

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD
HELD AT 7:00 PM ON JANUARY 2, 2007 AT THE PRINCETON CITY HALL**

1. Call to Order - Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

Members present:

Paul Whitcomb, Chair City of Princeton
Bill Andresen Blue Hill Twsp.
John Roxbury Princeton Twsp.
Dave Toth Greenbush Twsp.
Member absent:
Cathy Lundeen Wyanett Twsp.

Staff/visitors present:

Mark Karnowski Princeton City Admin.
Jim Roxbury P.F.R.D. Chief
Visitors
Mayor Jeremy Riddle
Firefighter Andy Gerold
Firefighter Brad Hodson

- - - - Special Order of Business (Elections) - - - -

Whitcomb asked for nominations for the position of Chair.

JOHN ROXBURY MOVED, SECONDED BY ANDRESEN RE-ELECT WHITCOMB AS THE BOARD'S CHAIR FOR 2007. THERE BEING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Whitcomb asked for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair and advised that Andresen currently held that position.

WHITCOMB MOVED, SECONDED BY JOHN ROXBURY TO RE-ELECT ANDRESEN THE BOARD'S VICE-CHAIR FOR 2007. THERE BEING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Whitcomb asked for nominations for the position of Secretary and advised that Lundeen currently held that office. Lundeen being absent and unable to object:

WHITCOMB MOVED, SECONDED BY JOHN ROXBURY TO ELECT LUNDEEN AS THE BOARD'S SECRETARY FOR 2007. THERE BEING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS, ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

.2. Review/Consideration of December 4, 2006 minutes

JOHN ROXBURY MOVED, SECONDED BY ANDRESEN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2006 MEETING AS PRESENTED. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions – Chief Roxbury asked if the group could discuss the disposition of the old fire trucks and the Fire Safety House. Karnowski asked to update the FAB on the Public Safety Building RFP. Without objection, those three items were added.

4. Reports

A. Run Reports

The annual run reports were not ready and the members were told they would be mailed out.

B. Department Update

Roxbury advised that the department's annual election only produced one change. Bob Gerold was elected to the Board replacing Brad Hodson. He also noted that the interviews of ten prospective new firefighters were completed and they are now doing background checks on five new members. They are losing 2 current firefighters. The department had 217 calls in 2006. The runs have been steady over the past month. The racks that were ordered with the \$5,000 in Fire Act Grant money are being delivered. The Department learned their latest Fire Act Grant was not funded. The next round is in March.

5. Old Business

A. 2006 Fire Act Grant Update

Roxbury advised earlier that the 2006 grant app was denied. There are also some sub-grant programs for education, code enforcement and fire investigation.

B. Santiago Update

Roxbury advised that the last Santiago Board meeting was a “standing room only” crowd of citizens who are concerned about the direction their Fire Board is going in that they used to budget \$23,000 for fire coverage and that’s now gone up to \$50,000 and then to \$100,000. They’re now paying Becker \$35,000 for their contract. The apparent estimate for the proposed new building (less equipment) is \$900,000. He thinks the annual meeting may produce some interesting results.

C. Baldwin Update

Roxbury noted that Princeton, Baldwin Township and Zimmerman have agreed to mutual paging for structure fires but Baldwin, so far, is not implementing that agreement. Otherwise, apparently the situation in Baldwin Township has not changed much.

D. Truck Disposal

Andy Gerold reminded the membership that they have the two trucks, the '86 pumper and the old ambulance. They are getting them ready to sell at Pike’s March Auction. They will be sold with a “reserve” which will be noted in the auction flyer. Funds generated by the sale will be put into the City’s Truck CIP Fund. Roxbury noted that the medical response plan was pretty much ready to go as far as staffing is concerned. He’s working on getting the endeavor organized with the County. He anticipates starting with Blue Hill and Santiago since Sherburne’s dispatch is already on board. They hope to add Wyanette within a month and add the others as soon as Mille Lacs County Dispatch is up to speed. Roxbury does not anticipate an increase in costs related to the additional service.

DOLIN MOVED, SECONDED BY JOHN ROXBURY TO SUPPORT THE DEPARTMENT’S PLAN TO SELL THE VEHICLES AT PIKES AUCTION AS DESCRIBED. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED.

6. New Business

A. Annual Township Meeting Visits

It was agreed that Chief Roxbury and Chairman Whitcomb will again attempt to visit all of the township annual meetings

B. Fire Safety House

Hodson advised that the Department looked at two different proposals to spend the \$20,000 available from the 2006 Fire Act Grant for fire prevention training. He advised that the total cost for the Fire Safety House would be about \$50,000 and they felt they could raise the necessary balance without using city (or township) money from private sources and possibly Relocation Fund money. There are some problems with the time frame to deliver the House and the funding availability that they feel they can meet. The plan is to design the equipment such that it could also be used as a mobile command center if necessary. They plan on storing it at the Fairgrounds, since it will be in use at the Fairgrounds when the fair is in session. John Roxbury said he thought it was a great idea and urged pursuit. The consensus of the group was that the Department should pursue acquiring the Fire Safety House.

C. Public Safety Building Update

Karnowski provided a memo outlining the process to request RFPs from firms interested in doing the feasibility study for the proposed Public Safety Building. He also distributed a copy of the RFP. The consensus of the group was to support the process to date.

7. Next Meeting & Agenda

A. February Meeting Date

Karnowski noted that the next meeting is scheduled for February 6th and that he will be on vacation. He noted that, last year the meeting was moved to the last Tuesday in January with the annual meeting being held on the regular date in March. He suggested moving the meeting the same way or have someone else take the minutes. The FAB opted to leave the meeting on the 6th.

B. Annual Meeting Discussion

The group reviewed the proposed agenda for the annual meeting in March. Staff was directed to send out individual invitations to each of the Town Board Members.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business:

JOHN ROXBURY MOVED TO ADJOURN. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY DOLIN. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED AT 8:17 PM.

Respectfully Submitted

Mark H. Karnowski,
City Administrator