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**Canyon Creek Rural Fire District**

**Board of Trustee’s**

**Special Board Meeting**

Monday – Oct 21, 2024

**This meeting was conducted in person and via Zoom. The meeting, in it’s entirety, may be accessed via zoom link below:**

https://us06web.zoom.us/rec/share/Nv-FVsWZm0U9QKyFjvYpEZJxmSd5M1nd1A-p3Rk-LaOoyCy2M2JumskvpbAtZ7iX.6l9aH25u3n47dKxb

Passcode: 6YdRA?sc

**Attending:**

Rick Grady, Chair

Wendy Adamson, Treasurer

Jim Thomas, Vice Chair

Ellen Eskildsen, Secretary

Max Eskildsen, Trustee-at-Large

**Fire Company:**

Jeremy Gilliam, Interim Probationary Chief Will Adamson, Volunteer

Gregg Weed, Volunteer Mechanic Kai Bauer, Volunteer (zoom)

**Community Members/Guest/Zoom:**

Mike Alkire Iphone (zoom) Den Churchill

Gegi Guay Kristie Brenden Brian Grady(zoom)

Judith Owens(zoom) Jon Cunningham(zoom) Constance Horder(zoom)

David Ogle Judy Gilliam Joseph Linden

Tim Brenden Charlie Spinning Josh Klein(zoom)

Sonny Tapia(zoom) Ed Chevallier Kori Dee

Ray Miller Dale Hudec Patty Butterfield

Lillian Miller Patty Butterfield

**Meeting Commenced at 6:30pm; Welcome/Pledge of Allegiance/Introduction of Trustees**

**Board Minutes Approval:**

Chair Rick made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from Sept 21, 2024; Chair Grady had a couple changes regarding the sale of the Yukon QRU and the Wildland Brush Truck; he submitted a resolution and posting information to auction the Brush Truck to all trustees and made a motion to approve the meeting minutes for Sept 21, 2024; Secretary Ellen seconded the motion; all in favor Ellen yes; Max yes; Wendy abstained; Jim abstained. Motion passed minutes approved. Chair Grady stated he received an offer to purchase the Yukon for $1800 from a person out of Spokane; they will come and pick up if approved; Chair Grady made a motion to approve the sale for $1800; Trustee Max seconded the motion; Treasurer Wendy asked if we received any other offers; Chair Grady said no; Vote to approve motion; Secretary Ellen yes; Trustee Max yes; No vote for Treasurer Wendy and Vice Chair Thomas; Chair Grady voted yes; motion passes. Chair Grady made a motion to approve meeting minutes for Sept 30, 2024; Secretary Ellen seconded the motion; Vote to approve motion; Trustee Max yes; Secretary Ellen yes; Treasurer Wendy abstained; Vice Chair Thomas abstained; Chair Grady yes; motion carries. Secretary Ellen made a motion to amend the meeting minutes for Oct 7, 2024 with updates submitting from Treasurer Wendy and Chair Grady; Treasurer Wendy seconded the motion; all in favor; motion passed 5-0 Secretary will update minutes for approval at next meeting.

**Treasurer Report**

Treasurer Wendy presented her monthly reports for the months of August 2024 and September 2024. Said she will be setting bills up for EFT electronic funds transfer; so, we won’t have as many checks clearing. County Treasurer made an error on our reports for $1900 that was supposed to be charged to another Fire Department; this will be reversed. WEX card concerns were discussed; only one card out of six were labeled with the vehicle number; cards were switched in the vehicles so that is why we had some confusion. Fixed issue with cards by going online and fixing the cards to be labeled with the actual vehicle number embossed on the cards for each vehicle.

