

Rochester Fire Protection District
700 East Main Street, Rochester, Illinois
Meeting Minutes

January 8th, 2020

I. Call to order

President Pro Tem Leonard called to order the Regular Business Meeting of the Rochester Fire Protection District and at 7:00 p.m. on January 8, 2020 at the Rochester Firehouse.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll call

Trustee Secretary Fox conducted roll call. The following board members were present or absent: President Riggs was absent, Trustee Treasurer McBride; present, Trustee Secretary Fox; present, Trustee Fairchild; present, Trustee Leonard (President Pro tem); present. Also present was Chief Archer and Captain Sunderland.

IV. Review and Approval of minutes from last meeting

The Minutes from the January 8, 2020 Regular Meeting were presented by Secretary Fox. Trustee Fairchild requested clarification of the statement in paragraph 3 of the "New Apparatus Work Group Report" which stated that he had stated, "my concerns are we're not serving the rural parts of the district like we use to". Trustee Fairchild stated that he did not make this statement. Review of the meetings recording by Secretary Fox and President Pro Tem Leonard verified that the reported statement was correct and made by Trustee Fairchild and will remain in the minutes. He also requested that an additional statement entered. The second statement "at one time we had three off road capable fire apparatuses on this department, and now we are down to one" was added to the December 11 minutes as per the request of Trustee Fairchild. Trustee Treasurer McBride made motion for the approval of the minutes pending the review of the statement and the addition of a second statement as requested by Trustee Fairchild. The motion was seconded by Trustee Fairchild. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

V. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer McBride presented the Treasurer's report as of Fiscal Year to Date. Trustee Fairchild made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report as presented, second by Trustee Fox. No discussion requested. Unanimously approved, motion passed.

VI. Chief's Report

Presented by Chief Archer;

December 16 RFPD hosted the Annual Holiday Social Gathering including members of the Rochester Police Department.

December 18 Chief attended Office of State Fire Marshall NFPA 101 Life Safety Code Training seminar at OSFM office, Springfield.

December 23 New HVAC interior units were installed and made operational for heat only on the first phase.

December 31 Yearly call volumes for 2019 were: Fire 117, EMS 471 for a total of 588. Call volume for 2018 was 524.

December Calls:

27 EMS

11 Fire

38
4 Training Sessions
3 Special Duty
(Chiefs Report cont.)

The Board praised the Firefighters for their service to the Community for a call volume of 588 calls for the year.

Trustee Secretary Fox made a motion to accept the Chief's report as presented, second by Trustee McBride. No further discussion requested. Trustees voted with unanimously approved and motion passed.

VII. Old Business

Shop with the Firefighters:

Firefighter Trader reported nine Firefighters participated in the Departments Annual "Shop with the Firefighters 2019" with 6 local children participating. Items purchased consisted of much needed clothing and toys. Program was a success and providing for a happy time for all involved.

Approve the 2020 meeting schedule

Regular meetings for the 2020 year will continue to be scheduled for the second Wednesday of each month. In the event of a Holiday falling on that date, the meeting will be rescheduled and announced at the Regular Meeting the month before and posted accordingly. Motion was made by Trustee Secretary Fox and second by Trustee Treasure McBride. No further discussion requested. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

New Apparatus Work Group Update:

Firefighter Marfell gave a report for the New Apparatus Work Group on its status and their recommendations for the purchase of a new fire apparatus. Early 2019 the New Apparatus Work Group was formed and met to determine the current needs of the Rochester Fire Protection District to fulfill their mission. Their findings were for the need of a short wheel base "First Out" structural fire apparatus that would not only serve the confines of the village but also the rural areas.

Engine 2 being the newest Engine a 2007 is approaching 13 years old. It was the consensus of the group that an upgrade to a newer more modern apparatus best fit the needs of the district maintaining a modern fleet and uninterrupted service. Their focus was to design and obtain an apparatus with a short wheelbase that would enable a vehicle with a 1000 gallon tank, ample tool storage and ability to navigate rural areas with long lanes and maintaining effectivity away from town. The wheel base on the proposed new engine is 194 inches. The wheelbase on our current Engine 2 is 245 inches. This had made it sometimes difficult to navigate some of the rural roads and lanes allowing more time for the fire to progress and creating conditions within the structure to deteriorate causing more time for a condition such as "Flash Over" to occur. This condition can be deadly for any trapped victim or Firefighters entering the structure for search and rescue or their attempt to contain the fire.

They propose to repurpose the current Engine 2 as a relay pumper in rural areas, MABAS (Mutual Aide Box Alarm System) Mutual Aid Engine and second out Motor Vehicle Accident (MVA) response. Again, the Work Groups first and utmost goal was to design a piece of equipment that would best suit the needs of the entire Rochester Fire Protection District in the protection of life and preservation of property.

The work group stated that they had discussed options and possible preplans they could put into place that would enable rural response down long lanes, by laying a supply line on their initial approach. This would enable an immediately rescue if needed and quick fire attack. Other responding apparatus Tender 2 and Engine 2, would assume the role of supplying and shuttling additional water. This would also

allow for the full complement of the additional equipment on Tender 2 and Engine 2. This is a well thought out plan and only the beginning of preplan opportunities for the newly designed apparatus and keeping preplans current and effective.

