

Plattsmouth Rural Fire Protection District
Board of Directors Monthly Meeting
August 12, 2015

Calling the meeting to order – Acknowledgement of Open Meetings Law

Vice President Shane Parshall called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. Vice President Parshall 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 Cassgram, 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: Lynn Vinduska, Doug Stander and Shane Parshall with President John Holdridge and Recording Secretary Ken Winters absent.

Visitors present were: Mike Wilson, Fire Chief; Brian Wuelling, Assistant Fire Chief; Janet McCartney, Chairperson of the Cass County Board of Commissioners and a resident of the District; Roger Wehrbein, resident of the District; Paul Lambert, Mayor of the City Plattsmouth; Steve Riese, City of Plattsmouth Councilperson; Erv Portis, City of Plattsmouth Administrator.

Public Forum – Reception of Delegates

Mrs. McCartney stated that she hadn't received March or April 2012 Rural Fire Board meeting agendas per her previous open records request.

Mrs. McCartney addressed the board as a resident of the District. She notified the board that she believes the Rural Board is in violation of the Open Meetings law and that she has been in contact with the Nebraska Attorney General's office on the matter. Her primary points were that 1) the Cassgram doesn't meet statute definition of a legal publication and 2) the agenda isn't being made available timely. She quoted statute 35-507 as the source of these requirements. She further stated that the only mechanism of enforcement, per the Attorney General's office, is a suit filed by a resident of the District. Vice President inquired if she was notifying the Rural Fire Board that she intends to file said suit. Mrs. McCartney replied that she wouldn't file the suit so long as the Rural Fire Board came into compliance with the law as she understands it.

Meeting Minutes

Minutes of the July 1, 2015 regular monthly meeting: Treasurer Vinduska noted the minutes state Member Stander was present when he was not. All votes made during the meeting should represent 3 Ayes, 0 Nays and 2 Absent and not voting. The minutes also state Councilperson Riese was in attendance when he was not. The minutes should also reflect that Patti Jo Peterson of the Plattsmouth Journal was in attendance. Assistant Fire Chief Wuelling stated that Misc. section should reflect that the SCBA equipment testing will take place on the 16th and 17th and that a date for mask fit testing will be set. Vice President Parshall read the minutes as corrected. Motion by Treasurer Vinduska and seconded by Member Stander to approve the minutes as corrected. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, and 2 Absent and not voting. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Vinduska presented the bills for payment. Motion by Vinduska with second by Member Stander to approve the treasurer's report. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays and 2 Absent and not voting. Motion passed.

Treasurer Vinduska read the Resolution of Tax Asking, designated as 01-2015. Motion by Vinduska with second by Stander to approve the Resolution as read. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays and 2 Absent and not voting. Motion passed.

Treasurer Vinduska made a motion to approve payment to R Business for preparation of the Tax Asking Resolution. Seconded by Stander. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays and 2 Absent and not voting. Motion passed.

Old Business/Committee Reports

Inter-local Agreement Negotiation Committee Report:

Vice President Parshall provided a summary of the discussion he and Councilperson Riese had been having recently. The primary purpose of the discussions was to identify the methods that would be used when the formal negotiation committee meetings commence. Vice President Parshall noted that he had inquired as to the status of the Enterprise Fund that had been previously established for the EMS operation. Councilperson Riese directed the question to Administrator Portis. Administrator Portis stated the Enterprise Fund would cease to exist with the approval of the next annual budget for the City. Parshall inquired if there was any specific action required. The response was that it was implicit in the approval of the budget. Portis further added that an Enterprise Fund was intended to be used for operations that are self-supporting. The EMS operation is not. Portis further added that this was especially true since a portion of the City's administrative costs had not been allocated to the Fund. There was also discussion of the timing of the next full negotiation committee meeting. Parshall noted that he had received commitment from Winters to meeting on or after September 21. Based upon the City's focus on its annual budget and a vacation for Administrator Portis, the meetings would commence on or after October 1st.

Inter-local Agreement Budget Committee:

City representatives stated the City would approve their budget at their September 8th meeting. Parshall inquired of the City representatives if the budget amounts for either EMS or Fire had changed. Portis stated that budget is still under adjustment.

Insurance Committee:

Chief Wilson stated that the insurance carrier had notified them that a member was disqualified from driving due a previous DUI.

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

They are under review by Fire Department. No change from previous report.

Website Development Committee:

No report.

Future Planning Committee:

No report. Parshall stated focus had been on negotiations of the inter-local agreement and, consequently, there had not been time to spend on this topic.

New Business:

Fire Chief Report: Chief Wilson reported:

Calls for Service: 23 with 7 in the Rural District and 16 in the City.

Roster: Decreased by 1 as a member moved out of the state. They have received 4 applications that will be taken up at their September meeting.

Miscellaneous:

- The ground ladders have been tested and all passed
- There are 2 EVOC trainings scheduled: August 28th & 29th and in September at CCEMA
- Chief Wilson the Insurance Committee follow-up with insurance agent Erin Clymer to better understand the impact if some members are unable to take the EVOC training. Is there a grace period? Is there a timeline allowed for all to receive the training?
- Harvest Festival meal will be September 12th at 4:00 pm. All in attendance were invited.
- 5 sets of bunker gear had been ordered. The boots and helmets have been received.
- Fire members will be doing the MDA Fill the Boot on Labor Day weekend at HyVee and Casey's
- 832 ladder to Fireguard for parts
- On-site maintenance for all vehicles has been scheduled for the second week of September
- A list of equipment needed for 842 was presented at the previous meeting. Can we acquire?

Motion by Vinduska with second by Stander to approve the Chief's report. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays and 2 Absent and not voting. Motion passed.

EMS Director's Report:

Director Wood was not in attendance. Parshall inquired of attending City representatives if they had anything to report. None did.

Plattsmouth Volunteer Firefighter's Association

A pancake feed will be held the morning of September 12th at the station as part of Harvest Festival. They have begun preparations for the Spaghetti Feed to be held October 8th.

Executive Session:

Motion by Vinduska with second by Stander to enter executive session at 8:39 pm for the discussion of negotiation strategy. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays and 2 Absent and not voting. Motion passed.

The Board exited executive session at 9:13 pm. No action was taken.

Board Member Comments:

No comments by the members. Mrs. McCartney returned to the regular meeting following the executive session. She noted that the required content of an Open Meetings poster has changed and we would need a new poster by August 30th.

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the District Board will be held September 2, 2015 at 7:30. The meeting will be the annual organizational meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Vinduska moved the meeting adjourn. Stander seconded. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays and 2 Absent and not voting. Motion passed.