

Helix Rural Fire Protection District Board Meeting

Dated: October 28, 2019



Attendance: Glen Tipton Terry Case Chrys Wernlund
Matt Wood Rachael Reynolds ~~Dave Baty~~

Guests: None

Called to Order: 6:40 PM

Accept Previous Minutes: Mtn to Accept: Glen Tipton
2nd to Accept: Rachael Reynolds
Approved All: Approved

Treasurer Report / Bills: Mtn to Accept: Terry Case
2nd to Accept: Matt Wood
Approved All: Approved (With notation)

Terry had a question on the Workman's Comp Insurance- It was budgeted for \$1000.00, but we have paid \$1500.00 so far. Each payment says \$500.00 is half of the payment. Need to talk with Joann or Chief Baty.

Public Comment: None

Chief's Reports: Received - Attached hereto

Old Business:

1. Training Room Remodel Update: Everything is pretty much done except for the floor. Chief Baty would like to install carpet. Matt Wood brought up concerns of moisture from the concrete if carpet is installed. Possibility of using an area rug.

2. IGA Update: Things are going very well. Two vehicles have been purchased and are being put into service. Eventually the old Medic 400 Chief vehicle will become a First Responder vehicle in Helix. Currently there is a Basic EMT class going on and three individuals from Helix are attending it. We have received a grant for \$330,000.00 to purchase a new water tender.
3. EMT Scholarship Program: Medic 400 is providing scholarships for the EMT trainees and Paramedic trainee from the East Umatilla Fire & Rescue department. They have received grants from the Wildhorse Foundation and from St. Anthony Hospital to help fund the scholarships.
4. High School Class: Currently Chief Baty and Chief Moore are teaching a class at Weston McEwen High School in Athena. The class is every Friday for 3 hours. There are 7 students attending the class. They are teaching basic 1st Aid and fire training.
5. New Vehicles: As mentioned above.

New Business:

1. Christmas Party: December 7, 6-9:00PM at Weston Memorial Hall. Chrys showed pictures of the key chains that will be given to the fire fighters/EMTs.
2. Billing Questions – Internet: Chief Baty asked if we should cancel the internet service in the Helix maintenance building. It is not used often and is an annual cost of \$424.00. Discussed the concern of taking this utility out of the building and leaving the building with out services. Now that the training room is finished, it would be nice to have internet available. Internet service was built into the budget for the year. Terry Case made a motion that since the bill was due and had been paid, let's keep internet service for now and see how much it is used after the training room is used. We will reassess keeping the service in June. Second by Glen Tipton. Approved by all.
3. OFDDA Conference: David Wernlund received a scholarship to attend the OFDDA Conference on Wednesday 10-30-19 through Saturday 11-2-19. The scholarship covers the admission to the conference, motel room, and most of the food. A request was made for the district to pay for the remaining food and for the gas to get to the conference and back. Matt Wood made a motion to reimburse up to \$100.00 for meals and to allow the gas to be put on the district gas card. Second by Terry Case. 4 for, 0 against, 1 abstain. (Chrys Wernlund abstained due to conflict of interest.)

Meeting Adjourned: by Chrys Wernlund Time:7:25 PM

New Meeting Scheduled for: November 25, 2019 Time: 6:30 PM

Terry Case
Secretary/Treasurer

1. AFG Grant – we have received some indications that our request may have made it (SIX times over 8 years this organization has tried and failed to receive an AFG). We may know more tomorrow. (for those who forgot, we asked for help from the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant \$330,000.00

for a water tender). If we get it.....wow



2. Many thanks to the Umatilla County Commissioners for both hearing our plea for help, and taking action. We thank them for helping us serve today, and in the future.
3. IGA – its going terrific. Just last week we had a complex structure fire that had many hazards. Your volunteer responders did a GREAT JOB. No injuries, the fire was kept in its original footprint and – the home was on highway 11 – we maintained safety while keeping the highway open. BIG WIN for our crews.
4. Funding. As many of you are aware, we “stepped out on a limb” when we said we could operate the IGA (in 2019-2020) on 2018-2019 funds. We are being careful in getting every inch from each tax dollar. However, we are

looking forward to November



5. Many thanks to Matt Hoehna, Terry Case and Carol Kirk. They are providing the leadership to our IGA group and – operationally speaking - all indications are wonderful. (See item #3 above)
6. Town Hall meetings and “Coffee with the Chief”. These are the purest forums for public feedback. While I’m advocating for Helix, East Umatilla County and Athena to become one fire district, an informed electorate is our goal. I will host each of these meetings and welcome any of you to join me.
7. Many thanks also to the Medic 400 Board led by Chrys Wernlund. They voted to grant scholarships for many of our residents to attend an EMT-B class thru Blue Mountain Community College. These future EMTs will be responding to our emergencies in the coming months/years.
8. IGA-TRAINING-IMPROVING SERVICE: This is rewarding, but heavy-lifting work. Building something from (nearly) nothing takes a lot - of many things. If you see a volunteer Fire or EMS responder, please thank them for serving.

....keep your fingers and toes crossed tomorrow when the next round of AFG grants go out – if we get that grant award, you will hear us whooping it up.