

Fountain Lake Fire Protection District
Board of Commissioners Monthly Meeting
April 17, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

6:00 pm

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: QUORUM PRESENT

Jerry Vaughn (Chairperson)
John Brandt (Secretary/Treasurer)
Joe Turner
Lee Coatney
Rachel Peters

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

OTHER ATTENDEES: Layne Ragsdale (Interim Chief), Lawrence Ault, Melissa Campbell, Brittany Dees, Casey Clark, Andrew Sturgill, Trecia Willis, Martha Coatney, Joseph Repici, Mackenzie Repici, Joe Copenhaver, Mike Rigsby, Destyn Fields, Jack Fields, Staci Hill, Lin Haines, Brian Shannon, Debra Shannon, Ben Ronje, and Scott Greene.

MINUTES FROM MEETING:

Prior meeting minutes:

Minutes from the March 20, 2023 meeting were reviewed.

The March Minutes are accepted by consensus.

Financial Report:

John presented the P&L, Balance Sheet, Cash Flows, and P&L Actual vs Budget reports for the month of March.

Financial reports are accepted by consensus.

Chief's Report (Layne):

Chief Ragsdale reported on the number of calls that occurred during the month of March. .

Chief's report is accepted by consensus.

Publicity Report (John):

John reported on posting about our board meeting as well as posting about highways being closed due to accidents.

Publicity report accepted by consensus.

Maintenance Report (Brian):

- Engine 1
 - Fittings for hose connectors for drop tanks; back ordered and we may not need them
 - Waiting for battery charger
 - Old Engine #1:
Status on sale of Engine. Negotiating what company through which we will sell it.
- Engine 2
- Tanker 1
- Tanker 2
 - Fire pump is no longer working
- Rescue 1
 - Will be put up for sale.
- Rescue 2
 - Needs a 4" water control valve. It costs about \$1,500. Chief Burroughs had stated it was not a need at the time and suggested we table this item.
 - Sensor for digital foam system – The sensor came in last week and has been installed..
- Brush 1 (Forestry)
- Station 1
 - Dirt work on office side of building tabled until we can identify the location of the septic tank. Tabled until weather clears up
 - Back door to training room the door frame is rotted out along with the door to the office and the side door to the bay on the office side of the building needs to be replaced..
Waiting on bid from Jason to replace the frames and doors along with the side door on the East side of the building.
- Station 2
 - Office and bathroom are being worked on. It was presented that a shower enclosure was available through Federal Surplus for \$75.00. Joe Turner said that was a good price and we should get one.
 - Complete the walls. Tabled until next meeting.

- The board told Joe to get more Citypit to put it back to just past the side door. He is authorized to get 2 or 3 more loads as needed.
- Brian reported that he found a company that can furnish and install the lower door panel on the first bay for less than the \$900 that was approved by the board at its March meeting.

Maintenance report is accepted by consensus.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Smoke Detectors – (John)**

John reported that we still have 98 available. We will keep this on the agenda to know if anything happens. It was suggested that John might want to repost on Facebook that we have the smoke detectors available.

- **Masks for SCBAs (Brian)**

Brian said they are negotiating for prices. Too late for a grant, but we can apply for a grant with Firehouse Subs.

- **Land – John**

John did not contact the gentleman about this land as he needed to check with his tax accountant and this was tax time. John said that he will contact Mr. Smulski the beginning of May..

- **Delinquent Assessments – John**

John reported that he has not yet completed inputting the data into the database. As soon as that is completed he will then have to create invoices to mail with the letters.

- **Audit - John**

John reported that he contacted the CPA firm for whom Joe gave him the number. The gentleman to whom he spoke did not know if we would be required to have a legislative audit. He checked and we are not required to have a legislative audit. He then quoted some pricing for the to do an audit or a review. The audit will cost \$8,500 and will provide a higher level of assurance and will also include an accountant's opinion. He said a review will cost about half the price of an audit and only provides limited assurance and does not contain an accountant's opinion. It was suggested that we do a search to find out if we can find an accounting firm who might do an audit for less money.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Communication – John**

John reported that he is looking into ways to better communicate with our community. He stated that his experience with even having information available on our website people still call to report things like controlled burns and ask if we are under a burn ban. John is

concerned that even if we have everything possible posted that the majority of people in the community are not using what is available for information. Glen Johnson suggested we look into an app called TextMagic for disseminating emergency or important information.

- **Batteries and Chargers for Radios – Layne & Brian**

Brian reported that we are in need of 6 batteries and 7 chargers. Glen Johnson told Brian that Lonsdale had recently purchased batteries and he will get Brian the information. John told Brian that the fire department has an account with Interstate Batteries and will get Brian the contact information.

- **Winch and Rescue Basket – Brian**

Brian reported that with the anticipated opening of the by-pass this summer we are in need of equipment to provide rescue services in the event a vehicle goes off the side of the by-pass. He stated there are places where the drop is 100 feet or more and we currently do not have the equipment to service a situation like that. He stated that we currently have one stokes basket and we will need one more. He said we should consider getting 2 winches (1 for Engine #1 and 1 for Rescue #2) along with receivers to be mounted on all sides of the apparatus. He estimated the cost to be about \$2,000 - \$2,500 for this equipment. There was discussion about tabling this for another month or two. John said he thought we should get this equipment now rather than waiting as our personnel can then train on using it in the event it is needed. He said we do not want to wait until we need it and don't have it or our people are not trained in performing this type of rescue.

John moved that we authorize Brian to purchase 2 winches, the receivers necessary to move the winches around the apparatus as needed, and 1 stokes basket not to exceed \$3,000.

Lee seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

- **Turnouts – Layne**

Layne reported that we have one firefighter whose turnout pants are torn. These pants will be expiring this year and Layne is requesting that we approve replacement of the pants. It was asked if he needed only the pants or will he need a complete turnout set. Layne reported that his turnout coat is one of the newer ones and still has 9 years remaining on its useful life.

Lee moved that we authorize the purchase of one pair of turnout pants not to exceed 1,200.

Rachel seconded the motion

The motion passed unanimously

Comments/Questions:

AJ Sturgill questioned Layne about reducing the number of meeting from weekly to every other week and questioned the impact that will have on training hours. Layne responded by saying the every other week is for training only and that fire fighters can come any time the other weeks to help with maintenance. AJ also questioned Layne about fire fighters speeding. Layne said that he will have to look into any specific incident.

Debra Shannon also expressed concern about training for the department with Layne changing the meeting nights to every other week instead of every week.

Ben 'Ronje also expressed his concern about changing the meeting nights to ever other week instead of weekly and how that will impact training.

Layne responded to them that this is not a permanent change, but being done on a trial basis.

Trecia Willis asked about who can be contacted at the fire dept. John responded that he has the non-emergency phone and will answer it when available. He also will return calls when a message is left. He said that if he cannot help them, he will get the proper party in touch with them. Trecia also asked if it was possible to have a list published of who is on the fire department. John said he will look into that.

ADJOURNED:

7:15 pm

Motion to adjourn Lee moved that we adjourn: / Second: Joe / No opposition.

Meeting minutes submitted by:

John Brandt, Secretary/Treasurer