

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD HELD
AT 7:00 P.M., ON FEBRUARY 3, 2009, AT THE PRINCETON CITY HALL**

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

Members present:

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

Staff present:

Ann Bien, Acting Sec.
Jim Roxbury, Chief P.F.R.D.

Staff Absent:

Mark Karnowski, City Admin.

2. Review/Consideration of January 6, 2008 Minutes

LUNDEEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 6, 2008, MEETING AS PRESENTED. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions – none

4. Reports:

A. Run Reports – The January run reports were handed out. There were fewer calls but more structure fires than normal.

B. Department Update – Jim Roxbury

Chief Roxbury noted that Dalbo Fire has new chief (Andy Swanson) and a new assistant chief. Lundeen suggested that a meeting with the Dalbo Fire Department be scheduled in the near future. A sketch is ready for the proposed new building. He advised that there are a lot of meetings coming up this month. The Department is trying to determine whether Princeton should go to 800 Mghtz. Sherburne county was supposed to go on line with their 800 Mghtz on February 1st, but went on line early (January 28th). The PFRD has the capability of cross patch signals so we can continue to communicate with them. There's a DNR meeting at end of month. At this point, we are looking at options for fire act grant, funding for regional project to get county on 800 Mghtz. He suggested we consider hiring a grant writer. Apparently other departments have used the same grant writer. The Chief will contact them for their input. He noted that funding for a grant writer can be included in the grant funding. But if a grant isn't awarded, the city has to pay the cost of the grant writing.

Chief Roxbury advised that he'd met with the Baldwin Township assistant Fire Chief and thinks we are gaining headway and discussed automatic mutual aid for structure fires. Baldwin would like to look at "auto aid" for the entire township. Having "auto-aid" with Baldwin would benefit both the city and the township's ISO rating.

Whitcomb asked if our Department feels safe working with Baldwin. Chief Roxbury advised that the membership is very supportive at this time and efforts will be made to make sure teams are compatible and able to do the job

JOHN ROXBURY MOVED TO RECOMMEND AUTOMATIC MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT WITH BALDWIN TOWNSHIP. DOLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ON THE VOTE: AYES - 5; NAYS - 0. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Chief Roxbury asked the board if they have any problem with establishing auto mutual aid between two departments. He does not see a down side and noted that can be changed later if needed. The Baldwin officers and members have a more positive attitude towards the PFRD. Training with Baldwin is scheduled. They've already helped with several of the PFRD structure fires and it worked well so far.

Chief Roxbury advised that ISO is coming week of February 23rd to re-rate entire PFRD. It's been 20 years since they've been here. As noted previously, if you have another fire department within five miles of yours and you have auto mutual aid, you can gain a lot of credit from their equipment on your rating. Baldwin would also like to utilize our equipment for their rating. Our equipment is currently being checked and tested

C. Correspondence – None

5. Old Business

A. Wyanett Sub Station

Chief Roxbury noted that everything is up and running. Both Departments are moving better equipment out there., no calls have been run out of there yet. They are getting inquires from insurance companies and Wyanett's citizens are asking about it. Chief Roxbury recommended looking west, with caution, for a future substation in that area.

Lundeen reminded the board that there is a JPA and each entity needs to appoint an advisory board member. Whitcomb said he would bring up at an upcoming meeting to get someone on board ASAP.

B. Year End Review

There was no new information on the year-end review.

6. New Business - None

7. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda

Chief Roxbury invited all to the Annual Meeting on March 2nd at the fire station. The group reviewed the proposed agenda. Chief Roxbury suggested Bogus Brook be included in the members list. Bogus Brook's involvement will be discussed more in depth at annual meeting.

Both Chief Roxbury and Whitcomb noted that it is their intention to attend each township's annual 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 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ann Bien,
Acting Secretary