

Present: President Scott Hutzenbiler, Secretary Treasurer Corey Simnioniw, board members Sandy Baertsch, Kasey Malkowski, Dwayne Shypkoski, Fire Chief Kyle Shockley. Also present: Julie Reis

Meeting called to order @ 7:30 PM

October, 2023 minutes were reviewed, Kasey Malkowski made a motion to approve as read, Dwayne Shypkoski seconded, all present members were in favor.

Old Business:

- The convention bank account is now closed out as discussed in September and October meetings.
- Will be working on the F450 truck from the Park Service over the winter to get it in useable condition next season.
- Fairfield radio tower is up and just needs electric supply power ran to be operational.
- Update on water tank for past Forest Service Grant equipment. Jared has made contact with manufacturer who lost the dimensions, so he resent them so they now have them again.
- Regarding the Fire Board's letter of Support Letter recommending a Fire Chief / Emergency Manager Assistant. Still being considered, however, there are differing opinions from the Commissioners on setting up this position. Kyle recommended that others visit with the Commissioners about this.
- Regarding Medora Tender, Kyle requested a proposal from Midwest for a Tender to being very similar, same operation as the City of Medora FD's new water truck, except scaled back on a few features we don't need. Price comparing then to be done between Midwest and Heiman.
- No new updates on grant applications, Kyle still working through them.
- Kyle, Dean Rodne, EMS had an introductory meeting with Paul Laney with Elevatus this week to review building options on existing County property for updating, removing, and/or replacing buildings for Medora DEM, Fire, EMS, Road/Hwy, Courthouse Records, and related departments. Another meeting is set for Dec 13th to dig further into the details.
- Further discussion amongst the board took place regarding the bylaws (Article XXI) require volunteer members to be 18 years of age. Lowering this age from 18 to 16 has now drawn a number of concerns even with guidelines in place. While some board members are in favor to help boost younger volunteers to build department capacity, there's board members and department members expressing concern about members below age 18 being reckless driving to the station, observing difficult situations like accident injuries/fatalities, not having enough sponsor volunteers to provide close oversight at calls, and making guidelines so restrictive they wouldn't be followed or would actually discourage younger members. With these concerns outweighing the positives of attracting younger members acknowledged, the board agreed to have Kyle stop putting more time into the next steps for changing the bylaws. If younger people below the age of 18 are interested, the board would like to help encourage them to take the FF1 and FF2 that's available to them through the state program like Cody Shockley and Emmit Reis are currently attending.

Scott Hutzenbiler
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Corey Simnioniw
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Old Business (Continued):

- Julie Reis headed up a Fire Prevention visit to Prairie Elementary with help of Chief Kyle, BJ O'Brien, Kayden Malkowski, and Emmet Reis.
- Kyle is getting cost estimates for a battery operated ^{Fan} and confirmed it will fit in the pumper with some minor shuffling of existing equipment. At the past board meeting, it was agreed that Medora Station should move forward to purchase one.
- No updates on gear requests.

New Business:

- 2 new calls since last board meeting, 56 year to date.

11/4: Fire reported south of I-94 MM35, was a controlled burn called in, 11/9: Treater fire Bernard Irwin well site.

- 2024 board meeting dates were discussed by present board members. Dwayne made a motion to keep meeting dates 3rd Wednesday each month for 2024. Kasey Malkowski seconded, all present members all in favor. Corey will get add posted 3 times prior to first 2024 meeting.
- Dwayne made a motion to approve the financial statement and pay bills, Sandy seconded, all present members all in favor.
- Dwayne made a motion to adjourn, Kasey seconded, all present members all in favor.