

Plattsmouth Rural Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
August 05, 2014

Calling the meeting to order – Acknowledgement of Open Meetings Law

President Holdridge called the meeting to order at 7:40 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, Doug Stander, and Ken Winters.

Public Forum – Reception of Delegates

County Commissioner Janet McCartney addressed the Board regarding recent actions by the Cass County EMS Advisory Board and the Cass County Commissioners. The following were the bullet points presented by Mrs. McCartney:

1) The County is going forward with hiring two either EMT's or paramedics to respond to EMS calls in the County in support of the local EMS operations in the different rural fire districts or village response districts for EMS. These responders will be on staggered shifts starting at 6 am and ending at 6 pm.

2) They will be placed under the supervision of the Cass County Emergency Management Agency. No decision has been made as to where these responders will be housed; it may be at the CCEMA Office at the County Fairgrounds, a different building at the fairgrounds, or a roads department building in Manley. The operation will need two suburban type vehicles purchased off the state bid contract and equipment for 1st response to medical emergencies. They will not transport, but will rely on the transport services of the EMS operation where they are responding to. Those responders can also cancel the county's medics at any time.

3) The county will not bill for the services, the responding agency will and if the county hires paramedics and they respond to the hospital with the volunteer rescue squad, the squad can bill for ALS services.

4) Start-up costs currently are being budgeted at \$319,000.00.

5) It will be 4 to 6 months before the operation is up and running.

6) The major concern expressed by most of the volunteer departments was the lack of adequate radio coverage. The county is looking into this as it is a priority for the county commissioners as well. There is a need to find or construct a 550 feet tall radio tower to improve communication coverage in parts of the county. It was also offered that there is an internet based back up paging system that the county is going to purchase that all departments in the county will have free access to. It will page by way of smart phones, text messages, and emails. It will also have other features for contacting the public and members of area departments for non-emergency notifications. Mr. Winters pointed out that the Plattsmouth Rural Fire District has already purchased a similar program called I Am Responding that has the same features and is in operations now. It also is compatible with the Cass County 911 Communication Center's new computer aided dispatch program. In fact, the Plattsmouth Fire Chief used the program to notify the District Board members of a piece of equipment that was out of service. It also allows for department members to notify the department if they are responding to

the station once a call is paged out. Chief Wilson is looking at purchasing a flat screen TV and mounting it in the fire station to allow members to know if there are additional volunteers responding so they can wait for them to arrive at the fire station before they leave with undermanned equipment.

President Holdridge thanked Mrs. McCartney for bringing that information to the board.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the July 2, 2014 meeting: Motion by Mr. Vinduska and second by Mr. Stander to approve the minutes as submitted by the recording secretary and waive the reading of the minutes. 5 Ayes 0 Nays . Motion Carried.

Treasurer's Report

The following bills were presented for review and approval: Black Hills Energy - \$28.85; NPPD - \$240.71; CassGram - \$30.00 (2 notices); Sharp's Cleaning - \$60.00 (2 cleaning sessions); I Am Responding - \$650.00; Nebraska State Volunteer Firefighters Association for membership dues - \$120; Front Range Equipment for repairs to 832 - \$2,84.49; Check Print for new checks - \$184.27; Feld Fire for 832 - \$218.96; No City Invoices were provided prior to meeting. Total: \$3,623.28

PBS: Deposits: \$1,092.39 Balance: \$ 9,034.57

CCSB: Deposits: \$ 448.50 Balance: \$14,578.76

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

Old Business

Inter-local Agreement Negotiation Committee Report:

No action is taken on this issue since negotiations are suspended indefinitely at this time.

Inter-local Agreement Budget Committee Report:

As stated last month, the Finance Committee had the annual Budget Advisory Committee meeting with the City on June 11th regarding their EMS Budget asking from the City of Plattsmouth. The City advised the Finance Committee that the obligation of the District is projected to increase to \$103,800.00. This is an increase over the previous budget of \$85,112.00 for the 13/14 budget year. This amounts to a total increase of 18% over the 2013/2014 budget year and an increase of 65.6% over the life of the inter-local agreement. The City has not advised the District of any changes in the proposed budget as of this meeting.

