

Hebgen Basin Fire District
Board Meeting Minutes
December 22, 2020

Meeting was called to order at 1201 hrs.

Board Members Present: Kyle Goltz, Skip Morris, John Costello,

Board Members Present Via Web ex: Mike Gavagan, Ken Davis

Also in Attendance: Chief Grube, Lindsey Charlton, Mike Cameron Via Web Ex

Recorder of Minutes: Lindsey Charlton

Public Comment: Mike Cameron address the board about the District only paying crew 80 hours for Covid related absences. Mike asks the board to consider paying out 91 hours to match the crew's shifts rather than only paying 80 and forcing crew to use sick time for the balance. The District has received Cares Act funding and it is supposed to be used for paying wages related to Covid absences. Mike asks the board to use that funding for what it was intended and pay out the full 91 hours to make the employee whole.

Old Business

Tabled December 8th Board Meeting: Purchase of New Radios

Chief recommended to Board that they approve the new radio purchase in the amount of \$123,657.00 for a total of 20 new radios. Chief states if we purchase the radios before January 1st 2021 the District can save \$49,463.00. Chief reports that rescue task force and duty crew radios will have encryption. John Costello asks Chief how will the new radios work with old and new antenna systems. Chief replies that the radios will work with old antenna and once the new one is established users will see better in building radio transmissions. Chief explains the town is going to spend \$250,000.00 to install new radio tower behind the West Yellowstone Foundation building. Skip Morris asks Chief what will be the cost to program the radios. Chief explains the radios will be programmable over the air once the radio is active. Mike Gavagan stated that he currently has new radios but hasn't noticed a difference since it has only been less than a week.

Skip Morris motions to approve Purchase of New Radios. John Costello Seconds. All in Favor. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned: 12:12 PM

Next regular meeting 1/12/2021 6pm

Hebgen Basin Fire District

Request for Board Action

12/22/2020

Request

Approval to Purchase 20 Portable Radios and 8 mobile dual band radios

History

Gallatin County is moving to a new radio system both VHF and 800. I have been talking about these radios and the 40% saving for purchasing early we are now at a point that we have to make the decision. The original quote I received for these radios was for \$103,798. In having some further discussion, I believe it is important to purchase some additional features like encryption and intrinsically safe. We need the intrinsically safe due to our profession and the encryption for the rescue task force and sensitive Law enforcement incidents. Only the paid staff radios will have encryption all the radios will be intrinsically safe.

Fiscal Impact

We currently have \$140,000 in our Communications replacement capital account. So we are under budget. We will save the District \$49,463 dollars by make this purchase before the first of the year.

Recommendation

It is my recommendation to move forward with the purchase of \$123,657 dollars in 20 new portable and mobile radios.