

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

August 12, 2020

I. Call to order

President Bill Riggs called to order the Regular Business Meeting of the Rochester Fire Protection District at 7:00 p.m. on August 12, 2020 at the Rochester Firehouse.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll call

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

IV. Review and approval of the July 8th 2020 minutes

Minutes from the July 8th Business Meeting were presented by Trustee Secretary Fox.

Trustee Fairchild commented that the minutes report under "Member of Public Comment" did not "sufficiently describes her concerns to the board." Trustee Fairchild stated that he "would like it reviewed and added to." President Riggs asked the Board if there were any other members interested in reviewing the recording. No Board members replied. President Riggs went on to offer Trustee Fairchild an opportunity to review the recording and come back with a suggestion. Trustee Fairchild stated that he "would be happy to do that." Secretary Fox pointed out that the reporting of the meetings minutes are directed to reflect a general overview of the discussion and not a "word for word verbatim" of the what was said. He further stated that those minutes reflected that discussion. Trustee Fairchild made a motion "**to review the minutes with a possible update.**" Trustee Leonard seconded the motion. President Riggs called for a vote: President Riggs; **Abstain**, Treasurer McBride; **Yes**, Secretary Fox; **Abstain**, Trustee Leonard; clarifying the stipulation "of a review only," voting **Yes**, Trustee Fairchild; **Yes**. The minutes were tabled till the next Regular Meeting pending suggestions of Trustee Fairchild's changes.

V. Treasurers Report

Treasurer McBride presented a report on Assets, Total Liabilities & Equity, Total Income and Expenses for the last month. Also presented was a Treasurers year to date report. Request for any questions or discussion of the report were made by President Riggs with no response. Requesting a motion for approval. Motion was made by Secretary Fox "**for the approval of Treasurers report as presented.**" Motion was Seconded by Trustee Leonard. No discussion requested with unanimous vote of approval.

VI. Chief's Report

Presented by Chief Archer;

July 16th Chief Archer met with Martin Engineering to review construction drawings and plans for the Mini Warehouse facility.

July 20th RFPD participated in the Terry Day funeral procession.

IDOT Cancelled the Car Safety Seat class due to Covid 19 issues and will readdress at a later date.

July 22nd Chief met with Joyner Construction to review Silver Leaf Daycare construction progress

(Chiefs Report Cont.)

August 3rd 5 RFPD members have enrolled into the IFSI Basic Firefighter training classes. This will be ongoing until December 2020.

August 6th Chief Archer and Captain Sunderland along with Chief Johnson of the Rochester Police Department met with the new Director of Elmcroft/Wyndcrest Assisted Living Center to acquaint with both Departments Policies and offerings.

Squad 3 new radio repeater installed.

August 10th Chief Archer met with Evan Lloyd Architects and Joyner Construction to discuss fire alarm and sprinkler system plans for ongoing Carriage Crossing Projects.

Two new Junior Firefighters have joined our Junior Firefighter program: Welcome David Osborne and Cole Wiggins.

July Calls:

39	EMS
<u>8</u>	Fire
47	Total responses

5 Training Sessions
2 Special Duties

Motion made by Trustee Leonard to accept the Chiefs Report and second by Treasurer McBride. No discussion requested; motion passed with unanimous vote.

VII. Old Business

Trustee Fairchild question the Board for any knowledge anyone had of the liquidation of Fire District property. Board members had no knowledge of any action. Trustee Leonard commented that apparently Trustee Fairchild had some knowledge and inquired as to what that was. Trustee Fairchild stated that he had been informed by a citizen of the Fire District that the deep fryers located at the former Berry Fire House (now inactive) had been sold to the former Fire Chief. Further stating, he had possession of them at his house and did Trustee Fairchild have any knowledge of this? Trustee Fairchild informed the individual that he did not and that he would “find out.”

Trustee Leonard asked Trustee Fairchild if he had called or approached the former Chief to verify the claim? Trustee Fairchild responded no. There was further discussion by Board members concerning the value, age, how and when the property was attained. Chief Archer commented that to his knowledge, they were not purchased. It was his understanding they were the property of the former Chiefs. The former Fire House was being cleaned out and the former Chief said he would take them back. Trustee Fairchild disputed that they were not the former Chiefs property. Chief Archer stated that he was not aware of that. It was estimated that the fryers were at least 25 years old but still functioning despite not being used in 8 to 10 years. It was stated by Trustee Leonard that he was sure no dishonesty occurred and that it could be resolved with a simple phone call. Trustee Leonard stated that he would look into the matter and report back to the Board.

