

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD  
HELD AT 7:00 P.M., ON MARCH 6, 2012, AT THE PRINCETON FIRE STATION**

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**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.
Roger Nelson	Blue Hill Twsp.

**Visitors:**

Tom Lundeen, Wyanett Twsp.  
Dennis Haubenschild, Wyanett Twsp.  
John Roxbury, Princeton Twsp.  
Jim Langfeld, PFRD Relief Treas.  
Troy Thompson, PFRD Relief Pres.  
Josh Vaccari, PFRD Relief Trustee  
Jason Baumunk, PFRD Captain  
Doug Larsen, PFRD Asst. Chief  
Chris Wilke, PFRD Administration

**Staff present:**

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

**2. Review/Consideration of January 3, 2012 Minutes**

A “typo” was noted in the heading for consideration of the minutes that an extra “September” should be deleted. STOECKEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY, 3, 2012 MINUTES AS CORRECTED. DOLIN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

**3. Agenda Additions/Deletions** – None

**4. Reports:**

**A. Run Reports**

Chief Roxbury advised that the detailed reports for January and February were not ready yet and would be mailed out. He did note that they’ve had 29 fire calls so far this year and a total of 244 in all of 2011.

**B. Department Update – Jim Roxbury**

Roxbury reported that they have two new firefighter trainees starting the Firefighter I training. The Monticello Relocation efforts are going fine. The stipend has been lagging because of the State shutdown. There were some “issues” at the Prairie Island facility earlier today. Relocation is looking at providing a dozen more 800 MHz radios...which will also be able to be used for general fire fighting. Roxbury advised that Sherburne County’s 800 MHZ system is up and running and that Mille Lacs County is scheduled to be up and running in June. Isanti is moving slower. There will probably be an annual fee charged by Mille Lacs County for 800 MHz radio maintenance.

**5. Old Business**

**A. Public Safety Building Update**

Karnowski reviewed a memo advising that the city was still pursuing the construction of a new police/fire public safety building. The city is still going for State Bonding money as they did in 2010 but the prospects of getting funded are not as good as two years ago. Still, the city is looking at trying to erect a \$2 million structure using liquor store profits as the funding source. The only perceived drawback to that funding source is the occasional state legislative efforts to nudge municipalities out of the liquor business. Karnowski expressed concern that, if the building was built and the city used liquor store profits to pay of the requisite bonding and the legislature subsequently pulled authorization for municipal liquor stores, then the city would have difficulty finding another viable funding source.

## **B. 2011 Fire Contract Billing Report**

Chief Roxbury handed out copies of the supportive documentation for the 2012 fire contract billing and explained the basic system formula to determine the cost split. It was noted that, even though the Fire Board approved a 3% increase for 2012, Wyanett's bill went down for 2012. He explained that it's probably a function of the 5 year averaging for fire calls.

## **C. Relief Association Update**

PFRD Relief Association President, Troy Thompson updated the membership on Relief Association issues. He advised that the Association actually lost 3.8% on its investments during 2011 but that the 10 year average was still at 10%. The current, year to date percentage is at 8%. The Association reviewed fund availability and found that there were insufficient funds to warrant a benefit increase. So the current level (\$2,875/yr) is still in effect.

## **D. Vehicle Update**

Chief Roxbury advised those in attendance that the newer tanker at the Wyanett Substation is fully functional. It still needs a light bar and other similar equipment, but it's ready to do the job for which it was acquired.

He also advised that, with the pending grass fire season, he's opted to purchase the 6x6 grass fighting RV. Normally the FAB would review the proposal before it went to the City Council but, because of the anticipate bad grass fire season coming up and the DNR being short staffed, he went directly to the City Council to ask them to approve the purchase of the rig. He still asked for the Boards support of the purchase. He noted that the funds have been in the budget for several year but had not been spent. He also noted that a \$2,500 donation from Monsanto (on behalf of Brian Orton) will be put toward the purchase.

STOECKEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED PURCHASE OF A 6x6 for FIGHTING GRASS FIRES. LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **E. Fire Call Billing**

The question was asked about how billing for fires is coming. The Chief advised that the City has taken in about \$5,552 in 2011. Most of the money comes from fires in TH95 & 169 fires as well as DNR grass fires. The Chief requested that the Board continue to allow those proceeds to into the truck fund.

STOECKEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE CONTINUED DEDICATION OF THOSE FUNDS TO THE TRUCK FUND. HAUBENSCHILD SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL IN FAVOR, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

## **6. New Business**

### **A. Annual Township Meetings**

The board was advised that Chairman Whitcomb and the Chief will try and make the rounds and appear before each of the township boards on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>.

### **B. Burning Permits**

Chief Roxbury advised that he is now qualified to issue burning permits.

## **7. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda**

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 3, 2012  
:back at city hall.

**8. Adjourn**

There being no further business:

NELSON MOVED TO ADJOURN. STOECKEL SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:40 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Karnowski,  
City Admin.