THE MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD HELD AT 6:00 P.M., DECEMBER 6, 2016, AT THE PRINCETON PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

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1. Call to Order – Chair Whitcomb called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. in the day room of the Princeton Public Safety building (the early start was because of the PFRD’s Annual Meeting).

Members present:
Paul Whitcomb, Chair  City of Princeton  Paul Whitcomb, Chair  City of Princeton  Jim Roxbury  Chief, PFRD
Arvid Jenkins  Spencer Brook Twsp.  Arvid Jenkins  Spencer Brook Twsp.  Ron Lawrence  Asst. Chief, PFRD
Steve Dolin  Greenbush Twsp.  Steve Dolin  Greenbush Twsp.  Troy Thompson  Captain, PFRD
Gene Stoeckel  Princeton Twsp.  Gene Stoeckel  Princeton Twsp.  Mark Karnowski  City Administrator

Members absent:
Cathy Lundeen  Wyanett Twsp.
Roger Nelson  Blue Hill Twsp.

2. Review/Consideration of November 1, 2016 Minutes

JENKINS MOVED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 1, 2016 MINUTES AS PRESENTED. DOLEN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions - None.

4. Reports:
   A. Run Reports

Roxbury reviewed the composite November run report with the Board. There were 27 calls. He noted that they had a fatal house fire in Wyanett Township and also responded to two car fires as well. They also assisted on a law enforcement stop where a total of 3 vehicles, including one of the PFRD and police vehicles, got flat tires from stop sticks that were set out by the police.

   B. Department Update

Roxbury said the department’s newly acquired grain bin rescue equipment has been borrowed by several area departments who are also using it for training. They also got a shipment in of new flashlights for the fire fighters.

5. Old Business
   A. Fire Act Grant

They’re sent in the order for the thermal imaging camera paid for by this year’s fire act grant, they’re still working on getting an order ready for the hose nozzles. They’ve opted to not submit a Fire Act Grant for next year as their assessment of what’s likely to be funded didn’t bode well for their proposed grant (which was for new hoses).

They did decide to participate in a joint training facility grant along with several other departments. That Fire Act Grant is being submitted by the City of Milaca. It is thought that the fees for renting it out to other departments should pay any overhead expenses. The facility is a pre-built building that they can do practice burns with. It’s necessary because Roxbury believes that the MPCA will soon disallow burning real houses. The city’s cost for that effort is about $119.
B. Sale of Surplus Fire Trucks

The PFRD is selling the old American LaFrance pumper and the old grass rig on the Isaac Jensen’s on-line auction site rather than using Pikes. The rationale is that we didn’t get photos in in time to be in Pike’s mailed out brochure plus we wanted to try the on-line service because the police department has had good luck using that on-line service to sell their impounded vehicles.

Stoeckel said that some fire departments give away older trucks to smaller departments for the PR value and did we think about doing that rather than selling them. Roxbury said the pumper has too many ‘issues’ to be a longer term solution even for a smaller department. But, yes, they considered that option as well but dismissed it.

C. 2017 Budget

Roxbury advised that the final budget to be acted upon by the City Council later that week includes a 3% increase in the Fire Department Budget as previously recommended by the Fire Advisory Board. The only significant change to the 2017 budget is that the members that attend the weekly training sessions will be paid for two hours rather than the single hour they’ve been paid for previously.

6. New Business

A. Annual Meeting

Roxbury reminded the members that the PFRD’s annual meeting is later that night and they’ll be electing a Chief, Assistant Chief and two Captains.

B. Firefighter Randy Cook

Roxbury advised the membership that former Assistant Chief and Captain, Randy Cook, was to undergo open heart surgery tomorrow. Cook’s currently a Mille Lacs County Sheriff’s dispatcher.

7. Next Meeting & Agenda

It was noted that the January 3 meeting will start at the normal 7 PM time.

8. Adjourn

There being no further business:

JENKINS MOVED TO ADJOURN. STOECKEL SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 6:29 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark H. Karnowski
City Administrator