

**THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD
HELD AT 7:00 P.M., MARCH 3, 2015, AT THE PRINCETON PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

1. Call to Order – Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the training room of the Princeton Public Safety building. Those in attendance included:

Members Present:

Paul Whitcomb, Chair	City of Princeton
Gene Stoeckel	Princeton Twsp.
Arvid Jenkins	Spencer Brook Twsp.
Steve Dolin	Greenbush Twsp.
Cathy Lundeen	Wyanett Twsp.

Staff Present:

Jim Roxbury	Chief, P.F.R.D.
Ron Lawrence	Asst. Chief, P.F.R.D.
Troy Thompson	P.F.R.D.
Tim Jensen	P.F.R.D.
Mary Lou DeWitt	City Staff

Members Absent:

Roger Nelson	Blue Hill Twsp.
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Visitor:

Dennis Haubenschild	Wyanett Twsp.
Travis Wood	Wyanett Twsp. & Dalbo Fire Chief

Staff Absent:

Mark Karnowski	City Admin.
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2. Review/Consideration of February 3, 2015 Minutes

JENKINS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 3, 2015 AS PRESENTED. STOECKEL SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions - None

4. Reports:

A. Run Reports

Roxbury said he tried a different format for the Run Reports today. They had a lot of calls in the past month. There were 31 runs for the month and a mutual aid in Baldwin. In one day there were six calls with 13 total in that week. There have been 50 calls for the year so far. They had a structure call today in Milaca. Last month there was a fatal pole barn fire in Greenbush. It had been a very busy past month for the Fire Department.

B. Department Update – Jim Roxbury

The Fire & Rescue Department are doing a hazmat program. The DNR is now on-site. They are replacing the CL215 airplane with two Fire Boss planes that have the floats on the bottom and also will be getting a SEAT plane (Single Engine Air Tanker). The SEAT plane uses fire retardant solution that spreads on the fire and then they have to fly back to the filling area and get another fill of the solution. These are good in the winter months when the lakes are frozen. The Fire Boss planes have the floats on the bottom when they can go down to the lake and fill up with water and spread it on the fire. Those will be nice to have at the high time of fire. There will probably be a helicopter working out of here also. Roxbury said this year we haven't had much snow to bend down the grass so hopefully there won't be grass fires this spring.

The annual "Ladies Night" appreciation event will be held this weekend at Steven's. The PFRD is also having a fish fry. When they moved to the Public Safety building, they found five or six boxes of pictures and are inviting retired fire fighters to look at them and identify who is in the pictures. The Chamber Expo is also this weekend and the Fire Department has a booth.

Lawrence said a school bus training is coming up and they'll be using a retired school bus. They are working with the Police Department and the County SWAT team and letting them train on it first. Lawrence said that more businesses are being proactive on fire safety. United States Distilled Products will be shutting down for 2-3 hours for the Fire Department to do a drill. Fair-view Hospital is also going to be involved in a safety drill.

C. Relief Association Update

Roxbury said Jamin Wood could not make the meeting tonight. Roxbury handed out the 2014 year-end review for the Fire Advisory Board to review:

The following information was shared with those present:

- Our Relief Association's current approved retirement benefit level is \$2,875 per year in good standing which is paid in one lump sum to retirees at or after the age of 50.
- The approved benefit amount has been at its current rate of \$2,875 since October 2001. The Relief Board is going to seek an increase to that benefit level this year.
- Princeton Fire Relief Association changed to Parr-McKnight in 2009 from US Bank. Since that change our investments have returned us a total +\$559,414 or an average of just over +9% per year.
- In 2014 our investments made us +\$45,433 with a net return of +3.5%. This is only the money made from investments and doesn't include other deposits. Our deposits for 2014 were just over \$80,000 and include State Aid and FD budgeted funds.
- State Aid increased from \$46,409 with an added \$13,714 supplemental payment in 2014. This brings our total State Aid amount to \$60,048.
- Bottled water sales was discontinued for 2014. It became apparent that we couldn't compete with food market prices.
- Princeton Fire Relief Association currently has 30 active members.
- The Association's 2014 beginning balance in the "special fund" was \$1,267,607 and its current assets are \$1,394,505. The special fund contains moneys which are used to pay retirees when they become eligible. Contributions to this account include State Aid based on population residing in the coverage area and investment gains. This account is currently being managed by Parr-McKnight Financial in conjunction with Wells Fargo Investments.
- The Princeton Fire Relief Association has current liabilities of \$1,181,651 which means at this point we are 110% plus funded.
- The Relief Association also owns an account containing \$24,234.17 which is referred to as the general fund.
- Our general fund contains money raised through Relief Association fund raisers and member's quarterly contributions. This account is used in a number of ways including donations to other organizations, purchase of fire prevention material, tools and equipment for our trucks was used to purchase engine #2, annual 'thank you dinner' for spouses and retirees.
- Our most recent fund raising events included a golf tournament, and a Valentine's Day flower delivery for Coborns.

