

RED LODGE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT 7
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
April 9, 2024

Meeting called to order by vice chair Dick DeVille at 7:04 pm

Trustees Present: Dick DeVille, Tom Kastelitz (remote), Billy Oley (remote), Beth Graham (remote)

RLFR personnel present: Tom Kuntz, Tim Ryan, Torsten Prah

Kastelitz made a motion to accept the previous minutes as presented. Oley seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Trustees Report: None to report

Treasurer's Report:

Ryan highlighted the board financial report. He indicated that there were no unusual expenditures. The remodel has been ongoing and some additional expenses are coming in. We have plenty of cash for the project so far. Everything is on track at this point. See Board Financial Report.

Kastelitz made a motion to accept the financial report as presented. DeVille seconded motion. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

Station remodel: Kuntz stated that the project was on track and is looking good but is coming in higher than expected. Sprinkler system had some unexpected changes. The sprinkler company donated some time to compensate for the changes. We have received some donations from various entities working on the project. Also, the RLFR Foundation donated \$35,000 for the furnishings and some miscellaneous items needed to totally complete the project.

County wide mill levy: Torsten presented a report of the mill levy and ambulance district service fee. He & Tom will give a presentation at the Roosevelt Center on Thursday April 11, then April 17th at the Joliet community center, April 27th Joliet. And finally May 1st at the Roberts fire hall. Discussion followed.

Training Center/ station 73 Loan: The facility is now fully transferred to Fire District 7. Looking into the future, the next large fund purchase will be the land directly north of the city station.

Resolution 24-001- Resolution to secure loan: Kuntz explained the needs and merits the loan proposal. After some discussion, Kastelitz made a motion to approve resolution 24-001 in the amount of \$450,000.00. Graham seconded motion. Motion Passed. See resolution 24-001 for details

Capital improvement plan: Kuntz is in the process of putting together a comprehensive, detailed capital improvement plan to present to the group that he feels will map out the department's needs into the future.

New Business:

Office Manager hiring/ Fire Prevention specialist hiring: Tim reported he and Tom have come up with a plan that will replace Tim's position with fire inspections. Katie Hedtke will be taking it over. Office manager position is now out for applications. It's being done now so Tim will have time to train the 2 new people and make a smooth transition before his retirement in 18 months.

The Community Care Program grant funding (Ruth Bilyeu) will expire May 31. We are looking for ways to continue to fund the program. One possible idea being explored is having the hospital help out with this loss of money in the contract with the hospital. This was part of the covid era funds/grants and is coming to an end.

Chief's Report: Tom talked about the banquet on April 19th. He also reminded the board that we have some great talent in our organization. We have a lot of participation from our volunteers. It's important that everyone steps up to assist with this mill levy and get the word out and sell it to the public.

Announcements:

DeVille made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Graham seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 pm

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 18th, 2024

Signed,

Lee Hauge, Clerk