

The Board of: Riceville Volunteer Fire Department
Met at: 7:00PM
On: Monday, October 14, 2024
For: Regular Board Meeting
Moderator: Dan Little (Chairperson)
Members Present: Lee Barrett, Kent Creasman, Kathy Higdon, Merel Johnson, Lisa McCallister, Carla McLendon and Steve Wickham
Not Present: Butch Laughter (Medical)
Guest(s):

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** Dan Little called the meeting to order at 7:29PM.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes for the September 16 Regular and Executive Session meetings were not available due to the loss of communications and electricity as a result of Hurricane Helene. These minutes will be reviewed at the November Regular Meeting of the Board.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** Due to the shortened time between the September and October meetings, financial reports are not yet finalized. These reports will be reviewed at the November Regular Meeting of the Board. Plans are for the results of the Annual Audit to be presented at November's meeting as well.
4. **Fire Chief's Report:** The monthly Chief's, Training and FLSE Reports were not available due to the loss of communications and electricity as a result of Hurricane Helene.
5. **Old Business:**
 - A. **Administrative Policies Review Committee** – As Chair, Kent Creasman relayed the Committee was unable to meet due to Hurricane Helene. This topic will be tabled until the November Regular Meeting of the Board.
 - B. **Community Room Use Committee** – As Chair, Lee Barrett relayed it is the recommendation of the Committee that the Community Center be shut down to the Community until such time as all clean up and repairs can be made; we're through this event; and we're sure it is safe for the public to come and use that facility (indefinitely at this time). Kent Creasman made a motion to go with the Committee's recommendation. Merel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. Dan Little relayed damage to the Community Center and Kitchen was extensive. The floors contain asbestos, requiring specialized cleaning/repair.
 - C. **1110 Review Committee** – Dan Little relayed this Committee has not met yet because Ambulance 1120 has not been placed in service, pending completion of a few items such as installation of a safety switch and programming of the radios. Chief Kelly shared Life Line (builders of Ambulance 1120) and Southeastern Specialty Vehicles have asked the Department for the vehicle to be included in their 2025 calendar.

6. New Business:

Election of Board Officers - Dan Little relayed election needed to take place for the Officer positions of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. Lee Barrett made a motion to keep the Board Officers as currently assigned - Dan Little as Chairperson, Kent Creasman Vice Chairperson, Lisa McCallister Treasurer and Carla McLendon Secretary. Merel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. Announcements:

A. Halloween Event Update – Due to damages caused by Hurricane Helene, Chief Kelly relayed it would not be possible to hold a Halloween Event as in years past. The Department has been offered a lot of candy, and staff will go into the community with apparatus and distribute. Some of the candy will be given to local churches conducting trunk-or-treat events.

B. Next Regular Meeting - Dan Little announced the next Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, November 18, 2024 at 6:30PM.

C. Tanker Donation – Chief Kelly relayed members from a Volunteer Fire Department in Lusk, Texas, arrived on site last Thursday. They presented the Department with a donation of a 3,000 gallon tanker, complete with a signed title. Chief Kelly noted the importance of properly thanking that Department in the near future for such a phenomenal gift. Lisa McCallister relayed the Board would like the names of all Agencies/Departments who provided assistance/support, so they can be properly thanked as well.

8. Public Comment: The meeting was opened for public comment after Lee Barrett read the associated guidelines. Several community members (Terry Duckworth, Christopher Keiser and Bradley Collins) expressed their gratitude to the Department employees and volunteers for both their work during the recent disaster, as well as year round. Frances Schaffer expressed her gratitude to the Department and to the Board for the work they do. Merel Johnson acknowledged community members for clearing down trees from the roadways so first responders could get to those in need of help. Chief Kelly acknowledged and thanked the Volunteers who reported on site as soon as possible, resulting in the Department not missing any calls for assistance. He also recognized and thanked a Mutual Aid Response Team from Lexington, North Carolina, who was on site assisting. Dan Little acknowledged community members for their care and support of each other and of the Department.

9. Move to Executive Session: Kent Creasman made a motion to move to Executive Session for personnel matters at 8:05PM. Merel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:11PM.

10. Personnel Matters: Kent Creasman made a motion to approve the personnel matter discussed during Executive Session. Merel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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11. Adjournment: Lisa McCallister made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:12PM. Merel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Note: Chairman Dan Little only votes in the event of a tie.