

BIGFORK FIRE DISTRICT TRUSTEE

SPECIAL MEETING

November 13th, 2020

5:00pm

This meeting was conducted via ZOOM. The public was able to join this meeting at the following link:: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86438073839>

Trustees: Dan Elwell, Gary Wilson, Andrew Sliter, Robert Borges, Seth Price

Absent Trustees:

Guests: Jeremy Patton, Cindy Norred, Michael Hingiss, Bethany Martiny, Andrea Alvarez, Jackson Corne

Guests on via Zoom: None

This meeting was recorded.

- 1. Call Meeting to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: 17:05**
- 2. General Public Comment:** Cindy wanted to note that the MOU was signed for GASB75 and sent to Denning, Downey & Associates
- 3. Accept Letter of Resignation:** Board received letter of Resignation from Chief Thiry. Elwell wanted to say Thank You for the 4 ½ years for his service. Board appreciates all the work done, levy, infrastructure, increasing wages and the land purchase. Wanted the board to go on public record to let him know we appreciate all his time and service he put into this department. With that being said, all board members received his letter.
A motion to accept the letter of resignation from the Chief, Price (1st), Borges (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed.
- 4. Hire Attorney for Contract Negotiations:** Members did go union, it passed 6 to 0. IAFF Union, local specific to Bigfork Fire. Board is needing representation for the district for contracts. Discussion on needing board approval to have current lawyer Stephanie Breck a part of negotiations. There are no union attorneys close by. Stephanie does have experience with union and labor law. Elwell recommending continue with Stephanie. A motion to accept Stephanie for attorney, Borges (1st), Price (2nd), Sliter suggest if Stephanie's expertise falls out of bounds, maybe she can refer then, all in favor, none opposed.
- 5. Appoint Committee for Contract Negotiations:** Needing two board members for a committee for contract negotiations. A motion to establish a committee for the purposes of contract negotiations, recommend initial participants to board committee being Dan Elwell and Seth Price for said committee. Sliter (1st), Borges (2nd). Sliter

noted we are all part of a team, if need to modify committee at any time, communicate with each other. The two are going to be in contact with other boards with feedback at all times. Contracts will refer to our policies and SOGs, tentative agreements pending board approval. Once close, then will have to vote on it and the employees will have to vote on it, all in favor, none opposed.

6. **Appoint Hiring Committee:** Discussion on coming up with two board members to be on the hiring committee. Committee would be coming up with qualifications and recommendation. Borges would like to be part of committee. Sliter wants to understand more of the scope until he commits. Wilson is interested. Discussion on bringing in others on committee, limited to five. A motion to table till next meeting, Borges (1st), Price (2nd), next meeting is November 24th, all in favor, none opposed.
7. **Convene into Closed Session Pursuant to MCA 2-3-203 (3):** *Went into closed session At 17:26*
8. **Convene back into Open Session:** Back from closed session, opened session at 18:20
9. **Appoint Interim Chief:** A motion to accept Jeremy Patton as interim Chief starting today, Wilson (1st), Borges (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed. A motion as a recommendation to compensate Interim Chief at a level commensurate with the prior Chief's salary, Sliter (1st), Price (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed.
10. **General Public Comment:** Email will be being sent out tonight Thanking the Chief and Jeremy is acting Chief with full authority and hope that everyone will give him the help and respect he deserves.
11. **Motion to Adjourn:** Price (1st), Borges (2nd), no comments, all in favor, none opposed. Meeting adjourned at 18:23

Minutes Approved:


_____, Trustee


_____, Recorder