-Chair Grady submitted receipts for the conference he attended and receipt for the repairs done to the Brush Truck by Jason Longtine; Chair Grady made a motion to approve the payment of both; Treasurer Wendy asked for discussion, said it wasn’t discussed amongst the board members to approve getting the vehicle serviced or repaired by an outside agency; Trustee Max said the brush truck was inoperable; Treasurer Wendy asked if the amount was over $50 and was it obligating the district to pay; Secretary Ellen said that maintenance of vehicles and medical supplies do not fall under the purview of the $50 limit per our SOG’s; Treasurer Wendy mentioned we have a volunteer mechanic that doesn’t cost the district anything; was it a knowing or unknowing decision to move forward with repairs. Vice Chair Thomas stated he feels because of the amount of money to repair the vehicle it should go before the board for approval. Secretary Ellen stated that she’s willing to approve maintenance cost out of necessity to ensure apparatus is up and running for use. Treasurer Wendy feels she is being left out of discussions and decisions to handle situations and thinks board approval should be made by all members. Feels since we have a volunteer to do the maintenance, we shouldn’t be taking vehicles somewhere to be worked on which obligates the district to pay for labor. Secretary Ellen stated that when the brush truck and structure trucks were returned to the station the maintenance logs didn’t have any annotations of pending maintenance and therefore, she feels the maintenance of district vehicles has been neglected by the volunteer mechanic as he stated that the vehicles were all in good repair when returned. The mechanic was not contacted to troubleshoot the mechanical issues found on the returned vehicles based on his input that they were all good. Trustee Max stated the last entry in the vehicle maintenance book was from 2022. Treasurer Wendy said a phone conversation should’ve been made to talk with mechanic. Vice Chair Thomas mentioned that it states in our SOG’s that an emergency meeting can be held by email to address this type of issue, but it did not happen that way and he thinks it should. Chair Grady made a motion to approve the payment of receipts submitted; Ellen Seconded the motion; after much back and forth about allowing public comment prior to vote, Chair Grady opened the floor for public comment.

**Public Comment Time: 40:45**

Will Adamson- talked about getting three quotes for any purchase or work on equipment; said all vehicles came back fully functional.

Gegi Guay- wanted to know why the insurance was paid for the new QRU by Treasurer Wendy without presenting that purchase to the board prior to payment?

Dale Hudec- said he attended a meeting prior with Rick Grady and he said the mechanic Gregg Weed was worthy to work on vehicles.

No other comments.

Chair Grady reiterated the original motion to approve the invoice for $629.89 for Jason Longtine; Vote; Secretary Ellen yes; Trustee Max Yes; Treasurer Wendy Nay; Vice Chair Thomas Nay; Chair Grady yes; motion passes.

Chair Grady made a motion to pay for reimbursement of his conference expenses totaling $644.20; Secretary Ellen seconded the motion; all in favor 5 yes’s; motion carries.

**Public Comment on Treasurer Report**

Dale Hudec- wanted to know if Chair Rick learned anything from the conference.

Mike Alkire- stated that the board is doing a great job and put in a lot of hours; Mike got upset about a comment from Dale Hudec and Mike said he better shut his mouth; people got angry about his actions.

**Fire Chief Report**

Interim Probationary Chief Gilliam reported that he met with the Chief’s from Birdseye and Marysville and the meeting went well and are in agreement to continue to assist each other’s district and keep communication open. Working to update personnel records some things are missing; insurance cards are missing from volunteers that are required. Seven people are submitting to become volunteers and are just awaiting background checks. Image Trend training is in the works; Jeremy thinks the program is great and will be a good tool for future use; in the past we only had one entry into the system and one that was partially made. Maintenance on vehicles; training volunteers on image trend; Auxiliary is purchasing a topper for the QRU and will pay for installation of the topper; truck vault and winch that was previously purchased. Spoke with State about PERS reporting they will not accept submissions that aren’t complete. Training will be documented properly from here on to ensure compliance with the state reporting. A1 fire will come out to service extinguishers. SCBA’s are all outdated and unusable, one complete set is 10K we would need six. New OSHA requirements are coming down and will require a new system.

Trustee Max spoke about 8111 when it was brought back to the station it was leaking; contacted Grizzly Diesel and the truck was taken in for diagnosis; said the pump was leaking from the seal and could repair; transmission may have issues; they tested it; fluid was black; slipping gears; if transmission is bad will cost in upwards of 10K. Also stated that we’ve had problems with 8111 for some time even when he was a volunteer and drove the truck.

**Public Comments**:

Ed Chevelier- Wanted to know if we have any grants for the SCBA’s back a few years we obtained grants for things like that.

Joseph Linden- Wanted to know why Trustee’s are driving fire apparatus; concerned about that.

Jonathan Cunningham- stated we got 22 scba’s from Tri Lakes and they were supposed to be good for 10 years; they were hydrotested in 2022. Agree that we’ve had issues with 8111 said air filter was clogged and it affected the truck.

