

Plattsmouth Rural Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
January 8, 2014

Calling the meeting to order – Acknowledgement of Open Meetings Law

President Holdridge called the meeting to order at 7:24 pm. President Holdridge acknowledged the Open Meetings Poster located on the wall of the District meeting room/office and available for review. Notice of the meeting was advertised in the Cass Gram, which is an approved publication of the Rural Fire Board and it was posted at the Post Office and on the front door of the rural fire station along with a copy of the agenda.

Board members present were John Holdridge, Shane Parshall, Lynn Vinduska, Ken Winters, and Doug Stander.

Public Forum – Reception of Delegates

No members of the public addressed the Board.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the December 4, 2013 meeting: Motion by Mr. Vinduska and second by Mr. Parshall to waive the reading and approve the minutes as submitted to the membership previously by the recording secretary.
5 Ayes 0 Nays: Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

The following bills were presented for review and approval: Black Hills Energy - \$444.89; Cass Gram - \$18.00; Sharp's Cleaning - \$30.00; NPPD - \$108.51; Sapp Brothers - \$676.16: Tires for Unit 821; Interstate Power – truck maintenance/service: \$593.03; Mullanex - \$521.97: batteries, alternator and parts for Unit #840; Cass County Treasurer - \$50.00: water rescue boat registration. Total: \$2442.56. City of Plattsmouth: Invoice #164 – Fire Mics.: \$2,584.34; Invoice #165 – September 2013 EMS Salaries: \$9,068.14; Invoice #166 – EMS Mics.: \$2,470.70. Total City invoices of \$14,123.18. Total Disbursements for November: \$16,565.74. The City still has not submitted invoices to the District for payment for the months of October, November, and December 2013.

Bank Balances: PSB – Deposit: \$ 393.17	Balance: \$27,952.43
CCB – Deposit: \$ 162.15	Balance: \$ 9,997.46

Mr. Vinduska advised the Board that he had sent the City an invoice for their last payment on Unit 832. He will advise when that payment has been received and the final payment on the truck is made to the finance company in Kansas City once the City has paid their invoice.

Motion by Mr. Vinduska and second by Mr. Winters to pay all bills and accept the Treasurer's Report.
5 Ayes 0 Nays: Motion carried.

Old Business

Inter-local Agreement Negotiation Committee Report:

No change from the previous month. The City still seems reluctant to meet with the District under the reasonable terms submitted to City Council members contacted by the President. Mr. Holdridge will continue to reach out to individual members of the City Council in order to see if the City wishes to continue negotiations. In the meantime, the EMS Committee will continue to research other options for EMS Services.

Inter-local Agreement Budget Committee Report:

Mr. Winters reported that the City of Plattsmouth still has not responded to the letter from President Holdridge dated August 18, 2012 in regards to the District's concerns of the EMS budget advisory committee input. The City also has not responded to a letter from the District's legal counsel requesting a written response to the letters from the City.

Worker's Compensation Insurance Coverage for RFD only firefighter:

Mr. Winters reported that the City of Plattsmouth still has not responded to the letter from President Holdridge dated August 18, 2012 requesting the City to add the rural only firefighter to the insurance rolls that the District contributes to. The City also has not responded to a letter from the District's legal counsel requesting a written response to our letter. The Insurance Committee will continue to explore insurance costs and prepare a proposal prior to the next budget cycle.

Property/Liability/Worker's Compensation/Vehicle Insurance Coverage Committee:

Mr. Vinduska continues to work with insurance providers in an effort to obtain cost information for insurance coverage. Representatives from Murray State Bank (Kevin Potter) and Ball Insurance/Continental Western Insurance (Jeff Clymer) met with the board members to explain the different options and coverage available to the District for fire department operations. Discussed were property, liability, worker's compensation, errors and omissions, and life insurance coverage. Also discussed were forms of optional insurance coverage that the District could provide to the fire department members as a recruitment and retention incentive for firefighters. Discussion centered on the specialized coverage for emergency response agencies available for the District that may be a more favorable option of coverage for the District. The Committee will continue to gather some additional information for Mr. Clymer and get some numbers in order to compare and budget for coverage for the District.

