #7246 Capital Improvement Fund Balance	\$ 29,624.83
Fund #7243 Voted Levy/Reserve Fund Balance	\$ 121,126.20
Total Operating Fund Expenditures	\$ 26,447.39
Check numbers 4551 - 4567 (paid June 8, 2011)	

Motion Trustee Sams to accept treasury report, second Chair Clapp. Motion carried unanimously.

Chief's report: Fire Chief Fairchild reported 20 runs in May for the department with 5 rural responses including 4 fire calls, 1 chimney, 2 vehicle crashes and 2 other. No volunteer applications were given out. Volunteer training hours average 72.6 hours per member. The accumulated volunteer hours for both city and rural are 804 hours. Annual service inspection was completed and validated for Engine #327. Engine #327 will be returned to the Irvine Flats Station. Engine #319 will be returned to the Polson Station. The department provided mutual aid for a crash response out of the district in Elmo. The volunteers will host a hamburger feed at the Big Arm Station June 25th 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Mr. Eddy requested information on the crash responses. Chair Clapp reported one crash was less than one hour and no bill was issued. Chief Cliff Fire Department requested Polson respond to the Elmo crash. The bill for services was \$550. The services were billed as mutual aid for the crash response out of the Polson district. Mr. Eddy inquired if the board received information from the Lake County Attorney regarding his request for release of information contained in crash reports. No information was received. Mr. Eddy is welcome to contact the Lake County Attorney.

Old Business:

MEETING WITH CITY MANAGER – Chair Clapp and Trustee Stanley met with City Manager Todd Crossett. The committee plans to meet periodically to discuss common department issues.

BIG ARM REPAIRS – Trustee Sams reported Rubel Contracting, LLC planned to install a retaining wall to prevent the bank from sloughing. Analyzing the issue further, it was resolved the best way to repair the area was to installed a drain field along the perimeter of the fire station concrete slab. Landscape fabric, drain rock and drain pipes with a large french drain was installed. The parking lot was also regraded. Chair Clapp noted a lot of water going through the parking lot caused the cracking in the lot. He requested residents in the Big Arm area report issues at the station to the board..

ISO INSURANCE PROGRESS - Fire Chief Fairchild reported following submission of a data report an ISO representative will be scheduled for a site evaluation. Generally a two or three week advance notice will be provided. Water shuttle training is an important factor for the ISO rating. The test is to shuttle water to and from a non-hydrant rural area. Hopefully the water shuttle test will improve the ISO rating.

BUDGET COMMITTEE UPDATE – Trustees Hoel and Stanley reported the FY 2011-2012 budget preparation is a work in progress.

5/10 YEAR PLANNING COMMITTEE UPDATE – The committee members Jack Clapp, John Fairchild and Sid Rundell will meet in the near future to complete a written draft.

New Business:

None.

Public Input on Non Agenda Items: – Mr. Eddy addressed the issue of draft minutes available to the public prior to approval. He sited examples regarding draft minutes and requested the board review the policy. A prior board adopted a policy regarding the release of minutes. The board will take the request under advisement.

Mr. Eddy also commented about recent newspaper opinion articles regarding the vehicle crash fees and questioned facts being presented. Resident Rory Horning commented on the open meeting law. Mr. Eddy went on to explain the crash response fee and various pieces of information referencing the issue. Mr. Rogers indicated the Ronan Fire Department billed two crashes in the past five years. Chair Clapp replied the Ronan Fire Department billed far more than that. Mr. Rogers indicated the residents in the

district pay real estate taxes which should provide adequate revenue for the department. Mr. Fillman suggested insurance rates will increase due the vehicle crash fee. Mr. Sisler questioned other district's charges for vehicle crash response. Mr. Eddy enumerated on the charges assessed in other districts. Mr. Sisler noted the budget was covered by taxes and it has been doing the job, what is the reason for the additional source of revenue. Mr. Horning stated the board's position is to represent all residents. Trustee Nelson speaking as a taxpayer stated the fire department is not obligated to respond to vehicle crashes.

Motion Trustee Stanley to adjourn, second Trustee Hoel. Polson Rural Fire District meeting adjourned 7:49 p.m.

The board adjourned to executive session to discuss litigation matters.

The meeting was reopened to the public. No further business was conducted.

Adjourned 8:00 p.m.

R. Jack Clapp, Chair

Beth Hoel, Secretary-Treasurer