

The Board of: Riceville Volunteer Fire Department
Met at: 7:00PM
On: Monday, October 11, 2021
For: Annual Board and Members Meeting
Moderator: Mark Curran (Chairperson)
Members Present: Paul Campbell, Mark Dillingham, Judy Dillingham, Dan Friday, Lisa McCallister, Carla McLendon and Dean Reed

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** Mark Curran called the meeting to order after reminding anyone who intended to vote to register at one of the two tables at the back of the room.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Mark Dillingham read the minutes from the 2020 Annual Meeting and made a motion to accept the minutes. Carla McLendon seconded. The motion was accepted via unanimous voice vote.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Dover Dillingham relayed major expenses include one more payment on the ambulance (\$47,000); approximately one and a half payments on Engine 11 (\$86,500). We have an Operating Reserve Fund balance of \$150,000; a Vehicle Fund balance of \$75,000; a Building Fund balance of \$112,000; a little over \$1.2 million in the bank; and short and long-term liabilities of \$273,907. We are steadily climbing out of debt; were able to collect our taxes; and are in good financial standing. A copy of the balance sheet is available upon request.

4. **Fire Chief's Report:** Copies of the Chief's report are available as part of the Annual Report handout.

5. **Elections:** Mark Curran relayed that each candidate would be given two minutes to introduce themselves. Kathy Higdon is ill and not able to attend, so Mark Dillingham will read her bio. Candidates Sam Allison and William (Bill) Edge withdrew today, so their names are not on the ballot. Mark Dillingham read the bio provided by Kathy Higdon. Lisa McCallister, Manda Banks, Steven Lawrence and Mark Curran each addressed the members, providing a brief bio.

Mark Curran announced that registration is closed and once ballots are collected, the votes would be read aloud and tallied.

Once all ballots were collected, Paul Campbell introduced himself and announced he would be calling out the votes; Mark Dillingham and Carla McLendon would verify each ballot; and Chief Kelly would tally the votes on the dry-erase board. Paul Campbell removed the security seal from the lock box and began to read the votes.

After all votes had been read and while the votes were being tallied, Mark Curran thanked Terry and Jan Duckworth and Judy Bias for assisting with the voter registration process. He thanked everyone for coming out tonight.

The results of the tally were:

Manda Banks - 51
Mark Curran - 76

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Kathy Higdon – 78

Steven Lawrence - 63

Lisa McCallister - 76

Paul Campbell asked if there were any objections to the count as announced. Hearing none, he made a motion to accept the tally. Dean Reed seconded, and the motion carried via voice vote.

6. Old Business: There was no Old Business to come before the Corporation.

7. New Business: There was no New Business to come before the Corporation.

8. Public Comment: Mark Curran opened the meeting to public comment. Charlie Watson asked for clarification on last year's Annual Meeting. Specifically, was the meeting announcement published in the newspaper, and how did the three Board members get elected?

Mark Dillingham responded that only three candidates submitted an application by the deadline last year. As all three were current Board members, there was a vote by acclamation for them to retain their seats.

Lisa McCallister relayed she had a copy of last year's announcement from the Asheville Citizen-Times. The wording is almost identical to this year's announcement and reportedly ran October 1 through 3, 2020.

Mr. Watson recommended future announcements note that voting is for three members rather than three new members, as he feels the word new is misleading. Mark Curran said this suggestion would be taken into consideration.

9. Adjournment:

There being no further business/public comment, Mark Curran called for a motion to adjourn. Lisa McCallister made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded (Dean Reed) and carried via voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:24PM.