

The Board of: Riceville Volunteer Fire Department
Met at: 7:00PM
On: Monday, October 10, 2022
For: Regular Board Meeting
Moderator: Mark Curran (Chairperson)
Members Present: Lee Barrett, Kent Creasman, Dan Friday, Kathy Higdon,
Dan Little, Lisa McCallister and Carla McLendon
Not Present: Judy Dillingham

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** Mark Curran called the meeting to order at 7:37PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes for the September 6 Regular meeting were emailed to the Board on September 14. Lisa McCallister made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Kent Creasman seconded the motion, which carried with one abstaining vote (Lee Barrett).

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Review of the financial reports for the month ending August 2022 was carried over from September's meeting, and the reports were emailed to the Board on October 9. Katie Payne relayed there is nothing major to report, as both expenses and income are in line with the budget.

Lisa McCallister relayed the current Bank Balance is \$1,804,000, and Total Liabilities are \$222,560.

Dan Little made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Kent Creasman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. **Fire Chief's Report:** The Chief's Report and Training Division Report were presented at the Annual Meeting, which took place immediately prior to this meeting.

5. **Election of Board Officers:** The Board elected Officers as follows:

(1) Secretary – Dan Friday made a motion to elect Carla McLendon as Secretary. Kent Creasman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(2) Treasurer – Kent Creasman made a motion to elect Lisa McCallister as Treasurer. Dan Little seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(3) Vice Chairperson – Kathy Higdon made a motion to elect Dan Little as Vice Chairperson. Lisa McCallister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(4) Chairperson – Dan Friday made a motion to elect Mark Curran as Chairperson. Kent Creasman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mark Curran thanked the Board and Department staff for their hard work and support over the past year.

6. Old Business:

A. Meeting Room Update – Katie Payne relayed the meeting room continues to be closed for outside use. The kitchen and training room are used daily by staff, following water damage in their dayroom/kitchen area. There are also maintenance needs in the meeting room, which have been budgeted for and for which the Department is preparing to take action. Neighboring Departments continue to stay closed due to Covid and other reasons. A committee has been established to determine future use of the room.

Following a question from Lee Barrett and bringing him up to date on the situation, the Board briefly discussed the pros and cons to the community, which included disruption by traffic in the area, cleaning fee costs, rental fee increases, and the fact that rental of the room is not a large source of income for the Department.

Discussion also included the fact that a new Station is needed, as the Department has outgrown the current employee areas due to increases in staffing levels. Chief Kelly has contacted the County in regard to pursuing a grant for the funding of a new Station and Community Center.

B. Policy Change Status – Katie Payne reported she does not have an update on this issue, as the policy changes are still pending legal review.

C. Concrete Pad – Dan Friday relayed the Contractor (Travis of Countryside Landscaping) is no longer responding to his texts. He, Kent Creasman and Mark Curran will complete the pending work, which is removal of the wooden forms from around the concrete pad poured next to the auxiliary building.

D. Ambulance Purchase Update – There has been no change in the status of this issue. Chief Kelly continues to actively work on the issue.

7. New Business:

Halloween Event Update – Mary Brown provided an update from the Committee during the Annual Meeting, which took place immediately prior to this meeting. During that meeting, she relayed there will be food, a bonfire, a hayride and indoor activities. There will be fun for all ages, and the community is encouraged and welcome to attend.

8. Announcements:

A. Halloween Event - Mark Curran announced a Halloween Event is scheduled to take place at the Department on Saturday, October 29, from 5:00PM until 9:00PM.

B. Board Meeting - Mark Curran announced the next Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, November 21, 2022 at 6:30PM. Katie Payne reminded the Board the Audit Report is normally presented at the November meeting and wanted to make sure this date would work for everyone, since it is the week of Thanksgiving. Board members, the Chief and Katie all relayed they were okay with meeting on November 21.

9. Public Comment: The meeting was opened for public comment after Lee Barrett read the associated guidelines.

Emili Fonteneau, Yoga Instructor, asked when the Community Center would be available again for use for yoga classes, relaying the benefits she feels such classes provide members of the community. Mark Curran responded that once the Committee had an update regarding use of the location as discussed during Old Business, she would be contacted by the Chief or a member of the Committee.

Thaddeus Rude expressed his support of the Community Center being used for yoga classes.

Harold Parker expressed his personal concerns and opinions about treatment of past Chiefs and the current Fire Chief, relaying he does not feel the Board is taking care of the Chief. Referencing an interaction between an unnamed Board member and the Chief, Mr. Parker relayed he felt the Board member should resign immediately.

On behalf of the Board, Mark Curran thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their support.

10. Adjournment: Dan Friday made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:09PM. Lisa McCallister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Board did not adjourn to Executive Session, as there was no business necessitating this action.