

POLSON RURAL FIRE BOARD) MEETING

MINUTES - OCTOBER 11, 2006

Board trustee members present: Ross Hoyt, Alison Meslin, Ron Ryan by phone.

Board trustee members absent: Fred Nelson (excused ill), Steve Lozar.

Staff Present: Fire Chief Tom Maloney, Assistant Fire Chief John Fairchild.

Guests: Lester Johnson; Kristin Osborn and Denise Worthington, correspondents Lake County Times;

firemen: Jeff Meslin, Terry Gembala, President of Volunteer Fire Department.

Meeting called to order by Chairman Hoyt at 7:05 p.m.

Minutes: Trustee Meslin noted the wildland fire at the Binger farm in Irvine Flats is outside the fire district. The other fire in the area was 98 percent in the fire district, therefore the district did not get paid.

Regarding the fuel card Town Pump should be contacted in addition to the current account with Cenex.

Minutes approved as corrected.

Bills:

Trustee Meslin noted the \$200 subdivision review fees paid by Joe Clark was deposited to the operating fund. During the August 9, 2006 meeting, the board requested all unanticipated revenue deposited to the capital reserve fund. The fee was deposited August 1 prior to the board's request. All future unanticipated revenue will be deposited to the capital reserve fund. Check #3234 represents the City's portion of the current wildland fires rent of equipment. The fire department has only one account with DNRC, therefore, the City's portion was remitted to the rural district. Check #3236 is a towing charge for 1994 engine 314. Check #3241 represents one-half of the conference expenses for Chief Maloney to attend the International Association of Fire Chiefs' Conference November 9-12, 2006. The seminar provides diverse workshops that will assist rural department. Motion Trustee Hoyt, seconded Trustee Meslin to pay bills. Motion carried unanimously. —

Treasurer's Report:

Operating Fund Balance \$ 1,421.78

Capital Improvement Fund Balance \$ 31,168.76

Paid bills in the amount of \$ 5,452.50

September check numbers 3232 - 3246 , both inclusive

(paid October 11,2006)

The board is concerned regarding the availability of funds to operate. The first half of real estate tax collections are due by November 30th. Expenses during the winter months should be minimal. Chief Maloney indicated activity has slowed down with 16 calls in September.

Old Business:

BIG ARM FIRE STATION UTILITIES — Trustee Meslin reported the septic system is completed. The Tribal engineers will mark the road in the next couple of days. The water line installation will begin Monday, October 16th. A water connection will be installed on the south wall for truck fill. The project should address the water tank currently in the back of the building. Chief Maloney indicated a valve could be placed on the tank or fill off static pressure with a stand pipe in the building. The stand pipe is good to fill smaller trucks; while the current water tank will provide an automatic fill. Consideration for a sink in the building would be useful. A 2-inch water line will facilitate the project. After the utilities are completed the interior of the building will be finished. The security alarm should be installed prior to completing the interior.

GRANT FUNDS — Chief Maloney indicated the volunteer firemen submitted the application to Lake County Office of Emergency Planning to purchase new equipment for the new engine and tender. There is a possibility of purchasing new hose. An additional \$500 was added by the volunteer firemen to the grant funds. The grant application requires expenditures of \$4,100; then the applicant will receive a reimbursement of \$3,800. Therefore the cost to the rural fire is \$300; while the volunteer firemen's funds added an additional \$500 to the equipment purchase. Year to date grant funds total \$15,000. Purchases included radios and the current grant of \$3,800 for equipment purchases. The collection from the boot drive was \$9,000.

SALE OF SLIDE-IN - Chief Maloney indicated a fire department inquired to purchase the wildland slide-in component. The unit was advertised as is with a minimum of \$9,000. Some surplus equipment may be added to the component.

IRVINE FLATS ANNEXATION - The process is to schedule a public hearing. Mac Binger has the ability to initiate the public hearing process as a majority property owner. The Irvine Flats annexation includes 110 square miles and will increase the rural service area to 229 square miles. Trustee Hoyt suggested Chief Maloney contact Mr. Binger regarding the annexation.

