THE MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD HELD AT 7:00 P.M., August 7, 2018, AT THE WYANETT SUBSTATION

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


Others Present: Dennis Haebenschild

Staff Present: Ron Lawrence Chief PFRD, Josh Vaccari Asst. Chief, Robert Barbian City Admin.

2. Review/Consideration of June 5, 2018 Minutes

ARVID MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 5, 2018 MINUTES AS CORRECTED, LUNDEEN SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.


4. Reports:

Chief Lawrence reported that as of today there are 239 calls for the year. This is on pace with last year. The Chief reported that the SCBA grant is very likely to be received. This will be approximately 159K for masks and tanks. The required match will be approximately 9K.

The replacement of Grass Rig 6, kept at Blue Hill Township was summarized. A used 2016 ended up selling at about 30K plus fees. The PFD talked about a reasonable amount being about 25K. A new 3500 Dodge for 39K seems a better buy. This is being implemented. Something that will be considered in the future is adding a slide out pump and hoses.

The Truck Inventory summary sheet was handed out and reviewed which highlights the year, condition and other rating aspects. The top truck replacements needed are engine #2, a ladder truck and a foam trailer. There was a lot of discussion on the equipment needs, cost and affordability occurred. The board members expressed a need to consider used. The Chief suggested going with a used ladder truck and new engine at approximately a million total. Issues covered that all funds from jurisdictions in excess of expenditures stay in the FD and when any sales to dispose of excess or old equipment occur the proceeds go to the FD. An estimated cost share was distributed. Financing was covered to be representative of the call rates and valuation as all other aspects of the FD operate.

Chief Lawrence introduced changing the Fire Chief position from a Fire Fighter elected two year position to an appointed position. The key advantages being consistency, performance, complexity of regulations and professionalism of Department. Much discussion occurred. A draft job description was provided. It was covered that the position could be supported by funding for ~50% from the annual relocation funding. Discussion of wages and rates occurred. The continued involvement and shared responsibility by the Chief to report to the Fire Board was voiced as an important issue to continue as currently occurring. It was noted that the
added costs of the trucks and a 40-50K chief position is a lot for the towns to take to the annual meetings. Whitcomb expressed support for an appointed position and he take the issue of funding a larger share to the City Council to get it done if the Fire Board could not.

The Chief covered that his term as Chief ends December 31, 2018 with elections held in November.

5. Old Business: None

6. New Business

7. Next Meeting & Agenda
The next meeting date is September 4, 2018

8. Adjourn
NELSON MOVED TO ADJOURN, BECK SECONDED THE MOTION. ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY AT 8:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert Barbian
City Administrator