**No other comments**

**Board Discussion**

Treasurer Wendy asked the Chief is he got with the board about the new recruits; Chief Jeremy said new volunteers are going through the background checks; driving and criminal; checks in the future can be administered through himself as he is getting certified to do them. Has a matrix completed for new recruits; 6 levels of background checks; 2 types of checks. Will keep the board updated on the process. Results of checks; the current SOG’s state only the Chief will see results of background checks. No other comments.

**Old Business**

Chair Grady spoke about the resolution and legal notice on selling the 8132 Brush Truck as surplus property in a public auction on November 9, 2024. He put a listing in the newspaper two times to advertise the auction and put on CCRFD website for posting. Estimated value is set at 10k

**Public Comments:**

Dale Hudec-No light on the American Flag outside?

**Board Discussion**

Treasurer Wendy asked if we had any experience with selling/auctioning equipment in the past, cost; Yes, Chair Grady stated this has been done in the past and he is aware of the legalities; cost will be just the amount charged for the legal notice in paper not sure what that amount is currently; Secretary Ellen asked if we were going to have an auctioneer perform the auction; Chair Grady stated he would do it. Chair Grady will amend the motion to read that we will approve the posting of the legal notice to not cost more than $250.00 or less; Trustee Max seconded the motion; all in favor 5-0 to approve, amended motion passes. Chair Grady made a motion to approve the resolution for approval; Trustee Max seconded the motion and all in favor 5-0 to approve motion passes.

Secretary Ellen spoke about the public comment period for 30 days for updates to the SOG’s and Bylaws

**Public Comments**:

Joseph Linden- question about the Website and or Facebook being used to advertise the SOG and Bylaw submissions.

Vice Chair Jim Thomas read a statement from John Keller which he had suggestions 1: would like a word document with the proposed amendments; 2: would like a copy that doesn’t have all the different colors 3: would like all files to be included on the website

No other comments

**Board Discussion**

Secretary Ellen responded to Mr. Linden stating that since we have the website up and running it will be the primary source for information on meetings, announcements, etc. We still have Facebook but all information will be posted on the website for future correspondence.

**New Business**

Discussion and decision for use of Blink recording system for unlimited use; cost of service for a year is $100.00 Ask for reimbursement to Chief for cost. Vice Chair Thomas asked if the Blink security cameras were approved by the board; they were donated in full by a community member. Treasurer Wendy stated that this is similar to the QRU donation; not bringing decisions to accept donations before the board for approval.

**Public Comments**

Will Adamson- wanted to know why cameras were approved now and not previously; spoke about damage being done to the kitchen door as it was removed by a trustee to gain access to the department. Stated a file cabinet was broken into as well.

Joseph Linden- wasn’t discussed with public; what are regulations about public being recorded; said Chair Grady was witnessed to taking the door off hinges; items missing?

No other comments

**Board Discussion**

Chief Gilliam stated that there were already two cameras installed at the station; replaced cameras that were installed.

Treasurer Wendy stated that back in April the board shot down the purchase of a security system. Says it feels like a hostile takeover not allowing the board to vote on issues.

Secretary Ellen stated that to her knowledge a police report was made by Crystal Cunningham that two files were missing from the station; blaming the theft on Chair Grady; Trustee Max and Jeremy Gilliam; two days later Crystal called back and said the files were there in the file. Feels having a security system is helpful to ensure we don’t have people accessing files or possible theft of equipment.

Joseph Linden-spoke out of order saying that in the Sept 30 meeting that the board had access to the building but only certain areas. Rogue board he feels is happening.

Vice Chair Thomas- Is stuck on the IR article that stated the Chief was subject to removal because of the donation of the QRU but we are doing this again with the security system?

Trustee Max made a motion to pay the $100 for the annual subscription to blink; Secretary Ellen seconded the motion; Vote to approve the motion; Secretary Ellen yes; Trustee Max yes; Treasurer Wendy abstained; Vice Chair Thomas Nay; Chair Grady yes; motion passes.

Payment Request for reimbursement to Secretary for WIX website premium fee of $216.00

Public Comment- No comments

Board Discussion

Treasurer Wendy asked about discount for years purchase; get discount for paying by the year instead of month to month; cost of domain can look into the cost of that from previous payment; also need to line item trustee website fees under administrative costs.

