

Riceville Volunteer Fire Department

July 15th 2019

Minutes

BOD Members present: Judy Dillingham, Carla McLendon, Dean Reed, Dereck Lindsey, Mark Dillingham, Mark Curran, Dan Friday, Chief John Coffey and Dover Dillingham.

Lisa M. Had an excuses absence.

Judy asks if everyone received the minutes from Dan. We need to approve the May minutes since the June meting didn't happen

Dean R. makes a motion to accept as sent.

Mark D.. seconds.

Voice vote unanimous

Motion Passes.

Judy asks Dover for the treasures report.

Dover gives the treasures report and reminds everyone that they can get copies of all of the financials from John in the office.

Judy Thanks Dover.

Judy asks for Chiefs report.

John gives the chiefs report. We are breaking records from last year. An increase of about 3-5% per year in call volume. Volunteer participation is down he explains this due to the time of year. The repairs to the truck are complete however the pump test came back that we needed a new tank as John had predicted. If there is not a brand new tank to be had they will repair the existing tank and warrantee it for us.

Mark C. asks what kind of tank it is.

John answers a poly tank.

Lee Barrett discusses Insurance coverage and deductibles. Talking about that we may need to pay our deductible is the other driver's coverage does not cover the cost.

Judy asks about a timeline to have the truck fixed.

John thinks soon since they want to schedule us for pick up.

The VA has given no definite word on a contract with us yet.

The farmers market still needs vendors. County presentation to the fire service tax increase. The county commissioners voted to give us a 2.5 cent increase.

CJ and Jonathan Godfrey represented Riceville Volunteer Fire Department in a state Paramedic competition last Friday. First time in 15yrs since Buncombe County has been represented.

Dean R. asks John to tell them congratulations.

Ron Gustson from Haw Creek Ranch built a second library box. Some of the communities in our Fire District would like library boxes as well.

Dean R. Asks how many requests have we had for library boxes.

John answers 4.

Dan F. asks John to thank Ron for us if he sees him.

John says that we are expanding our level of services to include water rescue. The Swannanoa River has required us to do river rescues the past two years.

John needs to go on a call so he leaves with the BOD's blessing.

The BOD Thanks John for his hard work.

Katie pipes up in the lull to tell us that our insurance deductible is only \$250.00. So that is what we will be responsible for if the at fault driver does not carry enough insurance to cover the entire accident.

Mark C. has a question it's a pet peeve of his. From April 1 - June 30th we responded to mutual aid 309 times. We received mutual aid 17 times it is so lopsided.

Mark D. what he is counting are the EMS calls to the county. Any time he runs into Black Mountain or Asheville he counts that as mutual aid. If we take out the fire related calls it looks much different.

Mark C. well for even EMS they don't cover.

Dan F We have a paramedic level ambulance. Swannanoa does not, Black Mountain does not

Mark D. The county covers them

Dan F we ran 114 EMS calls vs our 34 service calls, 31 good intent calls our 1 hazardous condition with no fire call.

Mark C. I don't know the history but we are paying for their EMS service. Regardless of the transport fee that doesn't come close to cover the employees the truck the equipment costs. That doesn't come close to covering the costs.

Mark D. that's one of the concerns John wants staff to cover when we go out of district.

Judy D. Mark is saying that we need to be compensated for that.

Mark C. we need to be compensated for that, their short staff is not our problem.

Mark D. he needs to run some numbers to see what one ambulance run costs us. In payments vs. expense then show that to us. We need to see if it is benefiting us.

Mark C. the 114 EMS calls that are out of our area then who is covering our area.

Community member maybe Lee tells us that Medic came into our district 3 times last month on EMS calls. While our ambulance was out of district.

Dean R. is there enough money to compensate us per call.

Mark C. the transport fee no way near covers salaries, truck and maintenance on equipment.

Mark D. we ask John to run the numbers we should just ask Katie to do it because John is going to ask Katie to do it.

Kattie. The staff is here whether they run a call or not. Those extra calls that we run outside of our district are helping to pay for that staff to be here. To be able to support that Paramedic level

Mark C. as a former chief I would rather have them sitting in district than costing me money going to another city. If they are sitting here there is no wear and tear on the vehicle. No fuel cost any mileage on the truck. We are losing money by going out of district.

Can you do an analysis of what it costs to do a run and what we bring in from a run?

Katie, yea

Dan F. It seems if we run the numbers and we are really losing money when we run out of district we could ask the county commissioners to make us whole. We could say we don't want money from Riceville, we want money from Swannanoa and Black Mountain in order to help them with EMS service.

Mark D. they are going to come back and say no. We sign a mutual aid agreement.

Dan F. they might but we can ask

Mark C. when it's that lopsided that's not mutual aid. We are paying for their EMS service.

Mark D, Thad asked for that service area.

Mark C. We had a similar problem in Broward County the city paid the salary for one paramedic to be on shift. It's not mutual aid when it's that lopsided.

Inaudible?

Judy D. I like the idea of them paying for a paramedic there has to be a compromise.

Mark C. Mutual aid is I scratch your back you scratch mine.

Inaudible?

There are different fees for level of service.

Judy D. new business

Dan F. did everyone read the new employee book thing

Dean R. never got the attachment.

Mark D. there are some changes that need to be made before it is approved. Katie and I have shared it back and forth.

Judy D. what are we going to do about that.

Mark D. will share the document and any changes can be marked on the document then shared.

Judy D. is there any more new business

Judy we should go into executive session. Or public comment.

Dean R. asks the audience if they have anything to say for public comment and they don't.

Judy we should go into executive session

Dan F. we told everyone we would tell them what we were going into executive session for. We are going into executive session to talk about pay raises to bring our employees up to the state's minimum pay for their job description.

We go into executive session at 7:15

We come back from executive session

Dan F. makes a motion to adjourn

Dereck L. seconds

Voice Vote unanimous.

Adjourn at 8:44