Board trustee members present: R. Jack Clapp, Drew Hoel, Patrick Gembala, Fred Nelson.
Board trustee members absent: Jack Konitz, excused.
Staff: Rural Fire Chief John E. Fairchild, Finance Officer Bonnie M. Manicke.
Visitors: City Fire Chief Clint Cottle, Una Rose Graham, Leanna Fillman, Jason Edwards, Jessica Edwards, Julie Sisler, President Polson City/Rural Fire Department Membership. Lee Manicke, Elsa Duford, Dean Sams.

Chair Clapp opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:00 p.m. 

EXECUTIVE SESSION {00:05} – The board adjourned to executive session to discuss personnel matters at 7:03 p.m.

RECONVENE TO OPEN SPECIAL MEETING {00:18} 7.25 p.m.

DISCUSSION ON MOVING FORWARD IN LIGHT OF CITY'S STATED POSITION REGARDING WORKING TOGETHER {00:22} -
Chair Clapp reported Trustees Nelson, Konitz, Clapp, Paul Laisy and several concerned residents attended the September 21st Polson City Commission meeting. The trustees attempted to reach out to the city to find a way to work together. The city has made it clear, at least for now, their desire is to operate as separate entities under a mutual aid agreement. The city does not have any desire to pursue any other alternative. Accordingly it was discussed at the September 10th board meeting how to proceed. The board accepts the city’s recent decision to move forward as a separate entity and try to maintain the best possible fire service. Trustee Nelson motion to recognize the inter-local agreement is no longer in force. The board continue to reach in any way possible to work with the city through a mutual aid agreement and whatever way we can. Trustee Hoel second. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW VOLUNTEERS {2:07} – The applications of volunteers was addressed tonight in executive session. The volunteers were interviewed before the committee last night. The committee was comprised of the fire chief, Dean Sams, appointed by the board as a rural citizen, and Carol Swope, a firefighter member following the resignation of rural firefighter. Fire Chief Fairchild introduced Brett Burns, Rob Harrod, Wyatt Barr, and Chris Moldenhauer. Trustees and public welcomed the new volunteers.

CITY/RURAL AGREEMENT {3:35} – As part of the acceptance and recognition to move forward, Trustee Hoel and most recently Chair Clapp became involved in negotiating discussions with City Fire Chief Clint Cottle. The board has a document which essentially divides up equipment mutually owned which addresses turnouts, fire board, shared use of SCBA compressor, extractor. The agreement has been approved by City Manager Mark Shrives, Fire Chief Clint Cottle, and City Attorney Rich Gebhardt. Yesterday the City indicated the agreement needs to go before the City
Commission October 5th. **Trustee Hoel motion to accept the city rural agreement September, 2015 date of record on behalf of the rural board. Trustee Konitz second.** Trustee Nelson questioned access to the extractor and compressor. Chief Cottle assured the equipment will be available 24/7 for the rural firefighters. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF CURRENT RURAL FIRE CHIEF AT END OF FIRE SEASON {5:50}**

Chair Clapp commented in early July the rural board was confronted with a situation there was concern for the rural district and its leadership. At that point, the rural district leaned upon and asked John Fairchild, who served in the district for over 28 years as a volunteer firefighter and later as Polson City and Rural Fire Chief, if he would continue through the fire season. John to the benefit of everyone agreed to do so. A number of fires were contained that could have gotten out of control. Jack expressed a great deal of gratitude to John for the wildland fire containment this past season. John has decided to not continue past the end of September. John's last day as Rural Fire Chief will be Wednesday, September 30th at 5:00 p.m. Jack thanked John the past three months and the past 28 years of city and rural fire service to the community. **Trustee Nelson motion to accept the resignation of Polson Rural Fire Chief John Fairchild. Thanks for serving as a city and rural chief through good and bad times. Trustee Konitz second. Motion passed unanimously.** Trustees and public offered a round of applause.