VIII. New Business

1. Approval /Authorization of Purchases:

Motion was made by Treasurer McBride to *“approve purchases and expenditures for the month of July”*. Motion was seconded by Secretary Fox. President Riggs requested a poll of the board: President Riggs; *Yes*, Treasurer McBride; *Yes*, Secretary Fox; *Yes*, Trustee Leonard; *Yes*, Trustee Fairchild; *Yes*. Motion passed with no further questions or concerns.

(New Business Cont.)

2. Insurance Renewal-Waters Policy:

Trustees were provided information outlining the costs on the renewal of Insurance from Waters Insurance Agency. The policy covered Multi-Class Liability, Management Liability, Employment Practices Liability, Auto, Property, Inland Marine, Crime and Workers Comp. Total Annual Premium: \$32, 856.00. President Riggs pointed out that routinely the insurance is bid out every 4 to 5 years. However, this is not a year we bid that out. President Riggs further requested questions, comments and or a motion to accept would be appropriate for this. Treasurer McBride made a motion to *“accept the renewal for the amount of \$32, 856.00”*. The motion was seconded by Secretary Fox. President Riggs requested a poll of the Board: President Riggs voting; *Yes*, Treasurer McBride; *Yes*, Secretary Fox; *Yes*, Trustee Leonard; *Yes*, Trustee Fairchild; *Yes*. Motion to renew the Insurance Policy passed with no further questions or concerns.

3. Accident and Health Insurance Renewal

Invoice and Schedule Of Benefits was presented from the McNeil & Company with no change to the policy or premium at a cost of \$3,080.00. No further questions or discussion were presented. Trustee Fairchild made a motion *“to accept the policy at a cost of \$3,080.00”*. Motion was seconded by Treasurer McBride. Riggs requested a poll of the board: President Riggs voting; *Yes*, Treasurer McBride; *Yes*, Secretary Fox; *Yes*, Trustee Leonard; *Yes*, Trustee Fairchild; *Yes*. Motion to renew the Insurance Policy with McNeil & Company passed with no further questions or concerns.

IX. Member or Public Comment

A member of the public stated that the Board may have been advised by the Fire Districts Attorney or someone else that at the last meeting he was unable to record the audio in a manner that “someone could listen to it”. He stated that he uses the same “setup” around the state with “zero” problems. He further said that he came to the Board meeting last month and “there was all kinds of static” on his recording. He went on to inform the Board he was aware there are electronic devices that can be purchased to introduce static into electronic microphones that the normal person cannot hear. Looking at his camera/recording device he said it was happening at that time. He further claimed that; “1. Someone has a device on their person or in this room that is prohibiting sound from being recorded in this vicinity or 2. There is some kind of leak that is introducing sound into his system.”

Trustee Leonard responded that it would be of great disappointment if someone from the Fire District was interfering with his recording video or audio. He went on to say that he felt that the individual was questioning the character of this Department and that he has “full faith that no one would be doing that.” Trustee Leonard stated that the problem could have been addressed in a manner that there could be some type of interference in the building that should be check into rather than the claim that was made. Instead a claim was made that someone had a device on them that was causing that interference. The member of the public went on to state that the devices are easily obtained and could be purchased for \$100 or \$200 dollars and put them in your pocket.

President Riggs intervening stated that the Fire Protection District has received the information from the Attorney General's office concerning the individual allegations and complaint. There is a lengthy response coming back to the District from the Attorney General's Office and will eventually go to the complainant. Agreeing with Trustee Leonard, President Riggs stated that he too was offended that this individual comes into our station and alleges that there is a correlation between our Fire Department Members coming in and out of the room and the interference on his recording device. This was very clear in his allegation that stated that. President Riggs informed the individual that there has been an attempt to find the problem but that the interesting factor is that the recorder and multiple microphones in the room used to document the meeting has in no way been affected! The recordings is clear without any
(Member or Public Comment Cont.)

interference. It was pointed out by President Riggs that after his and Chief Archers investigation, it was found that there was no member of the Rochester Fire/Rescue or Board of Trustees attempting to interfere with the individuals recording. The individual was informed that the response was coming to him.

The Response is coming to Mr. Kraft by way of the Attorney Generals office, which is the method chosen by Mr. Kraft for this matter.

X. Adjournment

Motion for adjournment the next Regular meeting will be held September 9th, 2020. Motion was made by Trustee Leonard and seconded by Treasurer McBride.

Motion accepted by unanimous vote.

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