

# RED FEATHER LAKES FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

## BOARD MEETING via ZOOM

NOVEMBER 10, 2020

### MINUTES

**Meeting called to order:** 6:02 pm

**Roll Call:** Present: Robin Whittington, President; Jim Michalka, Vice-President; Caryn Hughes, Treasurer; Nancy Kay, Secretary; Kevin Zimmerman, Director

Brendon (Bobby) Hill, RFL Fire Chief; Daniel Alarcon, RFL Assistant Fire Chief; Evan Rau, RFL EMS Officer; Gerry Wagner, RFL Firehouse Supporters, President; Dan Defibaugh, RFL Firehouse Supporters, Vice-President; Milton Geiger, PV REA Energy Resources Director

#### **Approval of October 13, 2020 Minutes:**

Caryn made a motion to accept the minutes with a correction of an inclusion of the work “and” between Frederick Firestone, Jim 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion and all approved.

**Financial Report:** Nancy made a motion to accept the Financial Report as received, Robin 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all approved.

As of October 31, 2020 in our First National Bank checking account we have \$74,952.82, In our Colorado Trust account we have \$105,715.68 for a total of \$180,668.50.

Our income for the month of October \$4,092.88 with October’s total expenses of \$25,647.99

Most of our income came from taxes, with some from donations due to the fire and a small amount from Airlink. The expenses consisted of medical training, and tires. The water pump with installation \$9,604.00. We did have our “Pay per call” for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2020; Caryn wanted to bring to our attention that pay per call will be renamed to “Reimburse per call” so look for this new name on the budget.

#### **Budget Discussion:**

Caryn had emailed the proposed budget to us all; this is the second time we have discussed the budget. Caryn received the county Assessors the Certification of Valuation.

We discussed the FPPA (Fire Police Pension Association) Line item # 3100. Caryn paid our contribution to FPPA \$24,235.00 for 2020. Caryn thinks we should add a little more to our pension in 2021, to make up for any losses to our assumed contribution would be \$24,347.00, this year and next year. So we decided to increase the budget for 2021 FPPA to \$30,000.00.

In the Fire Department’s Operating Expenses, Line #4440; Bobby explained that the ambulance needs work, the engine is not running very well, it has a hard time starting up. Bobby thinks if we replace the engine and do some refurbish work on ambulance, such as cabinets and doors. He said the disadvantage is we would be without an ambulance for about a month. He thinks this would cost about \$25,000.00. We still have Med #2, we can still transport patients, it just not as spacious as med #1.

Another big budget discussion is Line item # 5110 "Radios/Pagers" we have \$10,000.00 in the budget for 2021. Bobby said they learned during the Cameron Peak Fire; we need better radio communications with the Forest Service. Portable radios are ridiculously expensive, we need two BK radios which are about \$3,000.00 each and need to replace some Kenwood 800 radios. They go bad, they get beat up, they get dropped, they get wet. The technology gets old. We also need new pagers, which is about \$100.00 each.

We also discussed Line item # 3540 Station Wear; the 2021 budget has \$6,000.00 for 2021 compared to \$424.55 for 2020. Bobby is a firm believer in looking professional, currently we have Fire Department T-shirts and hats. Bobby wants to get jackets, and nice badge shirts for everybody, we would be wearing the same uniforms.

Our final big money for the 2021 budget is Line item # 5550 "side by side" for \$35,000.00. Dual purpose unit, for fire suppression and for rescue. It would be able to carry a person on a back board from the wildlands to meet up with an ambulance. Bobby brought a quote from Polaris made specifically for firefighters, it has a pump on it, and a back board, and an enclosed cabinet; their price was \$48,000.00. Bobby thinks the fire department could build one themselves for less. Bobby is asking for \$35,000.00 for one of these. A six seater, all weather (to enclose it) with pumps and equipment, starts at \$22,000.00 for a base model. Jim suggested we ask the Supporters for help with this big expense.

Caryn brought up that we received a \$10,000.00 check from \_\_\_\_\_? Lori Hodges with Larimer County Office of Emergency Management along with Bobby & Evan's input submitted our fire department, along with others, for this grant. Bobby submitted that we spent money on the water pump as well as quite a bit of fuel.

Bobby has been working with the Forest Service and a team for a land use agreement for the use of the water, which we have discussed in the past. The water use was about 900,000 gallons, we should get \$2,000.00 (that water does not belong to the RFL Fire Department, but to Greeley Storage and Irrigation), Bobby also mentioned the use of the fire station and bathrooms at \$100.00 a day, possibly paying something for electricity too.

### **Chief's Report:**

We ran 8 calls for October 2020, 7 medical, 1 new fire related calls compared to 11 calls in October 2019, 7 medical, 4 fire related calls. Bringing us to a total of 97 calls for 2020 compared to 104 calls in 2019.

Still lots of work being done around Red Feather and surrounding areas with rehabbing fire lines that were established for fire control on the Cameron Peak fire. Mostly being done on forest land. The forest service is trying to get permission from private landowners to do some rehab on their property. Our involvement is very minimal at this point except for myself answering phone calls and dealing with the team showing them the different lines and what work needs to be done.

The new pump that goes by Ramona Lake was installed and it is working.