Treasurer Wendy made the motion to reimburse Secretary Ellen for paying for the WIX website annual fee; Vice Chair Thomas seconded the motion; public comments; none; further discussion none; all in favor; 5-0 motion carries.

Recommendation of probationary members by the Fire Chief for full membership – Chief Gilliam reviewed the minutes of the board for acceptance of probationary members to full active membership none to be found; reviewed records for Probationary member Will Adamson, he has not attended several trainings; has responded to Chief Gilliam very rudely that he didn’t accept him as his Chief; doesn’t follow SOG’s; received an email from Treasurer Wendy stating that the structure truck would be returned to the station per the County Attorneys advice; cameras caught Will Adamson going through each locker in the station. As for the summary report on Will Adamson I don’t have any documentation on his FF1 training in his records. To the Chief opinion, Will Adamson doesn’t integrate with the Chief and the station due to his actions and conduct is unprofessional of a firefighter. As far as probationary firefighter Storm Linden; failed to respond to emails; training is incomplete and lacking substance; personnel file is missing documents; asking board to deny continued volunteer status for both Storm Linden and Will Adamson.

**Public Comments**

Ray Miller- has a company that installed camera system; wanted to know if they record and can it be supplied to public. Wanted to know how many cameras we had. Tit for tat on donations.

Joseph Linden- With regard to Storm Linden; I know he has attended many trainings; email may not be the best way to contact him. May want to try to call him. It is an injustice to release him because of these things.

Kai Bauer- who has access to the recordings of the security cameras; Chief Gilliam replied he does; also wanted to know about the background check on Jeremy? Wants the board to let him know if a background check was done. Stated that he should’ve offered the probationary members a closed meeting.

Jon Cunningham- wanted the public to know if you don’t get along with Jeremy he will just get rid of you; both Will Adamson and Storm Linden are excellent firefighters. What a joke.

Will Adamson- I have DNRC; I have Birdseye; 15 other departments that can state I was present for training. I have verification of my FF1 training; I’m a volunteer but work full-time so I can’t make all trainings. You want people to support you and shouldn’t slander people. Should have evidence before accusing me of theft. I spit on your name.

Connie Horder-The new supposed chief is firing someone before you have the facts; should’ve done a little more research into the people. It’s insane that you are getting rid of people. Community members won’t be happy if Gilliam responds. When we go back to look at minutes you will be sorry you are doing this in this way.

Comments closed

**Board Discussion**

Chair Grady asked the Chief to go back to look at Storm Linden. Treasurer Wendy stated that she feels it’s a hostile takeover; that the members want to respond; don’t destroy the membership of the district. You don’t have cohesion within the department. Ask more questions about issues. Thinks the Interim Chief isn’t handling the probationary membership issue properly. Chief Gilliam said he is willing to work with the members and even Will Adamson; he was interrupted by Will Adamson and Will said he will not work with Jeremy; said the community is fucked; mark my words. Good luck.

Will Adamson brought a red bag of wildland gear into the station and dropped it into the middle of the floor.

Treasurer Wendy continued to say we are subject to harassment, and we must take it; there’s a lot of division and the new Chief is taken on the role and has to take the harassment. We’ve taken on this and it’s our role. Chief Gilliam says he wants to move forward and does want to work with current members. It’s a learning process for me and will submit all my information to the trustees. Treasurer Wendy stated that actions speak louder than words; having HR experience you should check yourself and your actions.

Secretary Ellen stated that the probationary members in the past have not been brought before the board for approval by previous boards and therefore aren’t following the procedures in our SOG’s and bylaws by no fault of their own. Treasurer Wendy stated that maybe we should consider a grandfather clause this one time. Chief Gilliam stated he will try to call Storm Linden to get needed information and talk to him about training. Still on probation until December and will try to work with him.

Obtain WEX access codes- 8141 is the code for QRU but 8101 is what is on the truck. Treasurer Wendy will internally fix the WEX card numbers and will fix the code to reflect 8101. Chief Gilliam will contact members for WEX filling process.

Excess property no longer needed- Chair Grady listed many items that are damaged and no longer needed wanted to dispose of these items. List of items was provided at the meeting.

