

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD HELD AT 7:00 P.M., ON MARCH 4, 2008, AT THE PRINCETON FIRE STATION

1. Call to order – In the absence to the Chair, Secretary Cathy Lundeen called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

Members present:

Cathy Lundeen Wyanett Twsp.
John Roxbury Princeton Twsp.
Stephen L. Dolin Greenbush Twsp.

Others Present:

Frank Weisbrod Wyanett Twsp
Dennis Haubenschild Wyanett Twsp

Members Absent:

Bill Andresen Blue Hill Twsp.
Paul Whitcomb, Chair City of Princeton

Staff present:

Mark Karnowski, City Administrator
Jim Roxbury, Chief P.F.R.D.
Doug Larsen, Asst. Chief, PFRD
Plus other PFRD: Chris Wilke, Brad Hodgson, Bob Gerold and Randy Cook

2. Review/Consideration of February 12, 2008 Minutes

JOHN ROXBURY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 12, 2008 MEETING AS PRESENTED. DOLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions – Chief Roxbury suggested that, under “New Business” two issues be added: Meeting night discussion and Safe House Tour

4. Reports:

A. Run Reports – Those present were advised that the Run Reports would be mailed out.

B. Department Update – Chief Jim Roxbury

Roxbury advised that a new 2-year “Monticello Relocation” contract with the State has been approved and will bring in about \$57,000 annually. It was noted that some of the equipment purchased with those funds not only serve the mission of the department for that duty but are sometimes used for other department purposes.

They have been doing more and more medical responses. He explained that the standard response team is three (3) firefighters and includes defib equipment and oxygen. They roll with more if it is anticipated that they need additional “bodies” for extrication, etc. It was stressed that the department is not functioning as an ambulance service.

Chief Roxbury noted that he recently attended a Fire Act Grant training session and that the department is attempting to get another Fire Act Grant. They’ve done fairly well in the grant department this past year getting \$3,000 (maybe \$4,000) for HazMat training. They’ve also received some smaller donations for the Smoke House Trailer.

The newly purchased grass rig/first responder unit should be ready by the time grass fire season is upon us. Gerold advised that they are going to inspect it on March 15th. It will have a 4 seat cab that will serve well as a first responder unit. The PFRD is looking at replacing the 2nd grass rig as well but they want to see how the first unit’s configuration meets their needs before determining how to configure the proposed second unit.

There was considerable discussion about the proposed replacement of the TH95 and Dunn Bridges. Karnowski advised that, at last week’s initial meeting, there appeared to be consensus to do both bridges at the same time rather than in two consecutive years. It was felt that one-year disruption would be preferable to two years of disruption. On a related topic, Lundeen advised that Wyanett Township had met with the PFRD and the Dalbo Fire Department about locating a jointly operated sub-station at the Wyanette Township Hall site. They’re looking at building a new building for their maintenance equipment and would make it larger to house fire-

fighting units if an agreement could be reached. Lundeen asked Karnowski to suggest to the State that they might consider helping fund the new building in recognition of the need to temporarily locate firefighting equipment on the east side of the Rum River while the TH95 Bridge ing seemed most favorable – but not immediately. Karnowski indicated he would attempt such a request when the timing appeared best.

The group was advised that the fire billing process earlier approved is now underway. The department now bills for traffic accidents and structure fires. It was clarified that, in a traffic accident situation, the owners of both vehicles would be billed. If someone other than the owner was driving, the owner would still be liable.

There was a discussion on how the money that comes in from billing will be used. Karnowski advised that the previous agreement was that the city would retain the money until the end of the calendar year and then the Townships would decide what to do with the funds. The existing contract says that the money can be deducted from the annual bill. The second option would be to put the funds in the truck fund to reduce future fiscal commitments from the townships. Dolin suggested that it ought to go into the CIP but that all townships should agree rather than have some do one thing and the others do another. Karnowski stressed that the ultimate decision on the disbursement of the funds belonged to the townships, as a group or individually.

Chief Roxbury advised that the PFRD was still about \$20,000 short on reimbursing the city for the Safe House Trailer. He noted that he wasn't pressing the issue, but if any township had surplus funds to contribute toward the purchase price that the gesture would be appreciated.

5. Old Business:

A. Public Safety Building Update

Karnowski advised that, to date, the city has not been successful in getting the funding for the proposed Princeton Regional public Safety Building in either the Governor's or Senate Bonding Bill. While the prognosis does not appear favorable, the city will still try and get it funded.

B. Annual Township Meeting Visits

Chief Roxbury said he will, again, be attending the township meetings. There will also be another PFRD representative at each meeting so all townships can ask questions. They are asking the townships to let them speak right away so they can continue on to the next Township's meeting.

C. Relief Association Update

No one was present to present an update, but Karnowski advised that the financial straits the Relief Association was in a couple of years ago has been addressed and the organization is, again, financially solvent.

6. New Business:

A. Meeting Night Discussion

Chief Roxbury noted that he'd hoped that Bogus Brook Township would have been present so they could discuss the possibility of moving the monthly FAB meeting to another night to allow representatives from Bogus Brook to attend the meetings. Since there were no members present that night (as well as no one from Blue Hill) it was determined to do that inquiry via telephone.

B. Safe House Trailer Tour

The members and visitors were invited to tour the Safe House after FAB's adjournment that evening..

7. Next Meeting & Agenda:

A. April 1, 2008

The Fire Advisory Board was reminded that the April meeting will be on April 1st.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business:

MOTION BY DOLIN TO ADJOURN. JOHN ROXBURY SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 8:12 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Karnowski, City Administrator