Unfortunately, due to Covid-19 we are going to have to postpone the Christmas party this year. Perhaps making it a spring or summer party. I am still going to purchase gifts for the department and in a small meeting with department members only hand them out and say thank you for their hard work this year.

The ATV was shipped and should be here in the next week.

While the concrete pad was being laid the crew noticed a propane leak. We had it checked out and apparently all the joints in the line running from the propane tank to the generator were leaking. Gerry, Allan, Jerry and myself got all the leaks fixed and it is operating properly.

I will be doing a lot of purchasing this month including gym equipment, extrication equipment, rescue boat, and some other fire equipment. All of which are in the budget just have not had time to do proper research and ordering of the items.

I'm working with the forest service concerning the land use agreement and trying to finalize what they owe us for use of the water, utilities, restrooms, kitchen, training room and now five porta potties sitting in the parking lot. Unknown when this will be finalized hopefully before the end of the year.

Chief Hill

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Microgrid progress**

The two concrete pads have been poured. The one for the Tesla battery for the microgrid, and the second for the storage of our snowplow blade. They will move the meter from the pole to the side of the building. As Interstate Construction Services was preparing to dig, they discovered a leak in our propane line going to the generator. They are expecting to set the battery in place about December 7<sup>th</sup> and putting in the disconnect switch for the fire department to use the battery. Once this is up and going, the first stage of the microgrid project will be complete. Next spring when they can come back and finish up the rest of the distribution work, they will hook up RFL village.

### **Fire Station energy audit work**

Milton Geiger with PVREA, we went over Interstates Construction Services' bid for the electrical lighting, destratification fans, and heaters. In the Energy Audit's, table 1.2 "Recommended Energy Conservation Measures" #5) Install destratification fans, the initial investment cost is listed as \$1,197.00; #6) Add electric heaters for off peak heating, the initial investment cost is listed as \$5,417.94; #7) Lighting & Controls retrofit, the initial investment cost is listed as \$5,836.45; #9) Install programmable thermostats, the initial investment cost is listed as \$3,150.00; These four items add up to \$15,601.39. Interstates Construction Services bid for this work came in at \$19,122.00. Milton agreed with this bid price saying that RFL Fire Department is not having to pay for this work out of pocket but will pay back PVREA with the savings in the electricity saved in the future with these conservation measures.

Robin made a motion to accept the recommended energy conservation measures that Interstates Construction Services has presented, Caryn 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion, all approved this motion.

We also discussed with Milton the Table 1.2 #8) Add spray Foam Insulation to ceiling, the initial investment cost listed in table 1.2 "Recommended Energy Conservation Measures" is \$4,550.00. Milton said Tony Francone had two businesses come up and will send an estimate for this insulation work. This work entails insulating the top steel beam in the truck bay, Milton said he could see daylight through some holes along this beam. It has no insulation. Where the insulation has been taped, it is falling off the walls, they will fix this. They will add insulation near the pump handle where there is plywood. They will cover the old ventilation system hole to the outside with plastic or something.

Milton had the "occupancy sensors" removed from everywhere except the bathrooms and the workout room.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Propane leak**

Discussed above in the Chief's Report

### **Rocky Mountain Fire prevention posters**

We think it would be a good idea to print some of these posters out and laminate them and put them out everywhere for this spring/summer. Dan Alarcon said this past summer after Memorial Day weekend, during the severe fire dangers; he drove around Sunday night or Monday morning and went to the campsites out in the forest and checked the campfires and when he found hot ones, he put them out. He also had two truck loads of trash he picked up.

**Recruiting** maybe in the spring

### **Water pump expense reimbursement**

Discussed above in the Financial Report and in the Chief's report.

### **Gift Card**

Bobby said, Alex from Crystal Lakes did a significant amount of work putting our new brush truck and squad put together. Bobby would like to buy a \$200.00 Amazon card and gift it to Alex at the end of the year, as a thank you for his many hours and work for us.

## **Fire Supporter's Report**

Gerry Wagner said, since the first of September we have received \$10,135.31 in donations. A few that stand out are New Belgium Brewery donated \$1,000.00, Custom Ink sent us \$972.55, the Wing Shack in Greeley raised \$1,836.76 and Elie Yates age eight years old sent us \$26.00.

The Supporters have \$26,020.62 in the bank and \$175.00 in checks.

Gerry sent out to us the preliminary website that Brenna Rice is building the Supporters. Gerry also signed up the Supporters for Amazon Smile. So, anyone that orders from Amazon, go to Amazon Smile, and put in the Red Feather Lakes Fire Protection District Supporters, and the Supporters will receive one half of one percent, with this going to the Supporters with no additional cost for the buyer. The website will also allow donations with a PayPal button. Also, people can go to PayPal and put in [RFLVFD501@gmail.com](mailto:RFLVFD501@gmail.com) to donate money.

The Supporters are working on getting a letter out asking for donations and for tax donations for the end of the year, they are aiming for the first of December to get the letter out. Gerry and John Grose are working on this letter.

## **Open board discussion**

Nothing

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Nancy made a motion to adjourn, Kevin 2<sup>nd</sup>, all approved. 7:50 pm

Respectively Submitted by Nancy Kay