

East Priest Fire Task Force Notes

Inn at Priest Lake

(following Priest Lake Cabin Owners Association (PLCOA))

Coolin, ID

Minutes June 8, 2019

Attendees: Steve Rice, Tom Clevenger, Dallas Grey, Jim Westberg, Candace Mum, Tom Clevenger

Tom Clevenger volunteered to run the agenda-

1. Update on Search for potential East Priest FD Commissioners-

Tom Renzi has been recruiting. One person has said yes, working on 2 more. Don and Maggie Drummond have been asked. Tom also working on an alternate.

Steve Rice outlined the first FD Commissioners are appointed by the County Commissioners for the first term following a vote to become a district. Might need to have subdistricts based on geography of the district, only purpose is representation, can have 3-5 commissioners.

****Question remains on subdistricts....Jim Westberg needs to check on this requirement of if districts are needed or if at-large- commissioners would suffice. Tom Clevenger from Woody's Point says he could also be the resident for a district if need be.

2. Update on Attorney needed to begin process with Bonner County Election. (two options have surfaced) A NNFd former commissioner gave us the name of Will Harrington and Steve Rice referred Bill Punkany, who runs about \$175-225/hour. Estimated \$2,500 budget. Punkany did Latah County rural fire District for Caldwell) Will Herrington advised NNFd -Jim Westberg will contact Herrington and ask for an estimate on cost of election). Consensus is we need to hire an attorney to get things rolling. How do we pay for this?

3. Candace gave a report on Grant application possibility-People Helping People/Chamber Fund. They have been very generous in the past to community organizations, in particular fire/emergency support and may still have some funds available. Candace will pursue and will ask for 10K minimum.

4. PLCOA- Denny Christensen will contact the board in regard to potentially hosting the East Priest FD startup Task Force and see what might be possible. Website page hosting, banking, financial loan or a grant were discussed. One idea was to request a \$2, 500 loan to get going right away with the election as it would benefit many individuals in the PLCOA. Individuals could retain the attorney. Candace will draft a request in writing to the PLCOA, and Denny says he can take to board to see if they would be a pass through.

5. Service Agreement- Dallas Grey, CCBFD Commissioner talked about forming a district. Must need people on staff to have a mutual aid agreement, not just the vehicles. Could do a Fire Service agreement, such as a contractual relationship with an existing Fire District, itemized certain fire service for x of \$. Currently considering doing that for Outlet Bay. Seasonal. Boat only, paying a significantly higher \$ amount than they would if they were actually part of a district. To start. If the CCBFD could help identify what they would perform, in detail, and some kind of an estimate what that would cost them, make it viable, and fair. That would be the preference.

6. Discussed the desire to have an Emergency Ambulance—possibly housed in East Priest FD main station identified to be hosted at 1.89 acre property West of Indian Creek. Bonner County EMS may be able to lease from new East Priest FD if we could provide a bay. An architectural rendering of a future HQ shows an anticipated ambulance bay.

7. Volunteer 2019 training-

CCBFD—NNFD—both districts are more than happy to have people come in and be trained this summer. Both say they love to have new responders! Get the benefits and you never know when it is needed. All hands on deck if there is a big need. CCFD is First Saturday, at 9:00am and 3rd Wednesday at 6pm. Need out fill out short volunteer paperwork. Suggest sending out volunteer application with minutes and to new names.

8. Creation of District Issue brought up by Jim Westberg- Must create District that is contiguous that State would agree to. Petition method was discussed earlier with HOA's for the unsold lots. Denny Christensen discussed we could petition the state's lessees. Lessee would pay the tax on the improvements, proxy would cover inhabited lots. There are some existing uninhabited lots. Believes the state would agree to coordinate. Could we include those lots to make it contiguous? (Diamond Park) Jim wants to narrow down this contiguous issue, with Bear Creek (covered by NNFD) in the middle. Need to make sure we can include Diamond Park because new survey shows residents are interested and it is not very feasible for them to join NNFD.

9. Need to create email address for East PriestFD. Collected email addresses at the PLCOA for interested parties and need to ask authorization to send them email (Candace & Tom C. Will create and work) Can send to each to neighborhood contact in HOA with opt-in language. If you want to be a part of this. For Woody's Point Road maintenance district-110 pay, 115 on the list, the state lots that are not leased, don't cause road issues anyway. PLCOA newsletter and website -discussed coordinating communications.)

10. Bond Council—Discussed might have minimum needs if we get to that, - Is there a minimum number of electors? Is it majority voting to pass a bond?

11. Denny is going to work on getting email distribution list for 5 neighborhoods, with the hopes of putting out an invitation to anyone who would like to be on an East Priest Fire Listserve.

13. Need a budget committee... Dallas, Tom R. and Tom C. volunteered to be the draft Budget Committee—and will put some numbers together to begin for the election. Startup Capital budget and Annual Operating budget would be needed.

14. Tom R. is working on getting the electors from County and will work along with Tom C. and Steve Mumm to identify who actually is a voter and who lives within the boundaries of the proposed East Priest FD.

15. Steve Rice reports if the effort for a new Fire District is not successful, Attorney Bill Punkany in So. Idaho, may be able to create a volunteer fire association 501 c 3. May be able to come up with a process where everyone within the area can subscribe to the fee structure like in an HOA. If we can't go with a district, could be another opportunity.

16. Next meeting at CCBFD meeting room, Saturday, August 17th, 10:00 am.

Candace Mumm

Acting Secretary