

Rochester Fire Protection District

700 East Main Street, Rochester, Illinois

Meeting Minutes

December 11, 2019

(REVISED)

I. Call to order

President Riggs called to order the Regular Business Meeting of the Rochester Fire Protection District and at 7:00 p.m. on December 11th, 2019 at the Rochester Firehouse.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll call

Trustee Fox conducted a roll call. The following board members were present: President Riggs, Treasurer McBride, Secretary Fox, Trustee Fairchild and Trustee Leonard. Also present was Chief Archer and Captain Sunderland.

IV. Review and Approval of minutes from last meeting

The Minutes from the December 11 Regular Meeting were presented by Secretary Fox. Trustee McBride made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Trustee Leonard. No discussion requested. Unanimously approved.

V. Treasurer's Report

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

VI. Chief's Report

Presented by Chief Archer;

November 20 RFPD hosted the Sparks in the Park drive through fundraiser at the station.

November 25 WICS TV Crews participated in a burn and learn reporting on RFPD fire fighting training activities. This aired over the course of 3 days Dec. 2 – 4

November 30 RFPD escorted the Rochester football team back in town after winning the State Championship

December 1 RFPD hosted the Operation Home Town Santa "pack, wrap and ship" event at the station

December 2 RFPD hosted the Burn and Learn training session instructed by Shawn Bloemker from Max Fire Box. Several departments attended.

December 14 RFPD members will shop with school kids and deliver Santa to the library.

November Calls:

35 EMS

10 Fire

45

4 Training Sessions
3 Special Duty

(Chiefs Report Cont.)

Trustee Fox made a motion to accept the Chief's report as presented, second by Trustee Leonard. Trustees voted with unanimously approved.

VII. Old Business

Auditors Report-Approval:

Motion was made by Trustee Fairchild to approve the Auditors presented at the December 11th Regular Meeting and was seconded by Trustee McBride. A Roll Call vote was taken of all Trustees with President Riggs voting **yes**, Treasurer McBride voting **yes**, Trustee Secretary Fox voting **yes**, Trustee Leonard voting **yes**, and Trustee Fairchild voting **yes** for its approval.

Furnace replacement:

Request for bid on the replacement of 4 furnaces and air conditioners was sent out with a reply of one vender "JHF Heating and Air Conditioning" responding. Board had discussed the circumstances of the replacement with Chief Archer at the November Regular meeting and requested the bids. Trustee Fairchild made a motion to accept the bid from JHF Heating and Air Conditioning for \$19,950.00. A Roll Call vote was taken of all Trustees with President Riggs voting **yes**, Treasurer McBride voting **yes**, Trustee Secretary Fox voting **yes**, Trustee Leonard voting **yes**, and Trustee Fairchild voting **yes** for its approval.

New Apparatus Work Group Report / Sutphen Rep

Presentation made by Captain Sunderland, the New Apparatus Work Group and Ben Brown of Legacy Fire Apparatus for the design and purchase of a new first response pumper built by Sutphen Fire Apparatus.

Both Legacy and Sutphen are family owned businesses. Legacy based in Illinois, is owned and run by Mr. Brown and his wife. Sutphen Fire Apparatus is also a family owned business being the oldest and largest in the United States being 130 years in business as of 2020. Rough specification plans were presented by Brown of the basic structure, layout and construction of the vehicle for the Fire Board to review. The final specifications will be of a full custom apparatus for the needs of the Rochester Fire Protection District according to our specifications, not a demo unit. The Work Group was working hard with Legacy to keep the wheelbase of the apparatus to a minimum due to rural response. Legacy pointed out that all service and warrantee work will be handled by their Service Department with 5 service trucks here in Illinois. Mr. Brown also pointed out that they can service most of the apparatus we currently possess. Trustee Leonard inquired as to the timeline for assembly. Mr. Brown stated that there were two assembly lines to consider with 13 months in Pennsylvania and the second 15 months in Ohio. He suggested the Ohio location based on its location and the ability for department members to visit and view progress.

(Revised Paragraph)

Trustee Fairchild voiced question as to why the group had decided and spec'd a first response engine in place of suggestions he had made at the November Board Meeting. He pointed out that "**my concerns are we're not serving the rural parts of the district like we use to.**" He further stated that he had a particular interest in off road field and combine fires. Trustee Fairchild further stated "**as I had said at the last meeting (December 12, 2019), we had 3 off-road capable fire apparatus at one time on this department. now we are down to one.**"

Captain Sunderland pointed out that the Work Group was tasked by the Fire Board in obtaining a design and vender in the purchase of a new engine. Trustee Fairchild questioned Captain Sunderland and the work group as to whether they felt that this apparatus best fulfilled the needs of the Rochester Fire Protection District? Their reply was yes!

