

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD
HELD AT 7:00 P.M., ON TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 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 March 5, 2013 Minutes

STOECKEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2013 AS PRESENTED. 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.

B. Department Update – Jim Roxbury

Roxbury reported that the PFRD members were currently having their annual physicals as well as getting their air packs tested.

Roxbury said that he'd met with Homeland Security and the Relocation folks at a meeting in Stillwater last month and received some positive feedback on their willingness to participate in some of the costs associated with the proposed public safety building if all of the operations would be moved to that one facility.

The PFRD is getting ready for the grass fire season and is also practicing water rescues. He also said they're doing a practice burn of a house by Mark Park on Saturday, April 13th if any board member wants to attend or even go inside the building during the exercise.

Roxbury advised that, apparently, milfoil has been found in Elk Lake. That fact could cause problems for the PFRD in that we were looking at installing a dry hydrant on the south end of Elk Lake. Now the DNR is concerned because drawing water from Elk Lake could contain milfoil and the DNR doesn't want to spread milfoil to any other area body of water. That discussion then evolved into a larger discussion about the ability of DNR helicopters and other fire fighting watercraft to take water out of Elk Lake or other bodies of water that may have milfoil and/or other invasive species.

Roxbury said the PFRD is working with the Fairview Northland on their hazard plan. The hospital is also installing 800 MHz repeaters in their building so the fire department and the police department radios will work within the building.

The PFRD has about 10-15 new firefighter applications in so far. They're starting the interview process and hope to net about 5 new firefighters out of those applications.

Roxbury said there's no final word on this year's Fire Act Grant, but they've notified the PFRD and are asking questions that normally indicate that award is near. Roxbury also said the grant application to CenterPoint has been turned in as well.

5. Old Business

A. Annual Township Meetings

Regarding the annual Township meetings, Roxbury said there were no notable issues discussed except that the Princeton Township meeting adjourned before they got there.

B. Fire Station Update

Karnowski advised that the first bids for the proposed public safety building (the tip-up walls and metal for the roof) were opened and came in below estimates. The balance of the bids will be opened on Thursday, April 25th. So far all appears to be going as planned.

6. New Business

A. Spencer Brook

Roxbury advised that there was a straw ballot taken at the Spencer Brook Township annual meeting regarding whether the township should consider contracting with the PFRD for fire coverage in the areas that used to be covered by our department. Roxbury noted that the vote margin was 3 to 1 in favor of contracting with Princeton. The board had some preliminary discussions about how the addition of Spencer Brook would impact the current situation. Discussion included the option of raising the PFRD budget by the amount billed to Spencer Brook or reduce everyone else's billing because Roxbury said that the additional expense of adding Spencer Brook wouldn't be very much. Roxbury will have the city finance director put some numbers together for future discussion. The Board indicated their support for Roxbury to continue discussions with Spencer Brook officials.

B. Isanti Fire District

Roxbury advised the Board that the Isanti Fire District has a bill in the legislature that would authorize the city council and town boards in the district to create a special taxing district to fund that organization. He noted that it was odd that the District currently covers Spencer Brook Township but that the proposed legislation doesn't include Spencer Brook.

7. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda

The next regular meeting is scheduled for May 7, 2013, at 7:00 P.M.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business:

STOECKEL MOVED TO ADJOURN. LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 7:58 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark Karnowski,
City Administrator