FUEL CARDS - Chief Maloney advised the board a Fleet Card issued by the State of Montana is available to use at any gas pump. Additional cards need to be ordered for the rural department. The state has a contracted price for fuel, therefore the savings is passed on to government entities. Use of the Fleet Card also eliminates fuel taxes.

NEW EQUIPMENT - Big Arm tender 326 will be delivered in December 2006. The target engine delivery date will be May 2007.

New Business:

CORRESPONDENCE — Kristin Osborn, correspondent of The Lake Times requested a letter sent to Ross Hoyt by Jan Phillips read and inserted in the minutes. Chairman Hoyt indicated the letter was sent "confidential"; therefore it was not discussed at prior board meetings. The letter was also sent to the City of Poison Mayor and Council and the Lake County Commissioners. The letter on the following page was read by Chairman Hoyt.

Open letter to the City Council, Lake County Commissioner, Poison Rural Trustees,
August 8, 2006

August 7th, at noon, in the council chambers, I attended a special meeting of the rural fire Trustees to re-consider a decision about a purchase of fire apparatus that had been made at the July 29th meeting.

It was decided by the board that the requirements of the notice of open meeting had possibly not been satisfied so they chose to not proceed with the meeting. Since several patrons of the fire district, including volunteer firemen had taken the time to come to the meeting, it was requested to be allowed to ask questions of the fire chief and board about the bid and bidding process. It was allowed by the chairman, Mr. Hoyt with the condition that it was "off the record". This was acceptable to the people in attendance and questions were politely asked and answered by the chief and the board.

Toward the end of the discussion a profound comment came out of the back of the room by Mr. Gembala, who is the president of the Poison volunteer firefighters association. He boldly stated that if the board of trustees didn't buy both of the engines that were put out to bid, they would NOT help US. They, meaning the firefighters, us, meaning the taxpayers, citizens of the rural fire district. I indicated that because he was a volunteer he had every right to make that call for himself but not for everyone else.

I then left the meeting and went into the chiefs office and indicated to him that I was trying to understand the process and the needs of the fire department and that is why I was attending the meetings of the fire board. I indicated to him that I didn't appreciate being threatened by one of his firefighters and he supported Gembal's behavior by saying, "he's really worked hard on this bid", I cut him off and said the taxpayers work hard also and that we expected our trustees to stay within the budget that we approved in the mill levy and bond issue and that I refused to be threatened when I attended meetings.

I believe that if the Chief is a professional fireman and leader of the Poison City and Rural fire departments he would not have allowed his volunteers to behave so "thuggishly" at this meeting and in previous meetings.

I feel that the people of this area are hard working people and want the best protection their tax dollar can buy. But there is a limit to our resources and unfortunately we cannot always afford to buy brand new items for ourselves. But we try to do the best we can for our volunteer firemen. I am sure some of them would be horrified if they knew this was the representation they received in a public meeting.

Our voters turned down 2 mill levies last year, when the board of trustees put out the last levy and the bond issue, with the conditions that they would use spending constraint and fiscal prudence, the levy passed. When the bids came in, they came over what the patrons voted to spend in 7 years. The fire chief recommended spending over \$100,000.00 more than was budgeted with the intention of spending operating funds to fill the void;

While this is not illegal, it certainly isn't 'fiscally prudent' especially when expenditures were in the "red" at the end of June 06.

With these kinds of decisions to make, it isn't appropriate for the leader of the firemen's Association to make threats of non service. I have spent many years of my life being a volunteer and when I disagreed with what was going on, I didn't threaten my peers, I moved on and started volunteering where I was more comfortable with the decisions that were being made. I am sorry Mr. Gembala feels that the only way he can work as a fire volunteer is when he gets his "way." None of the taxpayers in the district want the volunteers to be unsafe. We know how dangerous it is to be a fireman. The best way to keep the firemen safe is constant training and good personal protective equipment and the best fire apparatus our tax dollar can afford. The board has a hard job and the voter's are trying to help.

