

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD
HELD AT 6:30 P.M., ON FEBRUARY 1, 2011, AT THE PRINCETON CITY HALL**

1. Call to Order – Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. 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.
Bill Andresen	Blue Hill Twsp.

Staff present:

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

Others present:

Troy Thompson, Pres, Relief Assoc.
Brad Hodgson, Treas. Relief Assoc.

2. Review/Consideration of January 4, 2011 Minutes

DOLIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 4, 2011 AS PRESENTED. LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions – None

4. Reports:

A. Run Reports – Roxbury reviewed the synopsis of the Fire Run Reports January and noted that there were a couple of significant structure fires in January. The individual reports will be mailed out.

B. Department Update – Jim Roxbury

Roxbury advised that Sherburne dispatch is getting better at contacting the PFRD for medicals. The department, today, is undergoing their annual air pack “fit” tests and their annual physical. All of the department is participating in apparatus training made possible via a grant. He visited the new Isanti fire station and noted that it looks good. He noted there are photos of it on their web site.

5. Old Business

A. Dalbo/Wyanett Meeting

Lundeen advised that she was unable to attend that meeting but that Dalbo had lowered their projected budget by \$1,000. There will be another meeting on the 15th of February.

6. New Business

A. Fire Relief Association discussion

PFRD Relief Association President Troy Thompson introduced secretary Brad Hodgson to the membership. They explained that, at the Relief Association’s annual meeting the membership was pushing for a retirement benefit increase. Currently the benefit level is \$2,875 for each year served. It has not been increased since June of 2000. The board was advised that members are 50% vested after 10 years of service but not fully vested until after 20 years of service. They need to be at least 50 years old in order to collect.

They reviewed several scenarios that would support an increase in the benefit level but noted that, in order to facilitate any of the options, one or several of the various funding sources would have to increase. Troy noted that the reason for increasing the benefit level is to retain current member and lure new members to join. They advised that they feel the most obvious way to increase the benefit level is to increase the municipal contribution – which includes funds from the townships served by the Department.

It was noted that, despite the fact that the FAB has supported increasing the fire budget by 3% per year, at this point, none of those increases have gone to the Relief Association.

Dolin asked about comparable cities' plans and was advised that Big Lake's benefit is \$2,600, Monticello is at \$3,500, Milaca is at 24,000 and Cambridge is at \$3,485.

Dolin also suggested that the Department consider increasing the benefit level without asking for Council ratification. He noted that, by doing it that way, the city's liability is minimized.

The FAB appeared receptive to using some of the 3% increase to increase the municipal contribution.

The Relief members advised that, if the FAB generally supported an increase, then the Relief Association would come back with a plan in the future to increase the benefit level over time. The FAB supported that effort.

7. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda

The next regular meeting is the Annual meeting and is scheduled for 7:00 PM on March 1, 2011, at the Fire Station. The members were reminded to ask their fellow board members to attend. Coffee and rolls will be served..

8. Adjourn

There being no further business:

LUNDEEN MOVED TO ADJOURN. DOLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 8:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Karnowski,
City Admin.