

Haines Borough Fire Service Area #1

Friday 11/30/2012 - Approved

Meeting convened 7:05pm

J.R.Myers, Richard Buck and Alan Heinrich present, constituting a quorum. Kathleen FitzWilliams, an applicant for the vacant board seat was also in attendance. There was one other person, Danny Gonce, who joined the meeting as a public observer about half-way into the meeting.

Alan chairs meeting. J.R. Takes minutes.

Richard moved to approve, Alan second, All in favor, 10/26/12 minutes approved.

Applicant for vacant board seat: Kathleen FitzWilliam, LCSW

See resume. Kathleen was introduced and questioned by the board members. She told the board about her background and reasons for wanting to serve on the board.

J.R. Moved to recommend Kathleen to the Borough Assembly to fill the remaining board vacancy. Richard seconded. All were in favor. The recommendation will be forwarded to the Borough Clerk.

Alan presents his findings of concerns expressed at last meeting which he researched. See his e-mail. There was an informal board discussion.

1. Public Safety Building: Borough Public Safety building report: "Nothing else in Alaska like it." Various options presented.
2. Storage at Lutak: Old Howe Fire Engine is there. There is hose with brass fittings. The area is not suitable for anything else at this time. The building could be cleaned out relatively quickly.
3. Lutak residents insurance rating reduction possibilities.
4. Sinking fund for equipment purchases does exist.
5. Cost of Dispatching system.
6. Overtime Pay: Personnel issues, not our purvue.
7. Mutual Aid Agreement with Klehini, there is no formal agreement.
8. Should the Borough advertise the Differential Tax Rate Reduction. All seem to think this is a good idea.

Alan believes that the Borough communications system is the biggest immediate problem. It is cobbled together and has many problems. There is talk of a grant to get an upgrade to the system.

Alan moves to make a request of the Borough Manager and Assembly to establish a thorough professional review of our current Emergency Communications System to determine system deficits, to include a corrective plan of action and time line for completion. Richard seconded. All in favor, motion passes.

Alan discusses the problem of recruiting young people to become firefighters. Kathleen volunteers to contact the school, and do other research and outreach as needed. We need to increase public awareness of the problem of an aging volunteer fire fighting pool. The average age is 47, according to Alan. He will ask the Fire Chief to bring up the issue again during his next weekly radio program. Alan will also invite the Fire Chief to our next meeting. Alan will be leaving 01/01-03/08/13.

We all agree to revisit board officer elections after board is completely filled.

Next Meeting: Friday 12/14/12 at 7:00pm in the Borough Assembly Chamber. It was necessary to change the date of the meeting to comply with 72 hour public notice, and location, as there was a scheduling conflict at the Borough Assembly Chamber.

Alan moved to adjourn, Richard seconded.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:12pm

Richard moves, Alan seconds. Minutes approved as corrected.

Member Reports: Alan: He has invited Fire Chief Scott Bradford to our meetings, but he has not been able to attend. He was to discuss communications, but then the newspaper article came out and repairs seem to have been made. The Mayor had been informed of our concern with the emergency communication system. Alan has yet to discuss recruitment efforts with the Fire Chief. He may meet with the Fire Chief after the holidays.

Richard: Nothing to report.

Kathleen: Reported previously to J.R. That she had contacted the school regarding student education and recruitment, specifically she spoke to Principal Michelle Byers. There is no program in place in the school at this time, however, interest was generated, and the discussion will continue.

J.R.: I spoke with the Klukwan Fire Chief, Donald Hotch, Jr., he is interested in working with us.

Old Business: Communications System, this appears to be fixed at this time..

New Business:

Klukwan Mutual Aid Agreement; There are many pros and cons. We would like to reach out and establish better communications and relations between our fire departments. It is agreed that this might begin with a standing invitation to the Klukwan Fire Department to join any trainings being provided by the Haines Volunteer Fire Department. We will continue to pursue this rapport building.

Officer Elections: It was agreed to postpone until all members are present.

Budget: We agree that we should be reviewing the budget, and advocating for the needs of the Volunteer Fire Department.

New Fire Hall location: The Mayor has contacted Alan to get input. A general discussion ensued. Several points were, Alan will contact the Fire Chief and the Mayor to convey our thoughts about this prospect.

Mud Bay & Lutak Fire Service: A general discussion ensued. It is recognized that the residents of these communities desire fire service. The Board will take these concerns under advisement.

Richard will research whether or not it would be possible for homeowners in these areas to obtain a credit for home fire suppression efforts. He will contact the Borough Clerk for advice on how to proceed.

Public Comment: There was none.

Set next meeting: Friday 12/28/12, 7:00pm, at the Haines Borough Assembly Chambers.

Adjourn: 8:13pm

J.R.Myers, Acting Secretary

HBFSA#1