Trustee Fox presented question to Chief Archer as to the number of “off road” type fires the Department had responded to in the last year. He also questioned the departments off road response capabilities. Chief Archer responded that the off road calls were 3 to 4 and pointed out that the Department was fully capable of responding to these types of fires.

(Old Business New Apparatus Work Group Purchase Work Group Report Cont)

The Work Group went on to point out that, the primary focus of the group was to design an Apparatus that is of short wheelbase to allow to a quick respond in rural areas to make an efficient fire attack on a structure. They further stated that they did not in vision this apparatus to be used off road on a field or combine fires.

President Riggs noted that the Department has been trying to upgrade for months by trying to sell Engine One with no takers or interest. President Riggs went on to say discussions with the members and the board has been to try to upgrade to an apparatus with a short wheel base that would better respond in the rural areas and that it was felt that ALL were on line with that plan. Trustee Fairchild responded that he was not, and that he felt that he had made clear last month that further discussion was needed. Trustee Leonard pointed out that he also understood that the brush/off road truck mentioned at the prior meeting was in addition to the Engine/Pumper being designed. He further stated that he had placed his trust in the Work Group to tell him and the board what was best for the community and that he would support that recommendation.

Trustee Fox stated that the ability of the RFPD to fight off road, field and combine fires is the concern of the entire board and with that questioned Chief Archer as to whether they could do that at this point in time. Chief Archer responded that they could and if the situation require additional assistance, that there were procedures in place for responding units to request additional assistance through the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System “MABAS” a state wide program for departments to obtain specialized equipment and man power in such situations. Chief Archer further pointing out that this was a system departments in Illinois live on every day. Trustee Leonard asked Chief Archer the question “so if Rochester Fire Rescue had a call tomorrow, could we respond? Chief Archer’s response was “sure”!

Trustee Fox questioned Chief Archer if there was a plan in place for the replacement of fire equipment over a period of years. Chief Archer responded that a plan for equipment was submitted to President Riggs the first of last year outline replacement recommendations. President Riggs reviewing the plan stated that Engine One was 10 years past its replacement plan.

Ceiling Fans

Information was presented on the replacement of the ceiling fans in the apparatus bay. Requests were made and two companies responded with one company coming to the Fire Station and performing a study as to the ventilation needs and presented their proposal Pricing and specifications were presented from Springfield Electric “Hunter Fans” and from the “Big Ass Fans” from the Big Ass Fans Company. Trustee Fairchild stated that the original fans that were installed were inefficient and “useless” recommending replacing them. Chief Archer pointed that one fan had failed and a second one was in the process of also failing. Motion was made by Trustee Fairchild to “accept the proposal from “Big Ass Fans” at the amount of \$19,982.25” and motion was seconded by Trustee Leonard. A Roll Call vote was taken of all Trustees with President Riggs voting **yes**, Treasurer McBride voting **yes**, Trustee Secretary Fox voting **yes**, Trustee Leonard voting **yes**, and Trustee Fairchild voting **yes** for its approval.

VIII. Request for Closed Session IAW 5ILCS 120/2 (c) (21)

Return from closed session: at 7:40:

Roll call taken with all Trustees present.

Motion was made by Trustee Fox and second by Trustee McBride for the “opening of the minutes of Executive Closed Session for September 12th 2018, November 14th 2018, December 12th 2018, January 9th 2019 and March 2019”. All trustees voting yes. Those minutes will be open and posted.

IX. New Business

Approval and Authorization of Purchases:

Motion was made by Trustee McBride and seconded by Trustee Fox for the approval of the payment of expenditures for the month of November. No discussion was requested. Motion was unanimously approved.

President Pro Tem

Due to President Riggs being out of town for 2 months, the Fire Districts Legal Consul recommended the appointment of a President Pro Tem be made. President Riggs made a motion for the appointment of Trustee Leonard to fill that position. No request for discussion. The motion was seconded by Trustee Fox and vote taken with all trustees voting Yes.

Firefighters Holiday Party:

Trustee Leonard made a motion for a donation by the district for \$ 1,000.00 be given to cover for awards and prizes for the volunteer work and sacrifices these men and women give to this community. The motion was second by Trustee Fox. A Roll Call vote taken of all Trustees with President Riggs voting **yes**, Treasurer McBride voting **yes**, Trustee Secretary Fox voting **yes**, Trustee Leonard voting **yes**, and Trustee Fairchild voting **yes** for its approval.

This year’s Holiday Party will be held January 11th at Public House 29. The business has offered to provide the room free of charge. The party will be free of charge for the Firefighter and a guest

X. Member or Public Comment

None requested

XI. Adjournment

President Riggs made request for motion for adjournment. Motion was made by Trustee Fox and seconded by Trustee McBride.

The next Regular meeting will be held at the Rochester Fire House on January 8th 2020 at 7:00 PM.