

Rochester Fire Protection District

700 East Main Street, Rochester, Illinois

Meeting Minutes

December 13, 2017

I. Call to order

President Riggs called to order the regular meeting of the Rochester Fire Protection District at 7:00 p.m. on December 13, 2017 at the Rochester Firehouse.

II. Roll call

John Fox conducted a roll call. The following persons were present: President Riggs, Trustee Fairchild, Trustee Fox, and Trustee Leonard. Also present was Chief Greg Surbeck, Deputy Chief John Archer and 8 members of the public. Trustee Cravens was absent

III. Approval of minutes from last meeting

Meeting minutes from the meeting on November 8, 2017 were presented. Trustee Fairchild noted that the public comment(s) were missing from the minutes. Trustee Leonard made a motion to approve the minutes, second by President Riggs. Unanimously approved.

IV. Treasurer's Report

President Riggs presented the Treasurer's report.

V. Chief's Report

December 5th - Siren Test
Cub Scout tour of the station (20 people)

December 9th – Shop with the kids (5 students)
Take Santa to the library

November Calls:

15 - EMS

1 - Car accident with extrication

9 - Fire: (1 stove fire, 1 odor investigation, 3 automatic alarms, 1 CO, 1 house fire (mutual aid))

25 Total calls 2 illegal burns (leaf)

6 Training sessions

2 Special duties

1 member taking the EMT final at Lincoln Land College.

Trustee Fairchild made a motion to approve the Chief's report, second by Trustee Leonard. Unanimously approved.

VI. Old Business

1. Berry station water easement request
EJ Water sent back a response. There will not be a discount if we have a meter pit installed. They stated the work will be done in 2018. Trustee Fairchild made a motion to approve the waterline easement at the Berry Station, second by Trustee Leonard. Unanimously approved.
2. Station vehicles
Chief Surbeck stated that the test using Command 1 for EMS calls is working with no issues found. The equipment fits in the vehicle and is serving our needs. President Riggs stated that we will proceed with the plan to sell Squad 1.
3. Fire Station sign
President Riggs and Chief Surbeck went to Ace Sign company to see the options for a sign for the front of the department.

VII Public Comment

A member of the Rochester Village Board stated that the village is working on a sign ordinance and she advised the Fire Board to check with the village when choosing a sign. The Village Board member also asked the Fire Board if they would be open to hosting a fundraiser for the Sparks in the Park committee to fund the fireworks. The fundraiser is chicken dinners that will be distributed to cars as they pull in. Trustee Leonard made a motion to allow the Sparks in the Park Committee to use the fire station for a chicken dinner fundraiser on Feb. 21st from 5-6 pm. Second by Trustee Fairchild. Unanimously approved.

There were several comments from the public regarding the proposed fire station sign – where will it be located, what type of sign and what will the impact be to the fire station neighbors. President Riggs stated that there is no bid from any company at this time.

A member of the public commented about posting the minutes. Trustee Fox said the minutes are available to the public through the website, or if the public wants a copy to contact the station or send in a self-addressed stamped envelope. Since this is a volunteer department it doesn't fall under the 7 day rule as stated by the OMA. He will work on posting in the foyer once they are approved.

Trustee Fox commented about the sign and encouraged the public to come to the meetings to get the facts from the meeting and not through the neighborhood buzz. He has contacted the Rochester Times to ask if they would consider coming to the meetings and reporting it to the public. Trustee Fairchild asked if the agenda could be posted on the website. Trustee Fox will look into it.

VIII. New Business

1. Adopt the tax levy referendum

Trustee Fox made a motion to adopt the 2017 tax levy referendum, second by Trustee Leonard. Trustee Fox took roll call. President Riggs – yes, Trustee Fox – yes, Trustee Leonard – yes, Trustee Fairchild – yes (Trustee Cravens absent) Unanimously approved.

2. Fire Chief expectations and qualifications.

President Riggs passed out a document to the board and would like to have a discussion about hiring the new Chief in January.

3. Pick-up truck

Chief Surbeck is looking to purchase a pick up truck to serve as a utility vehicle for the department. It will take 90-120 days to get. Trustee Fairchild asked if a sedan would be more useful as he recounted a previous conversation with the Chief. He spoke to the police chief who will be selling a vehicle. Chief Surbeck said a pick up would be more versatile. Trustee Leonard had concerns with the police sedan - # of hours driven and they can be driven hard at times. Trustee Fox made a motion to allocate \$35,000 for the purchase of a utility truck with the Chief and Deputy Chief to make final decision on the specs, second by Trustee Leonard. Trustee Fox took roll call: President Riggs – yes, Trustee Leonard – yes – Trustee Fox – yes and Trustee Fairchild – yes (Trustee Cravens, absent). Unanimously approved.

4. Pay for members who leave

Trustee Fairchild made a motion to pay exiting members at the time of leave for their earned stipend, second by Trustee Leonard. Unanimously approved.

IX. Closed Session

Trustee Fairchild made a motion to go into Executive Session 5 ILCS/120-C5, second by Trustee Leonard. Unanimously approved.

X. Return from Closed Session

The regular meeting opened at 8:29pm. Trustee Fox took roll call: Trustee Leonard, Trustee Fox, Trustee Fairchild and President Riggs were present.

Trustee Fairchild announced that there is a meeting at the Village Hall regarding the alternative water supplier for Rochester. He invited everyone to go and listen. President Riggs reminded everyone that you can go to the meeting but you are not to speak on behalf of the fire department.

XI. Upcoming Meeting

The next scheduled meeting of the board is Wednesday January 10, 2018.

XII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Trustee Leonard, second by Trustee Fox. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned.