

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD HELD
AT 7:00 P.M. ON MARCH 6, 2007, 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
Cathy Lundeen Wyanett Twsp.
John Roxbury Princeton Twsp.
Stephen L. Dolin Greenbush Twsp.

Visitors present:

Janice Anderson Blue Hill Twsp.
Rollie Norman Bogus Brook Twsp.
Jim Kragt Bogus Brook Twsp.
Jeremy Riddle City of Princeton
Dick Dobson City of Princeton
Connie Trunk Greenbush Twsp.
Thomas Murray Wyanett Twsp.
Dennis Haubenschild Wyanett Twsp.
Frank Weisbrod Wyanett Twsp.

Members Absent:

Bill Andresen, Blue Hill Township

Staff Present:

Mary Lou DeWitt, Comm. Dev. Assist.
Jim Roxbury, P.F.R.D. Fire Chief

Fire Department Members present: Chris

Wilke, Brian Vork, Bob Gerold, Jason
Baumunk, Doug Larsen, John Wiedewitsch,
and Randy Cook

Staff Absent:

Mark Karnowski, City Administrator

2. Review/Consideration of February 6, 2007 Minutes

JOHN ROXBURY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 6, 2007, MEETING. LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

4. Reports:

A. Run Reports – will be mailed

B. Department Update – Jim Roxbury

Chief Roxbury informed the Fire Advisory Board that they have had a very good last couple years with the granting programs. The Fire Grant they received last year for approximately \$200,000 was used to purchase turn out gear and air compressors. It was a 5 % matching grant. The Fire Department still had a remaining \$26,000 left from that and were able to use \$5,000 for something related to the project. So they used it to purchase new racking gear for the turnout equipment. The remainder was used for prevention items.

Chief Roxbury advised that the Fire Department has signed on with Monticello Relocation Site for another year. The department has a relocation trailer that is funded by them. There is more training involved, but the department was able to purchase more equipment with funds from this program.

The department purchased new racking gear for the turnout equipment with Fire Act Grant money. The remainder was used for prevention items.

Roxbury reminded the membership that the Department is purchasing their own safe house to teach children what to do incase of a fire or severe weather. Last year they had borrowed a safe house and found how educational that was for the children. They are going to purchase their own safe house with the remaining funds, but will be a little short so they are asking organizations for funds and the City Council has given their approval. They have a good possibility with a group next week that might fund the remaining money needed. The trailer itself is 36 feet long. A very nice unit. The fire house should arrive approximately the second week in April.

Chief Roxbury said they got a \$5,000 matching DNR grant for turnout gear. They are looking at replacing one of their grass rigs. Funds would also go for a relocation trailer.

The Fire Department will also be receiving a \$2,000 grant from the DNR to repair dry hydrants. Chief Roxbury met with the new manager from the wildlife area and he was told by him that they have a \$20,000 grant for assisting in wildlife. Chief Roxbury is going to apply for this grant and is confident the department will receive it.

The Department is working with North Ambulance to help respond to more of their medical calls. Four new members are joining the Fire Department and will be on the City Council agenda for March 9, 2007.

Bob Gerold said Santiago has contracted with Becker. They are working on building a substation. They still need a vote with the township members. Two options for Santiago is either to build their own fire station or a town hall. Becker wants to facilitate an auto page system with other departments.

Chief Roxbury said Santiago Township has a public hearing coming up and a vote. Then a petition would follow if they receive a percentage of votes. There still is a possibility that the Princeton Fire Department may still have some of the area back. The Town Board in Santiago voted to work only with Becker. The Princeton Fire Department offered to do a joint substation, but they refused. Becker has no trucks to put in Santiago station if they were to build one.

Chief Roxbury informed the Board that the Fire Department has established a better working relationship with Baldwin now then a year ago. Response returns and mutual aid has been working very well.

5. Old Business

A. Public Safety Building Update

Chief Roxbury informed the Board that this is a proposed building for the police and fire department combined. S.E.H. is hired to do the feasibility study. The City Council will have to approve it and from there a stake holders meeting will be setup with the City Council and Townships that are provided fire protection. The stake holders meeting should be soon and everyone will be informed.

B. Annual Township Meeting Visits

Chief Roxbury said he will be attending the township meetings. There will be a 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.

C. Relief Association Update – Brian Vork

Vork informed the Board that the Relief Association is a separate organization from the Fire Department. Its main existence is to provide retirement and death benefits for those over 20 years of being on the fire department who will receive a retirement. They do fund raisers and that is in a separate account. Currently their main fund raiser is selling bottle water. They also sell the water to other fire departments. The water does not have the Princeton name on it. Last year they had a summer dance and that was a good success and they are planning on another one. They are looking into a raffle for this occasion. The Relief Association is also talking about getting back into pull tabs. There is nothing definite on this. They had hired a consulting service to help with the rewriting of bylaws and other forms. They are not out to make money, but to give back to the department. A truck was purchased with Relief funds at one time. That was with the pull tabs profit. The fire firefighters also donate one hour per month of their quarterly checks into this fund. That averages about \$2,000 per year from the fire fighters. Their policy is a fire fighter has to be in the fire department for ten years and then gets 50% of the retirement and then at 20 years gets the full amount. If they are disabled they would get 50% whether they are injured in a fire or not. If in a death the family would receive the full amount.

6. New Business

Budget allocations had been handed out for the townships to see what they may be paying for 2008. Chief Roxbury also mentioned that one of the grants was able to purchase uniforms for all the members this year and that was a donation from Crystal Cabinets.

Cathy Lundeen, Wyanett Twsp., questioned the billing and said that Wyanett is paying \$60,000 for fire coverage. The trips to Wyanett last year were ten calls. The township is looking at what could be done to reduce the funds.

Chief Roxbury said they are trying to be diligent on the allocation of the funds. Roxbury has spoken to a township member about doing more fire training basics in their area and maybe establishing fire districts. This would help in not having everyone purchase the same equipment.

Lundeen said they have a truck payment with Dalbo and then they also pay Princeton for fire service. Their share for Dalbo's truck is \$40,000. Wyanett is looking at getting a bid from one fire department instead of two and would like to know if Princeton Fire Department is interested in this.

Roxbury said that the concern is the distance between emergency equipment and getting there in a good time. It is up to the township to contract with whoever they choose. The distance from the fire department could increase the insurance premiums for the township residents.

Doug Larsen said that the department is getting better equipment and more training and does understand Wyanett's reasons for looking into having one department, but working with two departments would probably be best. If they want a bid the City can look into it.

Lundeen commented the township understands they have to provide fire protection, but do they have to provide accident coverage. If they are looking at putting a substation in, maybe this could be a better fix. The township is looking at possibilities.

Chief Roxbury did not know if the township needs to provide accident coverage, that is a legal question. He will work with them on this and see what can be done.

7. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda

The next meeting will be held on April 3, 2007

8. Adjournment

There being no further business,

JOHN ROXBURY MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 7:35 P.M. DOLIN SECONDED THE MOTION.
ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted

Mary Lou DeWitt
Community Development Assistant

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