Worker's Compensation Insurance Coverage for RFD only firefighter:

The committee continues to work with insurance providers in an effort to obtain cost information for insurance coverage. Mr. Vinduska and Mr. Winters are finalizing information in order to seek cost projections for insurance coverage for the District and be put into effect for the next budget year.

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

The Committee is waiting to hear back from the Department on the second reading of the document. Once the second reading has taken place, the department will return the document with all changes made by the department for the Rural Board to act on.

Website Development Committee:

Mr. Winters, Mr. Morehouse, and others continue to work on this project. Mr. Morehouse has a preliminary version of the website up and running. We will begin to populate it as we move forward. The website is now able to accept meeting agendas and minutes. Mr. Winters will provide Mr. Morehouse with a flash drive of the meeting minutes and agendas, as well as other documents to be posted on line.

Rural Water District#1 Liaison Meeting:

Mr. Winters attended a meeting with the affected rural fire departments and the Rural Water District Board representatives. Discussion centered on the need for a check valve when filling trucks, passing liability to the fire departments if the water is contaminated, addressing mutual fire departments against their using rural water for resupply, and that the water is for residential use only.

Mr. Winters raised the questions of: 1) If the water is residential only, why did the rural water district allow fire hydrants to be installed on their system? 2) What is the rural water district going to do regarding future planning for expanded growth of business and residential construction? 3) How are they going to hold the fire department's liable for contamination? Are they going to test water to prove it was the fault of the fire department or just because we used the water it makes us responsible? 4) What type of check valves or one way valves are going to be acceptable? Discussed double check valves, replacing fire hydrants, etc. No real answers were provided by the rural water district representatives and the letter prohibiting the existing fire hydrants to be used for fire protection purposes was not rescinded.

Mr. Winters stated no real progress was made during the meeting and we will wait for further direction from the rural water district #1 board.

New Business

Fire Chief Report

No report from the chief at this time since the District moved the meeting night to the same night as the fire department's monthly meeting.

Roster:

No Report at this time

Fire Calls:

No Report at this time

New Tanker:

The bank is still requesting additional information each time Mr. Vinduska contacts them. He will attempt one more time to finalize the loan process or seek funding elsewhere. Pictures of the progress of the truck were shown to Board members.

EMS Director’s Report.

There was no personal 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. Regarding the monthly EMS Reports, Mr. Parshall has visited with Mr. Wood to fine tune the information needed by the District, but no official monthly report has been submitted to the District since April of 2014.

Plattsmouth Volunteer Firefighter’s Association. No report at this time

Resolution #14-01

Motion by Mr. Winters and seconded by Mr. Vinduska to accept and approve Plattsmouth Rural Fire Protection District Resolution #14-01, District Tax Request for the Budget Year 2014 – 2015. The Resolution includes requests to fund the following:

General Fund:	\$ 45,809.03
Sinking Fund:	\$121,307.55 (To fund the Inter-local Agreement with the City)
Rescue Fund:	\$ 0.00
Bond Fund:	\$ 0.00
Capital Improvements:	\$ <u>0.00</u>
Total:	\$167,116.58

Voting Yes: Mr. Holdridge, Mr. Parshall, Mr. Vinduska, Mr. Stander, and Mr. Winters.. Voting No: None
Motion Carried 5 to 0.

Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Winters Second by Mr. Parshall to enter into Executive Session to discuss communication with legal counsel regarding negotiations. Voice vote was 5 to 0 to approve going into executive session at 9:24 pm.

The Board exited executive session and resumed the regular meeting at 9:50 pm with no action taken.

Board Member Comments

None

Next Meeting

The next regular District Meeting as well as the Annual Meeting will be held September 3, 2014 at 7:30 pm.

Motion to adjourn

Motion by Mr. Winters second by Mr. Parshall to adjourn. Motion carried at 9:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ken Winters, Recording Secretary