

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD HELD AT 7:00 P.M., ON MARCH 3, 2009, AT THE PRINCETON FIRE STATION

1. Call to order – Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members present:

Paul Whitcomb, Chair City of Princeton
Stephen L. Dolin Greenbush Twsp.
Cathy Lundeen Wyanett Twsp
Bill Andresen Blue Hill Twsp.

Visitors:

Scott Ruis Bogus Brook Twsp.
Jim Kragt Bogus Brook Twsp.
Roland Norman Bogus Brook Twsp.
Tom Murray Wyanett Twsp.
Brad Hodgson PFRD
Ron Lawrence PFRD
Troy Thompson PFRD
Chris Wilke PFRD
Randy Cook PFRD
Several Students PHS

Staff present:

Mark Karnowski, City Admin.
Jim Roxbury, Chief P.F.R.D.

Members absent: John Roxbury, Princeton Twsp.

Chair Whitcomb asked all of the participants to introduce themselves.

2. Review/Consideration of February 3, 2009 Minutes

DOLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 3, 2008, MEETING AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY LUNDEEN. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions – Roxbury asked to add “Budget” under Old Business and ISO process under “New Items”.

4. Reports:

A. Run Reports – Roxbury advised that the reports would be sent out but that it was a slower month than usual.. The February run reports will be mailed.

B. Department Update – Jim Roxbury

Chief Roxbury advised those present of some of the PFRD’s activities through the year. He noted that the Department delivered flowers for Coborns on Valentine’s Day and brought in over \$500 in fees. The Department has extended their grant agreement for the Monticello relocation effort for another 2 years. He noted that the state is looking at establishing a third relocation site – tentatively in St. Cloud. The PFRD is arguing that they could expand the effort in Princeton and accomplish the same goal. Chief Roxbury explained the benefits for the city (and townships) by participating in the program.

Karnowski updated those present on the TH95 and Dunn Bridge replacements and explained the city’s efforts to locate a sub-station at Wyanett township to improve coverage while the bridges are under construction.

Tom Murray and Cathy Lundeen advised that Wyanett is building a 70’ x 90’ building to house the first responder vehicle currently located in the township. They asserted that there would be room for more than one vehicle, once the new building is finished.

Chief Roxbury noted that the Department’s medical response opportunities are increasing. Roxbury noted that the department picked up about \$20,000 in various grants during '08.

Our equipment is currently being checked and tested

C. Correspondence – None

5. Old Business

A. Public Safety Building Update

Karnowski advised those present that the city was unsuccessful in securing state bonding money to build the facility last year. The game plan for this year is to leverage NSP/EXCEL's support for our project. NSP is apparently attempting to get the state to end their moratorium on the use of nuclear power. If that occurs, it would follow that the Princeton Relocation efforts be expanded as well. It is felt that NSP's support for a new Public Safety building could result in funding. Accordingly, our request to NSP is to use their lobbying efforts to get our proposal funded in 2010.

B. Annual Township visits

Council Member Whitcomb and Chief Roxbury will, again, be making the rounds of all the Annual Township Board meetings next Tuesday. As usual, because of the number of meetings to be covered, they requested that the respective boards not make them wait too long.

C. Fire Billing Report

A copy of the billing history for fire runs prepared by the City Finance Director was reviewed by the group. The group agreed that the funds received should be allocated to the fire truck/equipment fund.

DOLIN MOVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE PRINCETON CITY COUNCIL THAT THE FUNDS COLLECTED FOR FIRE RUNS BE DEDICATED TO THE CITY'S TRUCK/EQUIPMENT FUND. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ANDRESEN. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. Relief Association Update

Troy Thompson, the president of the PFRD Relief Association, advised that the retirement fund's balance is down from \$1.2 million to about \$700,000 – which includes a \$150,000 reduction to pay off two (2) retiring firefighters. Obviously, the investment portfolio – like most other investment strategies – have not been garnering the same returns since the national economic downturn.

Thompson also advised that the Relief Association spent much of last year going through a process to change financial consultants. The RA switched to Wacovia Securities and the investment situation for the RA appears to be improving.

E. Budget

Chief Roxbury advised those present that the FAB voted last fall to maintain a three percent (3%) budget increase for 2009.

6. New Business - ISO Update

Roxbury advised the group that the Insurance Services Office (ISO) will be visiting Princeton on March 16th to review the city's Public Protection Classification which is currently at five (5). We hope to improve that rating to a four (4) which would have a positive impact on commercial industrial insurance rates. Roxbury also plans on mustering the assistance of the other area fire departments to demonstrate to ISO that we can sustain adequate water supplies for fires in the surrounding townships. If we can successfully demonstrate that, the city's ISO rating might be extended to properties in the township that the PFRD covers. That could amount to quite a savings for township property owners. Roxbury advised that the ISO re-rate only happens once every 10-15 years.

7. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda

Staff advised those present that the group may want to change its meeting time and/or day in an attempt to allow Bogus Brook representatives to attend. One option considered was to move the meeting to 6 PM rather than 7. That should allow participation by Bogus Brook. That issue will be taken up at the FAB's April 7th meeting.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business:

DOLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN. LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:53 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Karnowski,
City Administrator