Plattsmouth Rural Fire District Fire Department Constitution, By-Laws and Standard Operating Guidelines:

The Constitution and By-Laws have been provided to the President of the Fire Department and are still under review. There continues to be a discussion by the Fire Department officers regarding lowering the age requirements for membership as a means to recruit new members and take advantage of funding sources that will pay toward classes to earn a fire science degree if the student maintains membership at a volunteer fire department for two years (STRIVE Program). This program is available through the Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighter's Association. The department officers have met to discuss lowering the minimum age for department membership and are preparing to make a proposal to the department. Once their review is completed and they approve any changes in the proposed by-laws, the officers will report back to the By-Laws and Constitution Committee of the District.

Website Development Committee

Mr. Morehouse made a report to the Board regarding the progress on the website. We are now ready to move to the next step in the web site development and build the different pages for the site. Some of the items needed are: 1) A letter from the Chief 2) Board member biographies and pictures 3) Pictures and videos of equipment, trainings, and fires 4) Call stats and annual fire department reports 5) Pages for meeting minutes/agendas 6) A PRFD news page 7) A page dedicated for the Firefighter's Association to include a means for the public to submit donations directly to the Association 8) An Events Page, which could be used to advertise fund raising events, training events and other happenings.

Forestry Tanker Conversion Committee

Mr. Vinduska has reached out to the finance company the District used to purchase the pumper 832 to see if funding is available for us to borrow to upgrade and develop the water tender acquired from Forestry. He is waiting for a call back at this time. This project should move forward within the next couple of months.

New Business

Fire Chief Report:

Roster: Several changes to the roster have occurred this past month. The Chief submitted a new membership roster as well as the Operations and Administrative Officers list. The department has lost 5 members this past month due to retirements, resignations, and removal due to lack of attendance to fires.

Fire Calls: – 13 total calls, with 7 of those being rural calls.

821: This truck needs the batteries replaced.

832: Joint City/Rural pumper 832 continues to be out of service. The truck was shipped to Colorado to Front Range for repairs. However, one wheel of the truck was driven off the side of the flatbed trailer while being unloaded at the shop. There is damage to the undercarriage of the truck, but at this time, the truck is being worked on for the operational issues and the damage to the truck from the unloading process will be repaired at a later date. The Chief will keep the Board informed as to the progress.

840: Tanker 840 has been repaired. The alternator and batteries have been replaced. Thanks to FF Lee Bogle for supervising this project.

New Tanker: See the Treasurer's Report

Misc. Items: The thermal imaging cameras need batteries. Capt. Craig Shrimpton is heading this project.

Motion by Mr. Winters and second by Mr. Stander to approve the Chief's Report to include the membership roster changes and officer elections/appointments. 5 Ayes 0 Nays: motion carried.

EMS Director's Report:

There again was no report from the EMS Director as he was not present at the meeting nor did he send a representative from the EMS Department. The last meeting the EMS Director attended was the October 2012 meeting. In early 2012, Mr. Portis obligated Mr. Wood to attend at least 4 Rural Fire District Board meetings per year.

Plattsmouth Volunteer Firefighter's Association: Nothing to report except for the Awards Dinner. The date for the Awards Banquet of January 18th at the Eagles Club. 4 members of the Board are to attend.

Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Winters and second by Mr. Parshall to enter into Executive Session at 9:54 pm to discuss that status and strategy of negotiation for a new inter-local agreement for emergency medical service with Plattsmouth EMS Department, communications from the Board's Attorney, and personnel issues. 5 Ayes 0 Nays: Motion Carried

Board exited Executive Session at 10:10 pm.

No action needed at this point regarding negotiations.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Winters discussed the conversion of the district from rural to suburban. Mr. Winters will submit the resolution to the Board's Attorney for review and submit it to the District at the next monthly meeting.

Mr. Winters is attending the next meeting of the County EMS Committee on January 9th at the County Fairgrounds. Anyone else that wishes to go is invited.

Mr. Winters attended the December 2013 Cass County Mutual Aid Meeting at the Louisville Fire Station. He reported that he encouraged the departments present to ask their rural board send a representative to the EMS Advisory Board meeting at the fairground on January 9th.

Mr. Parshall discussed his upcoming training for the Fire Department and EMS Department members for HIPPA Compliance will be in January. He also advised the EMS Committee of the Rural Board will be meeting in the future to follow upon on items researched so far.

Next Meeting

The next regular District Meeting will be held February 5, 2014 at 7:00 pm. Note the change of date and time.

Motion to adjourn: Motion by Mr. Winters second by Mr. Parshall to adjourn. Motion carried at 10:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ken Winters, Recording Secretary