As a taxpayer, I expect that the elected officials of this area have a fiscal responsibility to the taxpayers and it is time everyone got on the bandwagon and paid attention to budget constraints. When I run out of money I don't buy things and it should be the same for the government... Thank you for listening to my opinion. Jan Phillips.

Trustee Meslin indicated during that time emotions were high and asked Chief Maloney to comment on the letter. Chief Maloney indicated the volunteer fire group discussed the situation and concluded everyone should be treated in a fair manner. At the same time, the volunteers took a big beating during the proposed levy. To take a point on any side both are right in expressing their opinion. At no time would the volunteer fire department administration allow for non-service, deny service to anyone and in the scope of service we have never treated anyone less than professional. With emotions being high on both sides perhaps both adults made comments that should have not been made. Jan is not representing taxpayers in the Polson Rural Fire District although we do value her opinion our basis of these decisions that the board makes gives the ability to provide fire service for our residents. Jan has been a go getter and the department is appreciative of what Jan has done and also appreciative of what Terry Gembala has done working with the community to raise extra money to get things done. It is a sign of commitment on both sides and should be commended. Chief Maloney does not appreciate some of the letters that have been circulated to the mayor without knowing about it. The department has the extra equipment due to grant applications submitted by Chief Maloney. The department provides excellent service and land owners are requesting annexation. Leadership and teamwork fireside is a key to becoming a great service department. The department has the ability to make service better than it was with the new equipment and it is time to move on. Through some of the recent social meetings, the group has moved on. In closing we commend our folks that have been hurt and it is time to put the issue to bed.

Kristin Osborn thanked Chairman Hoyt and Chief Maloney.

APPARATUS REPORT - The boat cover was repaired for \$110. The bearings on the wakening axels of engine 319 are no longer in place. The cost of repair is \$3,000. The goal is to delay repair until it needs to be repaired. When changing equipment out, the department needs to maintain 1500 gallons of water in Station 2 verses 3000 gallon tanker in Polson. At some point the department is going to add two new tankers in order to maintain the insurance rating. Tanker capacity of 3000 gallons are easier to drive and get in

more locations with universal versatility. The preference is to purchase a used chassis and put the equipment on. With 258 days in the expired year, calls year to date are 251. The rural calls are at 64% of the total call volume. With the wood heating season, chimney fires in the city will reverse the percentage call volume to the city.

APPRECIATION DINNER - The city committed \$500 from the wildfire equipment rental use payment to provide a dinner for the volunteers and families in appreciation of volunteer's time and energy during the fire season. The calls averaged 15 volunteers per run. Chief Maloney requested the rural fire board consider a similar contribution. Chairman Hoyt indicated the Big Arm hamburger fry function was to educate the public on the service provided by the volunteer and their families. When the alarm goes off everyone in the family is awake for at least an hour or longer. Some funds should be used to thank the families. Applause from audience. Chairman Hoyt tentatively committed to contribute something to the dinner in December.

PUBLIC EDUCATION - Trustee Meslin suggested the department provide public service announcements in conjunction with fire prevention week.

Motion Chairman Hoyt, seconded Trustee Meslin to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously Adjourned 8:06 p.m.
 Ross Hoyt, Chairman Alison W. Meslin, Secretary-Treasurer

