

# Riceville Volunteer Fire Department

January 25<sup>th</sup> 2021  
Minutes

Members present: Judy Dillingham, Mark Dillingham, Dan Friday, Lisa McCallister, Carla McLendon, Bill Edge, Mark Curran, Dereck Lindsay. Dean Reed had an excused absence also, in attendance Jason Willix, Allan Blount, Chris Redden, Kattie Presley, Dover Dillingham, Jason McEntire, and several more of the staff of the fire department.

The January meeting was held over the Zoom platform because of the statewide covid 19 restrictions.

Judy D. calls the meeting to order at 6:39. Judy asks if everyone has had a chance to read the minutes from the last meeting and if we have a motion to accept the minutes as sent.

Mark C. makes the motion to accept the minutes.

Carla M. seconds

Voice vote unanimous

Motion carries

Judy D. asks Dover D. to give the treasurer's report.

Dover D. gives the report. We are getting better with our finances. He says that we are in need of more revenue from the county and would stringently oppose staying revenue neutral when the county finishes their tax adjustment. The sales tax is not performing as well as we would like. We need to fix equipment and purchase a new ambulance.

Judy D. thanks, Dover D. and asks Katie P. for her administrative report. She agrees with Dover D. that we should keep our tax rate where it is.

Judy D. asks her what is the process that we need to go through with the county on the property tax issue.

Katie P. says we will get a tax projection then we will have meetings with the county managers

Dan F. asks if there is considerable loss with the ambulance's revenue in the last few months.

Katie P. is not sure but it looks as if we are off on what we usually make from the ambulance. The medical billing is several months behind.

Mark C. asks where are we on our operating reserve.

Katie P. responds that it is a new requirement from the county manager that we build an operating reserve and that that reserve should be three months of working capital. We would need approximately \$110k per month to operate. Currently have \$50K budgeted for that account. We also have a vehicle fund and a building fund that we must put money into.

Mark C. Is this something we can use when we meet with the county manager to justify that rate not being changed?

Katie P. Yes, that is what she will expect of us for our reasoning not to lower our fire tax rate.

Mark C. have we ever had that working reserve or are we always behind

Katie P. always behind. We have had the same tax rate for a really long time and it has always been a struggle for us to save. Mark D. do you have anything to add to that.

Mark D. For a long time, we have budgeted for what that ambulance brings in to keep our tax rate low however relying on that revenue and not saving it had put us in a tight spot in the past. We have been weening the department off of relying on that money. Something always comes up that the contingency gets used up.

Judy D. asks Katie P. if she would like to talk about the county Covid funds and the tax form 990

Katie P. All of the Covid money that we were eligible for we have received it. We will vote on the 990 next month. It was sent out did anyone not receive it.

Judy D. asks Mark D. to go over the consolidated reports.

Mark D. goes over the reports they talk about the air pack grant 90/10. If we don't get the grant, we will have to buy bottles to replace our old one over the next few years. Next is that the employment policies have been gone over with all of the staff and the staff has signed that they have received the employment policies. There might be one- or two-part timers that have not gotten the policy's yet but as they come in to work, they will be briefed by the officer. The next thing in the packet is the Covid and Flu policy we need to go over that and approve those policies hopefully we can hold a special meeting or approve those policies over the internet. We are basically already following those policies. The new speakers have been installed for the updated alert system now all of the building is covered except the metal building which may need some sort of receiver. Jason has spent the budgeted amount on that upgrade and is asking for more money to finish we are currently looking for that money in the budget. \$800 or \$900 to finish. The ambulance warranty is the next item on the list. Chief Willix reported that for Ford to cover the warranty that they would have had to be the ones to test the fuel and do the repair. They will not cover it at this point. The last thing on the list is that Chief Willix had talked to some folks about Covid testing for the employees. One option is \$130 per test to test the employees when they come back from 4 days off the next option is the 48-hour test and having insurance covering that. However, we are checking to see if insurance will cover that. Any questions?

Lisa M. Asks about the Covid testing are we talking about anyone who has been off for 4 days.

Mark D. Yes, we would catch all employees that were present that day.

Lisa M. Is there an expectation that we test our employee's in that manner?

Mark D. There is no expectation. But Chief Willix is looking at trying it

Dan F. asks where we are on getting our employees vaccinated? Can we get everyone of our employees vaccinated?

Mark D. the county has made it available for any one who wants to be vaccinated and a few of our employees have taken advantage of that. Most have not. Currently we strongly encourage them to get it but it is up to the individual to get it.

Dan F. Where does Doctor Horein stand on that

Mark D. He is neutral right now he could come back and require it but he hasn't at this point.

Judy D. I saw a report today that a large percent of first responders are not getting vaccinated.

BOD discussion.

Judy D. Moves us into new business. She asks the search committee for an update.

Mark C. Presents the committee's progress. New picture, call volume, budget, and send it to Keith Bost.

Lisa M. states that we will need to get the final posting approved by the BOD. Asks how we proceed at that point.

Dan F. as long as we have all BOD members vote that we may proceed online we may present it and vote on it online. If there is an objection, we may do the meeting via Zoom.

Mark C. Says Keith Bost thinks to send the posting out locally at first.

Dan F. We had a little discussion on compensation for the Chiefs position.

Judy D. asks if there is any more new business and moves us into old business. One issue about the neighbor using the firehouse parking lot.

Mark D. discusses the problems with parking for their meetings across the street. He discussed it with the neighbor.

BOD discussion

Mark D. Makes a motion to have Lisa M. and Carla M. to write a letter in order to send to the neighbor across the street to address their use of our parking lot. The letter should ask them to stop using the lot. The letter will be sent normal first-class mail at first and then will be sent certified mail if the problem persists.

Dan F. and Mark C. Second

Voice Vote unanimous, motion carries

More discussion

Jason Wilix has some more quotes for ambulance refit \$150K or replacement \$212K and the value of the current unit is \$3-5K. Also, the old Tack Truck car 11 has a bad rear end and needs to be fixed he has a quote for a repaired rear end no warranty \$1660.00 and new rear end with warranty \$1900.00. 2007 milage is 173K do we need to fix it or replace it?

Judy asks how often we use it?

Jason W. we have two people how use it for school. About ten times a month

BOD where is it at

Jason W. It's at Stamies Candler tire in Enka.

Lisa M. asks about Morris and Son's

Jason W. will call them to check

Judy asks how much is it worth?

Jason W. \$2K-\$4K

Judy D. asks Dover's advice fix it in order to sell it depending on warranty

Discussion

Dan F. asks for at least two more quotes on the repair.

Judy moves us into executive session at 7:54.

We come back from executive session 8:36

Dan F. moves to adjourn

Dereck L. seconds

Voice vote unanimous we adjourn at 8:36