

Fountain Lake Fire Protection District
Board of Commissioners Monthly Meeting
February 20, 2023

CALL TO ORDER:

7:03 pm

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: QUORUM PRESENT

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

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:

OTHER ATTENDEES:

Steven Burroughs (Chief), AJ Sturgill (Asst. Chief), Melissa Campbell (Capt), Ben Ronje (Lt), Lenny Breshears (Lt), Jeff Hayes, Scott Greene, Casey Clark, Krista Breshears, Zack Thomas, Oliver Walker, Lynn Price, Brian Shannon, Shawn LeBritton, Helena Newsome, and Austin Lambert

MINUTES FROM MEETING:

Prior meeting minutes:

Minutes from the January 16, 2023 meeting were reviewed.

The January 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 January.

Bank Accounts

General Account: \$20,705.48

Restricted Account: \$620.83

Financial reports are accepted by consensus.

Chief's Report (AJ):

Steven presented the January report of calls. 81 total including 4 fires (brush and structure), 66 Rescue & Emergency Medical, 1 Hazardous Condition, 4 Service Calls, 6 Good Intent Calls.

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 (Steven):

- Engine 1
 - Fittings for hose connectors for drop tanks; back ordered and we may not need them
 - Old Engine #1:
There was discussion as to what we wanted to do with the old Engine #1. There was discussion on keeping it and using it at a possible new location to prevent us from having to purchase another truck when that might happen. Also it was suggested that we had originally discussed selling this engine. After much discussion it was decided to sell the vehicle.

Motion: Lee moved that we sell the old Engine #1

Seconded by: Joe

Passed: Unanimously

- Engine 2
- Tanker 1
- Tanker 2
 - Drivers side pump is waiting on gasket to be installed.
 - Tank motor got damaged and is throwing oil. Brian is looking into what the problem is. The part came in last week, but Brian has not had a chance to do the work.
- Rescue 1
 - Alternator shorted out and burned wiring. There was a head gasket leak which caused the alternator to short out and a fire that burned the wiring. Brian Shannon estimates that it may cost \$5,000 for parts and another \$5,000 for labor to repair Rescue #1. Because of the cost to repair, Brian suggests that we retire Rescue #1 and replace it with another vehicle. Steven reported that there are Humvees available in Little Rock at Federal Surplus for \$2,500. John will check with the insurance company about coverage due to the fire.
- Rescue 2
 - Needs a 4" water control valve. It costs about \$1,500. Steven said it is not a need right now and suggested we table this until next month.
 - Sensor for digital foam system

Members of the board asked why we needed to purchase this sensor since the board had previously approved the purchase of the digital foam kit and the kit was supposed to include everything. Brian Shannon explained that he called and emailed the company from whom we purchased the kit. An initial email he received from the vendor indicated that everything was supposed to be in the kit. Later emails and telephone discussions stated that the sensor was not part of the kit.

At this point, Mr. Lynn Price, a community member, asked why were we haggling over a part for \$881 when the board approved the purchase of 4 pagers for \$2,400. He went on to say that he did not know why the board needed pagers as the calls were under the domain of the chief. Jerry Vaughn addressed Mr. Price's question by telling him that the board is over this department and has the right to know what is going on. Mr. Price again addressed the same issues and after some time, Jerry Vaughn requested Mr. Price to leave. Jerry informed Mr. Price that he had jumped the order of the agenda and requested that he leave three times before he left the meeting. Joe Turner also told Mr. Price to leave the meeting. As he was leaving the room Mr. Price stated that he will be posting about this on the community's FaceBook page.

Once Mr. Price left, there were some comments and questions from the firefighters regarding the payment for the pagers versus the use of that money for equipment. Helena Newsome in particular stood twice to ask questions to which Jerry provided answers before requesting that she sit down.

Finally, Brian Shannon was able to continue about the sensor. He informed the board that from the time the kit was ordered until it arrived, the vendor from whom we ordered the kit had been purchased by another company. He was not dealing with the same people with whom he placed the order. He said he talked to people up the chain of command to the owner of the company. When he asked for at least a discount, he was told we were getting a discount. He was told that the sensor normally sells for \$1,800 and they were selling it to us for \$881.

Motion: John moved that we purchase the sensor for \$881.00.

Seconded by: Lee

Passed: Unanimously

- Brush 1 (Forestry)
- Station 1
 - Dirt work on office side of building tabled to next month to identify location of septic tank. Tabled
 - Back door to training room the door frame is rotted out along with the door to the office. Getting a 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.
- Joe Turner had 3 loads of Citypit delivered and spread on the side opposite the Highway. 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.

Maintenance report is accepted by consensus.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Smoke Detectors – (John)**

No one else has requested a smoke detector. John reported that we still have 99 available. We will keep this on the agenda to know if anything happens.

- **Turnouts – (Steven & AJ)**

AJ reported that he now has to check on how many turnouts we will need. The cost is \$3,682 per set and turn around time is 26 weeks. \$3,682 per turnout.\$22,092 for 6 sets of turnouts.

Motion: John moves that we authorize AJ to order 6 sets of turnouts

Seconded by: Rachel

Passed: Unanimously

- **Masks for SCBAs**

Steven said that he is waiting on quotes. Tabled until the March meeting.

- **Apparatus Headsets (Steven)**

Steven said we can table this item until the March 2023 meeting

- **Land – John**

John spoke to the gentleman who owns the land. He told John that his only concern is whether he can get a tax write off. John told him that our attorney thinks it is likely he can get a tax write-off, but he should talk to his tax accountant. John texted him the information we had as to the IRS Code Section that addresses donations to government entities.

- **Delinquent Assessments – John**

John reported that he was almost finished with putting all the delinquent assessments into the database and will be soon starting to generate invoices. He estimated that he should be ready to mail them by sometime in late March or early April..

- **Carport for old Engine #1 – Steven/AJ**

Since it was decided earlier in the meeting that we will sell the old Engine #1, there is no longer any need for a carport to house this vehicle.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Printer (John)**

John presented the printer options to the board. Of the 5 options presented John recommended we purchase the Lexmark CS431. He had checked with Steve Sawyer a previous chief who works with computer equipment and he recommended we go with a Lexmark.

Motion: John moved that we purchase the Lexmark CX431 for \$649.00 plus tax.

Seconded by: Lee

Passed: Unanimously

- **Potential donation of Airport fire truck (Steven)**

Steven informed the board that the airport has a fire truck they may be willing to donate to us. Right now they are having to get their paperwork in order as they never got a title to the vehicle because it was not going to be driven on the roads.

- **Pagers (Steven)**

The pagers were discussed earlier in the meeting

- **Firehouse Subs Publicity Even (John)**

John reported that he met with the owner, John Carlton, of the local Firehouse Subs Restaurant in Hot Springs. The established a tentative date to have a public relations event at Station #1 on Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 6:00 pm. This event is to publicize the award of almost \$24,000 from Firehouse Subs to the department for the purchase of new battery powered extrication equipment.

- **Monthly Meal – John**

Put on hold until further notice from the fire fighters..

- **Questions / Comments from the floor**

Jerry asked as to how we should address Mr. Price's posts on Facebook. Jerry said that he can also ban Mr. Price from posting anything if we so desired. John Brandt stated his opinion that we should not engage in a contest on Facebook. He feels we should just ignore it for the time being. Also, John stated if we ban him from posting anything, then it appears we are trying to hide something.

ADJOURNED:

7:43 pm

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

Meeting minutes submitted by:

John Brandt, Secretary/Treasurer