

The Board of: Riceville Volunteer Fire Department
Met at: 6:30PM
On: Monday, May 15, 2023
For: Regular Board Meeting
Moderator: Mark Curran (Chairperson)
Members Present: Lee Barrett, Kent Creasman, Dan Friday, Kathy Higdon, Dan Little, Lisa McCallister and Carla McLendon
Not Present: Judy Dillingham
Guest(s): Taylor Jones, Buncombe County EMS Director

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** Mark Curran called the meeting to order at 6:32PM.

2. **Announcements:** Dan Friday announced a GoFundMe account has been set up and a benefit will be held for Sandra McPeters. Reverend Terry Duckworth added the benefit will be held at Bethel United Methodist Church on June 3 from 12N to 5:00PM.

Chief Kelly introduced Buncombe County EMS Director Taylor Jones, who relayed he likes to build relationships and engage with the community by attending such meetings. Chief Kelly thanked Mr. Jones for facilitating the Department receives (through County funds) an MCT computer for the new ambulance.

3. **Board Member Removal:** Kent Creasman made a motion for the removal of Dan Friday, as he doesn't believe his views correspond with what is in the best interest of the Department, employees, volunteers, Chief and members. Lee Barrett seconded the motion, introducing a concern that at least one other person was present with Mr. Friday as he participated remotely in an Executive Session meeting on May 1. After much discussion and referring to the Bylaws, Mark Curran called for a vote. All Board members voted Yes, with the exception of Dan Friday and Kathy Higdon, who voted No. The motion carried.

4. **Approval of Minutes:** Draft minutes for the April 17 Regular and Executive Session meetings were emailed to the Board on May 8. Dan Little made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Lisa McCallister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. **Treasurer's Report:** Financial reports for the month ending April 2023 were emailed to the Board on May 10. Katie Payne relayed there was a substantial increase in EMS income, as we received a large Medicare payment for prior trips. In response to a question from Lee Barrett, Katie clarified the -\$21,500 Net Income figure on the Profit & Loss Budget Performance sheet represents unbudgeted funds. Lee Barrett made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Reports. Kent Creasman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

6. **Fire Chief's Report:** The monthly Chief's and Training Reports were emailed to the Board on May 10, with a hardcopy provided tonight. Division Chief McEntire provided an overview of the Training Report, to include total training hours for January 1 through April 30, 2023 (1,025.5); change in AB Tech EMS CE training dates from May 15, 16 and 18 to next week; and training opportunities/completions in regard to Fire/Rescue.

RVFD Regular Board Meeting (May 15, 2023)

The Department is using an online method from the National Fire Academy and FEMA to provide another means for training to be obtained.

Chief Kelly provided the Fire Life Safety Event (FLSE) Report, which included a Blood Drive in coordination with The Blood Connection on Saturday, April 28; a car seat display by Safe Kids, demonstrating the effect of the temperature on a car seat; and a smoke alarm event.

Chief Kelly provided an overview of his report, noting Total Calls were down in April and the addition of a new category (Overdose). Of the Over-Lapping Incidents (31/27%), 15 were In District and 16 were Out-of-District. At 8:40 (Fire) and 9:21 (EMS), the Average Response Time (ART) remained under the Department's benchmark of 10 minutes.

One New Volunteer application was received, with that person currently undergoing a background check. Of the two New Staff applications received (one Intermediate and one Part-Time Paramedic), one is on board, and the second is waiting scheduling. Ambulance 1110 is down, with repair pending receipt of proprietary parts.

7. Old Business:

A. Budget Amendment – as mentioned during last month's meeting, Vehicle Repair and Maintenance is over 90%. Based on known pending charges and projected expenses, a budget amendment is requested to move \$12,000 from Operating Reserve (Line 6500) to Vehicle Expenses (Line 5400). Lisa McCallister made a motion to approve this request. Dan Little seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

B. Budget Status Update – Katie Payne reported she attended a meeting with the County Commissioners last Tuesday. Five Departments moved forward with their requests, with all echoing the same needs (increase pay for employees, plan for an ambulance replacement and plan for a new building). The final budget is likely to be approved at the end of June.

C. Bid Award Update – Katie Payne relayed payment was received from the company, has been deposited and cleared. The Department is waiting to hear from the company as to when they are going to schedule pick up of the truck (Ambulance 1120).

D. Ambulance Purchase Update – Chief Kelly called Mr. Hadley (vendor representative) today, but he was in a meeting. We are still scheduled to get a 2023 chassis (of the 50 allocated), just don't know when. EMS Director Jones reiterated there is a nationwide issue with obtaining any chassis (2WD or 4WD), with several national associations working on the situation. Mr. Jones noted the County is still awaiting receipt of seven ambulances ordered last June with a 100-day delivery timeframe.

8. New Business:

Extrication Tool Set – A request was made of the Board to use approved budgeted funds (\$25,000 in the 22-23 budget; \$25,000 in the 23-24 budget; Line 6123) to purchase an Extrication Tool Set. The current extrication tool is over 20 years old. Of the three quotes received, Division Chief McEntire and other Officers recommend the

RVFD Regular Board Meeting (May 15, 2023)

Hurst product, which is also the least expensive and under budget at \$44,700. Another Department is interested in the old tool, offering to pay fair market value. Dan Little made a motion to accept the bid from Hurst. Kent Creasman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

9. Announcements: Mark Curran announced the next Regular Meeting of the Board will be held on Monday, June 19, 2023 at 6:30PM.

10. Public Comment: Madeline Dillingham asked the Board to consider tweaking the agenda on those nights when issues that directly affect the community (i.e., a tax increase) are to be discussed. With Public Comment at the end of the meeting, the community does not have an opportunity to ask questions or make comments before a decision is made. She also said it would be nice to know when such issues are going to be discussed. EMS Director Jones and Katie Payne both commented budget discussion at the County and Department level occurs about the same time annually, which is March/April. Lisa McCallister suggested holding a Work Session where members of the community could come and ask questions about the budget.

Mrs. Dillingham also had a personal request which she had already spoken with Chief Kelly about, and that is for her family to be notified should staff see any of their cattle in the road or if a portion of their fence is affected by an accident or downed tree with which the Department is assisting. She asked notification be made regardless of the time of day or night.

11. Adjournment: Dan Little made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34PM. Lisa McCallister seconded the motion, which carried unanimously. The Board did not adjourn to Executive Session, as there was no business necessitating this action.