

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD HELD AT 6:30 P.M., ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, AT THE PRINCETON CITY HALL

- 1. Call to Order** – Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. Those in attendance included:

Members present:

| | |
|----------------------|-------------------|
| Paul Whitcomb, Chair | City of Princeton |
| Gene Stoeckel | Princeton Twsp. |
| Stephen L. Dolin | Greenbush Twsp. |
| Cathy Lundeen | Wyanett Twsp. |
| Roger Nelson (Sub) | Blue Hill Twsp. |

Staff present:

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

Visitors:

John Erhet, Fire Chief
(South Metro Fire – St. Paul)

- 2. Review/Consideration of August 3, 2010 Minutes**

ANDRESEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF AUGUST 3, 2010 AS PRESENTED. STOECKEL SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

- 3. Agenda Additions/Deletions** – none.

- 4. Reports:**

- A. Run Reports** - Roxbury handed out and reviewed a synopsis of the August fire runs. The full report will be mailed out to the Townships.

- B. Department Update – Jim Roxbury**

Chief Roxbury updated the membership on various topics including the plans to have a practice burn on one of the Arcadian 4-plexes. The remaining buildings will be the subject of the Minnesota Arson Investigation team who will spend a couple of days using them to train fire fighters on arson investigation.

- 5. Old Business** - none

- 6. New Business:**

- A. Discussion with Chief John Ehret - South Metro Fire**

Fire Chief John Ehret from the South Metro Fire Department was the guest presenter for the evening. He advised the Board regarding the merger of the South St. Paul and West St. Paul Fire Departments into the “South Metro Fire Department” which became operational in January of 2008.

Ehret was formerly on the West St. Paul Department and served as their chief before being appointed to be the Chief of the SMFD in 2006.

Ehret said that the merger process began in 2005 and currently operates under a Joint Powers Agreement and reports to a Board of Directors; West St. Paul and South St. Paul each appoint two Board members and the fifth member being an “at large” member.

He noted that the SMFD has since become one of the busiest fire departments in the Twin Cities and is now a “next generation” fire department that responds to roughly 4,800 emergencies per year. They currently respond with six engines, two ladders, three ambulances and 38 full-time employees, including a chief, fire marshal, assistant chief, 3 captains, 6 lieutenants, 4 inspector/firefighters, 21 firefighters and one secretary. Their suppression crews work 24-hour rotating shifts.

The Department is responsible for fire suppression, Emergency Medical Services (including Basic Life Support transport), special operations (hazmat, technical rescue and water rescue) and fire prevention (inspections, plan review, fire investigation and public education). They respond from 2 stations to roughly 5,000 alarms per year of which approximately 1,300 are fire related and 3,700 are medical related.

Ehret noted that, while the situation for the SMFD is different from the type of situation in the Princeton area, there are similarities.

B. Expanded PFRD Coverage into Blue Hill Twsp

The board reviewed a memo advising that Blue Hill Township Board voted to modify their fire coverage area and discontinue using the Livonia/Zimmerman Fire Department and then contract with Princeton Fire & Rescue to cover the entire township.

The target date for that change is January 1, 2011.

It was noted that the city will wait for a letter of official notice from Blue Hill requesting the change in service area. It was also noted that Blue Hill had already sent a letter to the Livonia-Zimmerman fire District informing them of the change.

No action by the FAB was requested or taken at this time.

C. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda

It was noted that the next regular meeting is scheduled for October 5, 2010.

D. Adjourn

There being no further business:

STOECKEL MOVED TO ADJOURN. DOLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 8:02 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Karnowski
City Administrator