(New Apparatus Work Group Update Cont.)

The Work Group felt they had achieved their goal to design an apparatus that would satisfy the need of a new modern first out response apparatus in both the village and rural areas. At this time, they were ready to present this design, answer questions and provide any additional data the board may need for approval. The purchase of the apparatus would be through an Illinois firm, Legacy Fire Apparatus representing the manufacture, Sutphen Fire Equipment. The cost of the new engine will be \$647,763.31 at its completion. A prepaid option is available for the lesser price of \$634,800.00. This price is average for an apparatus of this type.

President Pro Tem Leonard stated that he had spoken with the district's attorney that week and received documentation should we elect to purchase this apparatus at this time. The approval was given by the lawyer to use the bidding process of HDAC to pursue the purchase of this vehicle.

President Pro Tem Leonard then opened discussion among the Trustees for any questions or comments they may have allowing the Work Group to respond to those questions or concerns.

Trustee/Treasure McBride stated that at that time he had no questions or concerns. Further stating that he may have future questions that he will address at that time.

Trustee Secretary Fox pointed out and commented that the Work Group has devoted significant time and effort to produce a design that they felt was needed to best meet the needs of the Rochester Fire Protection District. He further pointed out that this new vehicle will not only serve the needs of the inner village but also better serve the rural areas of the district. Trustee Fox stated that though the cost appeared very high and was one he really did not want to pay, if this is what they feel needed for them to best serve our fire district then so be it.

Trustee Fairchild next spoke and stated that his concerns for additional off road equipment and Tenders still stand. He felt that no further comment was needed in that direction. He further questioned if the Engine will arrive ready to respond. Captain Sunderland, Firefighter Marfell and Chief Archer stated that except for some minor additions of shelving to be handled by the dealer and all equipment was in inventory and available for the vehicle. Trustee Fairchild voiced that he still felt that we did not have enough off road capable apparatus for response.

At this point, Trustee President Pro Tem Leonard shared a letter written by President Riggs who is out of town.

President Riggs apologized to all for not being present. He further stated, *"I wanted you to be clear in the understanding that I completely support the purchase of a new Sutphen Fire Engine."* President Riggs went on to state that in over 30 years fire service experience he had come to know Sutphen as a quality manufacture of fire apparatus well respected in the industry. He further stated over the years recognizing that our equipment was aging, the Fire Board developed a replacement plan and began saving for this day. President Riggs went on to say, *"that it is the Fire Protection Districts Boards' responsibility to provide the Firefighters with the equipment they needed to protect the community"*. President Riggs recognized Captain Sunderland for doing a terrific job with the team of Firefighters to design this new engine that would best meet our needs of years to come. Though not being present to vote, President Riggs wanted to express his support for the Work Groups request and design through this email. Closing, he wanted to comment to the Firefighters, *"Thank you for what you do for Rochester!"*

Trustee President Pro Tem Leonard offered that as a longtime resident of Rochester, and having the privilege of being on the Fire Board he felt that our Fire Protection District and Firefighters are the best in Central Illinois. It was the Boards diligence in past expenditures and management of funds that has kept this department in the financial state it is in. It has maintained the building and supplied our Firefighters with the tools and equipment they need to do the job they have done. With this in mind, he was in full support of the purchase of the new apparatus.

Prior to vote, the meeting was opened to public comment only.

(New Apparatus Work Group Update Cont.)

A Firefighter commented that many hours were used in determining and designing this vehicle. Given the age and current maintenance needs of the current First Out apparatus Engine 2, this is a definite need for the district in order to continue uninterrupted service to the community. He went on to point out that they would not propose something to the Board that they did not feel that was in definite need to do their jobs safely and efficiently.

A member of the public and previous member of the Department inquired as to the number of field fires verses structure fires the department responded to. (The Chief had commented and confirmed earlier that that number was out of 117 Fire calls 3 to 4 were off road or field fires 1 being Mutual Aid) He stated that he did not feel that "Flash Over" was as much of a factor because it would occur before the arrival of the Fire Department. He stated that he supported Trustee Fairchild in the purchase of another Brush Truck and Tender.

A member of public, who lives in the rural area, commented that he had required response of the Fire Department for Fire and Rescue on a few occasions and noted that the department responded very quickly. He pointed out that they were very effective in containing the field fire and handling the rescue emergency. It was in his opinion that the Firefighters should have the best equipment they could get and supported their request. He further stated that the Work Group has worked on this project for 9 months and that it was time to take a vote on it and put this Fire Truck into service.

Member of the community questioned the board that "*if this was not such a rich community and there was not that much money sitting in the bank*" what kind of trucks would they need, value and use? President Pro Tem Leonard pointed out to her that this was not open for question and answer but for comment. She replied that it was her comment. He then moved on to the next comment.