OCTOBER 2006 {Paid 11/08/06}

POL RURAL FIRE DIST#7245 Page 1 11/3/2006

- Date Num Transaction Payment C Deposit Balance 10/15/2006		1546.08
10/15/2006 DEP R	677.48	2223.56
cat: 0335230 HB124 SOM QuarterlyDistr memo: 1st Quarter		
10/15/2006 DEP R	48.02	2271.58
cat: 0371010-Interest Earnings memo: September'06 Interest Allocation		
10/15/2006 DEP R	65.88	2,337.46
cat: 0311010-Real Property Tax		
11/8/2006 3247 Beacon Tire Center, Inc.	11.00	2,326.46
cat: 0360-Vehicle Repair&Maintenance memo: Inv#54744 Tire Repair		
11/8/2006 3248 Cenex Harvest States	201.53	2,124.93
cat: 0231-Gas, Diesel, Oil memo: Acct#157 120 October Billing		
11/8/2006 3249 The Computer Port	87.50	2,037.43
cat: 0200-Office Supplies memo: Inv#1 732 1/2 external hard drive		
11/8/2006 3250 Conoco Phillips	142.04	1,895.39
cat: 0231-Gas, Diesel, Oil		
Invoice #870173796610 11/8/2006 3251 Mike Johnson Upholstery	110.00	1,785.39
cat: 0360-Vehicle Repair&Maintenance memo: Inv#272010 Fire boatcoverrepair& patch		
11/8/2006 3252 LN. Curtis & Sons	210.68	1,574.71
SPLIT 0220-Operating Supplies memo: Cust#4929 -Inv#3059321-00; #3058845-00		
0220-Operating Supplies	50.68	
1-pr. shelby NFPA gloves plus 0220-Operating Supplies	160.00	
2-para 15' ratchet belt		
11/8/2006 3253 Lake County Office Of Emergency Mg...	261.00	1,313.71
cat: 0220-Operating Supplies memo: 5-wx radios \$125; 2-EX600 10% match \$136		
11/8/2006 3254 Mission Valley Power	22.02	1,291.69
cat: 0241-Electricity memo: Acct #7207		
11/8/2006 3255 Montana Ace PoIson	34.72	1,256.97
cat: 0220-Operating Supplies memo: Acct #600 Inv#794266;#79809ITrashBags;Fla...		
11/8/2006 3256 Montana State University	25.00	1,231.97
cat: 0302-Conference & Training Reg. memo: Invoice #23-8 TuitonIncidentSafetyOfcr/O'Sulli...		
11/8/2006 3257 Northwest Parts & Equipment Company	48.34	1,183.63
cat: 0360-Vehicle Repair&Maintenance memo: Cust#cityo7 Inv#C-109164MiscSmallParts 1/2		
11/8/2006 3258 PoIson Auto Parts, Inc.	7.18	1,176.45
cat: 0220-Operating Supplies memo: AcctW5824 Inv#834615 2-bk protectors		
OCTOBER 2006 Total Screen Design	70.00	
cat: 0229-Miscellaneous Supplies memo: nv #14558A 6 embroidered polo shirts 1/2 rur...		
3260 True Value	11.45	
cat: 0220-Operating Supplies memo: Acct#1426 Inv#278207 5-watch batteries		
3261 Verizon Wireless	162.50	
cat: 0245-Cell Phone		
memo: Acct#370458579-00001 3262 Western States Insurance	3,047.00	
cat: 0365-Insurance memo: Accident&SicknessPolicy-1 et Install 9/11 /OGtoY...		

OCTOBER TOTAL EXPENDITURES. \$ 4,451.96

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BALANCE		. \$ 37,455.95
OCTOBER 2006 CAPITAL IMP. POL R'L FIRE DIST CAP IMP#7246 11/3/2006		
9/15/2006		29680.24
9/15/2006 DEP R	88.52	29768.76
cat: 0371010-Interest Earnings9/15/2006 DEP R	1,400.00	31,168.76
cat: 0342024 Subdivision Review Fee memo: Walton Sunny Hills		
SPLIT 0342023-Contract Equip Use memo: DNRC Wildfjres summer	6,165.50	37,334.26

612.00,IrvineIncident Lic#1 5-470 '99 0342023-Contract Equip Use 331.50,Eeui-LoonLakeIncident Lic#15-4,0342023-Contract Equip Use 943.50,• • Eeuj-LoonLakeIncident Lic#15-1 0342023-Contract Equip Use 1,088.00,Eeui-LoonLakeIncident Lic#1 5-2,0342023-Contract Equip Use 1,582.50, WelcomeSpringsIncident Lic#15- 0342023-Contract Equip Use 1,608.00 Welcome-SpringsIncident Lic#15cat:

037101 0-interest Earnings 10/15/2006 DEP R1	21.69-	37,455.95
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