

**RED LODGE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT 7**  
**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**June 18, 2024**

Meeting called to order by vice chair Harris Gabrian at 7:04 pm

**Trustees Present:** Dick DeVille, Tom Kastelitz, Beth Graham

**RLFR personnel present:** Tom Kuntz, Tim Ryan, Kim Bednarz

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

***Trustees Report:*** None to report

***Treasurer's Report:***

Ryan presented the board financial report up through May 31. Ryan and Kuntz detailed out the budget breakouts of the remodel. Kuntz discussed the cash shortage for the current fiscal year, things are ok, and with the levy passing we are in good shape.

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

**FY 24-25 Budget:** Kuntz presented the budget, the biggest impact being the mill levy passing, anticipated income is \$600,000. The agreement will be directly with the county. We've built the budget to include that. See FY 2025 budget narrative. The agreement with the city went from \$240,000 to \$310,000. Adjusted wages and salaries have been accounted for. Details will be discussed further in the meeting.

Resolution 24-002: Resolution to adopt the 2024-25 COLA adjustments.

Kuntz proposed a motion to approve resolution to adopt- Gabrian moved to adopt Resolution 2024-002, Graham seconded. Motion passed.

***Unfinished Business:***

Station Remodel: Kuntz reported that the project nearly complete and has given us the space we've needed. It's been a breath of fresh air.

Ambulance District Service Fee: The county will appoint an ambulance board to decide how money is divided and to oversee that the money is used appropriately. This will negate the need for the Ambulance District.

Kuntz Proposed resolution 24-003- Resolution of intent to terminate Ambulance District agreement. Graham proposed to wait to pass this resolution until the county drafts a replacement agreement from the county. After discussion on the risk of terminating too soon Kuntz proposed to table the approval until after Kuntz meets with the county commissioners to discuss the new agreement with the county. Action on this resolution was tabled.

Resolution 24-001- Resolution to secure loan: Kuntz discussed the loan with the bank, giving us about 150,000 cash in the bank. Resolution 24-004 - Resolution to open a line of Credit for up to 250,000. Gabrian moved to approve the resolution, Deville Seconded, motion carries.

**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. Two things coming up in the near future 1) We need new ambulances. Looking like 2 years out to get one. Tim guesses about 400,000 for 2 new ambulances. 2) Engine replacement for E71 will be coming up. Will discuss further with City agreement.

The Community Care Program grant funding (Ruth Bilyeu) expired May 31. We agreed to continue this service with the Mill Levy passing, so we will be able to continue that program.

Safer Grant - Graham questioned that and what the future is there, Kuntz hopes to reapply when it expires in a year and a half.

Turnout grant - has been applied for, hoping to get it.

Discussion about the good work done by the department and Torsten Prah on the Mill Levy passing.

#### *New Business:*

Paramedic Hiring: Joel Anthes has turned in his resignation letter. He and Hailey will be moving to Wisconsin. Interviews were completed today, two internal applicants.

City Fire Agreement: We have an agreement with the city to provide fire protection. Last year the city mills dropped. The city would like to negotiate the current agreement to buy us capital (fire engine) rather than mills. Much discussion, Kuntz will continue discussion with the City and bring proposals to the next meeting.

**Resolution 24-005:** Ryan requested a motion to approve a resolution to adjust the ambulance billing rates for this fiscal year.. Kasteltiz moved, Deville seconded, motion passed.

*Chief's Report:*

*Announcements:*

Gabrian made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Deville seconded the motion. Motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm

The next meeting will be scheduled at a later date.

Signed,

Kim Bednarz, RLFR Office Manager