Lawrence said the Valentine's Day flower delivery for Coborns went well and Coborns will be presenting them with a check in the next two weeks for the deliveries the Fire Department had made. These funds will go into the Fire Prevention Program.

Roxbury said some of the newer members on the department were able to practice finding addresses when delivering flowers. Channel Five was in Princeton covering the fatal pole barn fire and did a story on the Valentine's Day deliveries.

Dolin asked how much the Princeton Relief Association is looking for as an increase to their benefit level.

Roxbury said they are not sure yet. They are crunching numbers. They will give a presentation soon. It has been at this level for over 11 years. The Relief Association can raise the benefit

level, but the City has to approve it. For example; if the City were to approve \$3,000 per year service and guaranteed it, they cannot decrease the amount without the Fire Departments approval. The City has to stand behind what they guarantee. Roxbury said he went to Isanti County for a meeting with the Auditor's Office and that was very informative.

Stoeckel said it is retroactive if it is increased.

Roxbury said because of the amount of paperwork it takes to increase the benefit level, it is usually looked at when someone is retiring.

5. Old Business

A. New Public Safety Building (one year later)

Roxbury said there are still concerns that are being addressed. For cost wise it is what they projected for heating and such.

Thompson said the building is working fantastic. Roxbury said there are lighting problems in this room where only half of them come on and that is the motion detectors that need to be replaced. Things are being taken care of.

Jensen said they need big fans in the apparatus room to cool it down.

Roxbury said the bay lights need to be switched to ceiling fans. The generator is here, but needs to be hooked up. They have one for Wyanett Township also.

Jensen said there was a water issue with the three inch line that had an air break in the line. A pressure tank was temporary put in and will be installed into the ceiling. Filling the pumper truck is approximately 12-15 minutes. There are hydrants on the corners throughout town that will fill quickly if need be, but in the winter it is nicer to use the water lines in here to fill the trucks.

Roxbury said the tankers work very well for filling the truck.

Lundeen introduced Travis Wood (Wyanett Twsp & Dalbo Fire Chief) and Dennis Haubenschild (Wyanett Twsp)

6. New Business

A. Annual Township meetings – March 10th

Roxbury said there will be a representative at all township meetings. Mayor Whitcomb and himself will be at Spencer Brook and Wyanett Townships. Lawrence will go to Bogus Brook and Thompson will go to another. It is good to have a representative in case they have questions. Roxbury asked the Board members if there is anything specific the townships would like to review that he can bring.

The Fire Advisory Board had no suggestions.

Roxbury handed out the Township billing for 2015. Roxbury asked the township supervisors if the county has redone the tax assessments. Mille Lacs County has gone down, but Isanti County has gone up. Did Isanti have that much more building going on the past year.

Haubenschild said he had called on the tax increase and Isanti County said they are mandated to have the farm land value the same as southern Minnesota.

Lundeen asked when the first half is due and when the second is due.

Roxbury did not know and DeWitt said she will check and email them tomorrow.

Haubenschild said the 2015 township billings will be good to have at the annual meetings.

7. Next Meeting & Agenda

A. April 7

The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 7. The Fire Advisory Board had no comments.

8. Adjourn:

There being no further business:

STOECKEL MOVED TO ADJOURN. DOLIN SECONDED THIS MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:52 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Lou DeWitt
City Staff