

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD
HELD AT 7:00 P.M., ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2013, AT THE PRINCETON CITY HALL**

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

Members absent:

Roger Nelson	Blue Hill Twsp.
--------------	-----------------

Staff present:

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

2. Review/Consideration of February 5, 2013 Minutes

STOECKEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5, 2013 AS PRESENTED CORRECTED. LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions – None

4. Reports:

A. Run Reports – The Fire Run Report Synopsis was handed out and reviewed. The individual reports will be mailed out when completed. Roxbury explained the dispatching confusion for the Little Elk Lake “Castle” fire on January 12. Apparently the fire was initially called in by a passerby via cell phone who didn’t know exactly where he was. A subsequent report by a deputy also didn’t pinpoint the location. Still, Roxbury noted, all departments rolled with the first alert and he stated that the building was so involved that any differential in when the report was initially logged would not have made a difference in the outcome.

B. Department Update – Jim Roxbury

Roxbury reported that the PFRD leadership met with the leadership of the Baldwin Department and it was an amicable meeting. The two will be doing a structure fire training session together later this month and another in March. He found it interesting that, several years ago, Baldwin would not do a structure training session with Princeton because we do not bring in outside trainers. Since then, Baldwin agrees that the training sessions done “in-house” are better than the ones done by outside trainers. That’s interesting because now the Zimmerman Department is balking at doing a joint training with Baldwin and Princeton for the same reason.

Jim has sent a letter to ISO to see if we can get the ruling on the Wyanett sub-station. He doesn’t want to push too hard because Pine City’s FD’s rating got downgraded along with several other departments.

The PFRD has initiated a program called “E-Dispatch” where the pages not only go to the pagers but also are sent to the firefighters’ cell phones. This is in response to the issues our and other departments are having with the 800 MHz equipment.

The Fire Act Grant extrication equipment has all been ordered and should arrive soon.

The PFRD did a walk-through at the new Wall-Mart in mid January. Roxbury also attended the ribbon cutting celebration and the PFRD was presented with a \$2,000 check from Wal-Mart. Wal-Mart’s manager, Tim Gould, is hoping to become a PFRD firefighter. He was a firefighter previously in Wisconsin.

5. Old Business

A. Wyanett Sub-Station Tanker

The Chief advised that the tanker is still at Ray’s Auto for painting and is not yet ready to go.

B. Fire Station Update

Karnowski advised that the Public Safety Building project is going forward. It appears the first round of bids will be published on March 20th. Otherwise, the PFRD is still tinkering with the layout of the fire department side of the building. The consultant feels the bids should come in on the low end as expected even though construction and building material costs have been increasing.

6. New Business

A. Meeting with DNR

Roxbury advised that they recently met with the DNR and were advised that they think the upcoming spring grass fire season is going to be busier than normal. Apparently upwards of 60% of the Minnesota Counties are under a severe drought classification.

B. Tanker Damaged

The Board was advised that one of the tankers was damaged when one of the Public Works staff backed into a tree when delivering water to the skating rink. The cost to repair could be between \$7,000-10,000.

C. Spencer Brook

Stoeckel asked if Roxbury had heard anything more about Spencer Brook putting a question on their annual meeting ballot regarding the award of their fire contracts. Roxbury indicated he'd talked to one of the Spencer Brook Township Supervisors and was advised that it was going to be on the ballot. The question would ask if the township wanted to switch to Princeton's coverage effective January 1, 2014.

B. Firefighter Recruitment

Whitcomb asked how the new firefighter recruitment efforts were panning out. Roxbury acknowledged that there is a committee working on it. Currently they're at 31 firefighters. (Note: in May, 2011, the FAB agreed to increase the maximum number of PFRD firefighters to 36).

7. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda

The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 5, 2013, at 7:00 P.M. and will be the annual meeting at the Fire Station. All board members were encouraged to invite their other township board members to the meeting. PFRD representatives will, again, be attending the Annual Township meetings on Tuesday, March 12th.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business:

DOLIN MOVED TO ADJOURN. STOECKEL SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:53 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Karnowski,
City Administrator