Department and Work Group member who is also fulltime firefighter, wanted to address the dispute and time of "Flash Over" and the need for other equipment. He said that at no time would he state that we need less of anything in the line of equipment or response vehicles or that they are not that important. However making a priority of Flash Over that time is important and can cause the fire to become "vent limited." The member pointed out that fire environment for Firefighters or potential fire victims has never been more dangerous due to the synthetic materials and plastics in carpeting, furniture and other items than ever before. This is one of the reasons for increase response capability. He further stated that Life Safety will always be their priority over property conservation and that there is no one in the room that has been in the fire service that would disagree. Addressing the money issue, if the district did not have the money readily available, he did not believe that the needs would change nor would they move in a different direction for this vehicle.

Trustee Fairchild made mention that a friend of his was on another department that had been in the process of purchasing a new apparatus. He pointed out that it took them almost 2 years to come to a decision on what was the right equipment. He felt that the Work Group did not allow sufficient time to develop their decision. Claiming to be the most experienced his offer to assist in the selection and design was not used by the Work Group.

Trustee Secretary Fox commented that there were also other members of the Fire Board that had similar years of experience in Fire and Rescue. However he pointed out, sitting at the head of our Fire

Department is Chief John Archer. Chief Archer also has many years of experience in rescue and rural firefighting. He is known and respected throughout the State of Illinois as a dealer and expert in Fire/Rescue procedures, fire equipment and fire apparatus for cities, towns and rural areas. Continuing, Trustee Fox stated that Chief Archer has been involved in the design of many types of fire and rescue apparatuses for cities and rural areas. He was there for the Work Group from the beginning to offer his expertise and knowledge. It was this leadership and technical background that allow the work group to be effective in coming to a design for an apparatus that best fulfills the needs of the Rochester Fire Protection District in a timely manner.

President Pro Tem Leonard at this point called for a motion. Trustee Treasure McBride made a motion for the purchase through HGAC of a apparatus supplied by Legacy Fire Equipment and built by Sutphen

(New Apparatus Work Group Update Cont.)

Fire Equipment for the amount of \$647,763.31 with payment to be made on delivery (est 15 months). The Motion was second by Trustee Secretary Fox.

Trustee Fairchild voiced that a motion to be made on the purchase of new apparatus was improper since the agenda did not reflect that action. It was his recommendation that the purchase be tabled until approval is made. Discussion by Chief Archer and other Trustees stated that this could fall under the "Approval of Purchases". It was the understanding of the President Pro Tem that the purchase could proceed asking for second for the motion. Trustee Secretary Fox again second the motion with the stipulation that since legal acceptance of the purchase contract through HGAC had already been approved, this would be acceptable. It was decided and pointed out in the motion that the action would be presented to legal council for final approval. If determined unacceptable by the attorney, the motion would be withdrawn and addressed at a later time. Roll call was taken: President Riggs; Absent, President Pro Tem Leonard; Yes, Trustee Treasure McBride; Yes, Trustee Secretary Fox; Yes, Trustee Fairchild; No. The motion was passed pending approval by legal counsel.

(Note: Contact with the Fire Districts Attorney later approved the purchase in the manner it was presented and as so motioned)

VIII. New Business

Open Bids/approval purchase of Cardiac Monitors:

Presentation was made for the purchase of new cardiac monitors of which a bid was requested. The current monitors have become difficult to service. In some cases, replacement parts were difficult to obtain or are no longer available. All three monitors that the department currently has are of the same age and manufacture needing upgrade and or replacement. One bid was received from a manufacture and national supplier "Zoll" for the purchase of 1 portable Cardiac Defib with all specified accessories and warranties described in the Spec as \$ 32,238.86. The cost for 2 portable Cardiac Defibs including all accessories and warranties described in the Specs is \$ 63,015.23. The proposed monitor (Zoll) is currently being used by the Springfield Fire Department and all three ambulance company. This will allow for the replenishing of supplies. The monitors have been accepted by Memorial Medical Center EMS the department's resource hospital. These monitors have all functions required for Advance Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) rated agencies of which Rochester Fire/Rescue is currently rated. Much discussion was made and it was pointed out that most all agencies the Department are associated with are using this monitor and have had much success. When assisting responding agencies, the equipment will be the same and EMT's with be familiar with that equipment. The old monitors will be used as backups while still able. After a period of use, determination will be made on any adjustments to specifications or additional needs. At that time purchase of additional monitors may be requested. Department members will receive training on all facets of the monitor prior to them being placed in service.

Motion was made by Trustee Fairchild and second by Trustee Secretary Fox for the purchase of a Zoll Portable Cardiac Defib. as specified for \$ 32,238.86. Roll call vote: President Riggs; Absent, Trustees Treasure McBride; Yes, Trust President Pro Tem Leonard; Yes, Trustee Fairchild; Yes, Trustee Secretary Fox; Yes. no additional discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

IX. Closed Session:

No need for closed session.

X. Adjournment

Motion was made for adjournment by Trustee Secretary Fox and second by Trustee Treasurer McBride all voted in favor. Next Regular Meeting will be at 7:00 pm February 12, 2020 at the Rochester Fire House.

Rochester Fire Protection District