**CONSIDERATION OF INTERIM RURAL CHIEF {8:36}** - Trustee Nelson would like to recommend an individual he has known for 30 years. He has over 30 years of fire service starting out in the department as a volunteer and progressed to full status of the department. Basically he worked his way up from firefighter, station officer, to assistant fire chief.. Fred sat on the Missoula Rural Board observing him take the district from serious financial and manpower problems to what it is today. His qualifications are without question with a true dedication to fire service. Fred would like to recommend Paul Laisy as the Polson Rural District Interim Chief. Paul resides in the rural district. Paul commented he has given it a lot of thought and fire service has been his life for over 30 years. He realizes the fire district has had some major crisis, especially with the direction the city manager has taken breaking the two agencies apart. Paul is aware fire districts are the best way to provide fire coverage and emergency services. Most of the firefighters in this nation are volunteers and most of the people in this nation are protected by volunteer firefighters. He believes this district can do the job and move forward on its own with the help of the volunteer firefighters and officers. Paul met some of the volunteers recently and noted they are very capable. Jack thanked Paul for the comments. **Trustee Nelson motion to appoint Paul Laisy as interim chief while the district searches for a permanent replacement. Trustee Hoel second. Motion passed unanimously.** Trustees and public offered a round of applause. Chair Clapp requested Paul work with John next week, then take the helm September 30th at 5:00 p.m.

**JOB DESCRIPTION FOR PERMANENT RURAL FIRE CHIEF {12:00}** - Chair Clapp suggested the board review the current job description for changes and additions at the October meeting. Jack invited members of the fire department and the community to bring suggestions to the meeting. The goal is to complete a job description for release to the media. Trustee Nelson suggested the October meeting date changed to Wednesday, October 7th. Bonnie will contact the media.

**Public Input on Non Agenda Items: {15:50} – Una Rose Graham personally thanked Trustees Clapp, Nelson and Konitz for attending the September 21st City Commission meeting and trying to make peace with the city regarding the fire department issue. Trustees did everything possible although it was apparent from the moment you approached the podium the presentation fell on deaf**
ears. She was very disappointed in the city for not allowing public comment following the presentation. Mayor Knutson commented she didn't see anyone stand up, wave a hand, and she forgot to ask for public comment. Her prodigal is very precise on every other agenda item. The new city fire chief apparently was selected for whatever reason. Una Rose has no knowledge the position was advertised. The position was filled as an appointment. Clint has absolutely no fire experience. As a taxpayer, she is concerned regarding the liability. It is a huge liability for the rural fire department to work with the city chief because of the lack of knowledge. It is not a good idea to put an inexperienced fire chief in charge of a department. Una Rose is very concerned. Chair Clapp thanked Una Rose and appreciates the concern. Jack is comfortable the rural had adequate staff with John Fairchild and now Paul Laisy.

Steve Stanley reported on the generator project will be complete in two weeks. The Fairgrounds facility will serve as a backup for the 911 phone system. Lake County Commissioners, and Office of Emergency Management are committed to the Polson Rural Fire Department to moving forward. Chair Clapp thanked the commissioners for their support and continued support.

Grant Clapp reported the website is up at polsonruralfiredistrict.org.

**ADJOURNMENT** - There being no further business the Polson Rural Fire District Board meeting was adjourned 7:44 p.m. **Trustee Hoel motion to adjourn. Trustee Gembala second. Motion passed unanimously.** Chair Clapp thanked everyone for coming tonight. October 7, 2015 next regular scheduled meeting.

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R. Jack Clapp, Chair    Drew Hoel, Secretary-Treasurer

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Bonnie M. Manicke, Recorder
Call to Order, Pledge of Allegiance

Executive session:

Personnel matters

Reconvene to open special meeting

Trustee Meeting Includes -

Discussion of moving forward in light of City's stated position regarding working together

Acceptance of resignation of current Chief at end of fire season

Consideration of interim Chief

Discussion of search, job description, etc. for permanent Chief

Public Input on Non Agenda Items:

Adjourn