**Public Comment**- No comments

**Board Discussion**

Vice Chair Thomas made a motion to table this agenda item; Treasurer Wendy seconded that motion; she asked if we have an inventory of all the items that we want to dispose of; Chief Jeremy doesn’t have an actual inventory list but just had a list of the unserviceable items. Vote on the motion; all in favor to table the motion.

Discussion and decision on the itemized list of radio, light bar, siren, medical supplies, wildland and structure gear requested by the Fire Chief; Chief Gilliam said it was his fault that the quote was combined into one submission; he will get separated quotes for the Auxilliary and one for personal equipment needed and medical items separately. Treasurer Wendy asked to table this agenda item until submission can be made properly to board. Chief Gilliam will forward the request to the board via email. Secretary Ellen stated that many medical items have been ordered over the past three months, but they are not accounted for, asked for an itemized list of the orders from the Treasurer. Medical calls don’t add up to the supplies that we should have on hand. Chief Gilliam said he has a lot of expired items that had to be disposed of. Treasurer Wendy said she would follow up on the previous purchases. Chair Grady reiterated the motion to table; Secretary Ellen seconded the motion; all in favor motion passes.

Obtaining a County Credit Card for the district fire chief’s use – Treasurer Wendy stated that we have a credit card but its not in service; we need to put on the agenda to cancel the previous chiefs credit card; suggest that we put on the next agenda to decide what we want to do; its hard to reconcile giving a credit card to someone who is on probationary status; currently don’t have anyone who has a credit card for use; Secretary Ellen feels someone on the board should have a card.

Public Comments-

Kai Bauer- earlier this year Rick Grady said he would apply for a card; did this not happen? Rick chose not to get one. Kind of put people in a bad position by not getting one.

Board Discussion

Treasurer Wendy stated that its not really acceptable for the treasurer to hold a credit card; Treasurer Wendy made a motion to table the agenda item until next meeting; Vice Chair seconded the motion; Vote Secretary Ellen Nay; Trustee Max yes; Treasurer Wendy yes; Vice Chair Thomas yes; Chair Grady yes; motion carries 4-1 vote.

**Public Comments**:

Kai Bauer- did you address the snow removal for the year; ask to consider it sooner that later

Brian Grady- don’t agree with cameras in station; shouldn’t take 3 hours for 1 hour meeting; give everyone a chance; annual inventory should be done; try to pull things together; go to executive session to air our differences.

Joseph Linden- highlighted concerns for the total disregard of Montana Statutes, MCA’s and handbook by Grady, Max and Ellen; grave concerns of the actions of the Grady 3; clearly demonstrated by their voting history. Feels Jeremy Gilliam is not qualified. Says Grady 3 has lied many times. Never contacted prior chief for information on missing medical items. Continued to speak after 3 and a half minutes and wouldn’t stop when asked.

Gregg Weed- got up to continue to read statement from Joseph Linden; statement submitted with minutes for filling.

Connie Horder- agrees somewhat with Brian Grady but disagrees with Brian paying for the fire station.

Gegi Guay- said she represents many of the community members and strongly requests a complete audit of all district finances.

Brian Grady- stated that Wendy looked into this and all taxpayers paid for the station; Connie said she raised money to pay for it.

No other comments

**Board Comments**

Treasurer Wendy stated that we are not in this alone and that our mutual aid partners have agreed to ensure continued support for Canyon Creek; wanted the community to know that we have continued support.

Trustee Max read a statement from Jason Longtine stating that the elected trustees are doing a good thankless job and we should let them do it. He also stated what he saw as to the repairs to the trucks; thinks the maintenance schedule is not being utilized. His statement will be submitted with the meeting minutes.

No other Board comments.

**Chair Grady adjourned the meeting at 9:20 pm**.

Statement submitted from Joseph Linden included with minutes

Statement submitted from Jason Longtine included with minutes

Statement submitted from John Keller included with minutes

Handouts from Chair Grady included with minutes; Resolution 2024-001 declaring Wildland Engine 8132 as surplus property (exhibit A and Legal Notice)

Wex receipts and Monthly financial statements submitted by Treasurer Wendy Adamson

**Meeting Minutes approved by the Chairperson** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date Approved**: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_