

The Board of: Riceville Volunteer Fire Department
Met at: 6:30PM
On: Monday, October 18, 2021
For: Regular Board Meeting
Moderator: Mark Curran (Chairperson)
Members Present: Paul Campbell, Mark Dillingham, Judy Dillingham, Dan Friday, Kathy Higdon (via cell phone), Lisa McCallister, Carla McLendon and Dean Reed

1. **Call the Meeting to Order:** Mark Curran called the meeting to order at 6:37PM.

2. **Approval of Minutes:** Dan Friday made a motion to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting held on September 21 with the first eight minutes removed. Mark Curran seconded the motion, which carried, with two opposed (Lisa McCallister and Carla McLendon).

Mark Dillingham made a motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Board and Executive Session meetings held on September 9. Mark Curran seconded the motion, which carried with one opposed (Lisa McCallister).

Judy Dillingham made a motion to accept the minutes of the Emergency Meeting held on September 30. Mark Curran seconded the motion, which carried with one opposed (Lisa McCallister) and one abstained (Mark Dillingham).

One question remains regarding the minutes of the August 16th Executive Session meeting. These minutes will be discussed during tonight's Executive Session. The minutes of the August 16th Regular Meeting were previously approved.

3. **Treasurer's Report:** Per Katie Payne, there is nothing new since the report provided at the Annual Meeting last week. Mark Dillingham commented we should be tracking several items at 25% and noted that Electric (Line Item 53041) is at 40%; Telephone Internet (Line Item 53044) is at 36%; and Gasoline (Line Item 5402) is at 32%. Staff need to keep an eye on these, and it may be necessary to move some funds due to the increased price of gasoline. There are a few items tracking at a much higher percentage, but these are annual payments, so that is understandable.

Dan Friday made a motion to accept the financial reports. Carla McLendon seconded the motion, which carried with one abstained (Kathy Higdon).

4. **Fire Chief's Report:** Please see the handout included as part of the agenda packet.

5. **Old Business:**

A. Dorm Remodel – Mark Dillingham is working on a document outlining the project needs. The plan is to send the document to the Board for review prior to it being sent to the three contractors from whom bids were previously received. Once the new bids are received from the contractors, they will be emailed to the Board members. The Board had previously agreed to discuss this issue via email.

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B. Concrete Pad – An invoice for \$36,702 has been received from Countryside Landscaping, with half the total required in advance. This total is within the “up to \$38,000” approved for this project by the Board in the September 9th Regular meeting. Chief Kelly has met with the Contractor (Travis), and there is a need to begin the project soon. Dan Friday will get current liability insurance information to Chief Kelly, who will then give the in-advance payment check to the Contractor.

C. Septic Tank – Chief Kelly contacted five companies about decommissioning the tank, to include pumping, crushing lid and filling with dirt. (There is dirt on the property that can be used to fill the tank.) One responded with a bid of approximately \$5,000; two others are booked until 2022. The pipe has been located coming out of the house, which should facilitate determination of the tank location.

Chief Kelly was asked to follow up with Able Septic about having the tank pumped. He was also asked to speak with the new owner of the property and relay the work that is being planned. If the tank is being used, there is a need to coordinate pumping and back filling the tank.

Chief Kelly and a few Board members will pursue obtaining bids for this work.

D. Meeting Attendance – During a recent meeting, a request was made to pursue remote means of participating in Board meetings. Carla McLendon offered to follow up with Katie Payne about our options. Katie provided a response and Carla requested to send this information to Board members via email. The Board agreed to this request.

6. New Business:

Ambulance Committee – Karla Moore relayed the Committee has not held any more meetings. An email was received from Chief Kelly last week about someone who provided specs, but the Committee has not met to discuss it. The Committee is one person short, and chassis are still non-existent. Currently and realistically, it is about a year out before you can get a truck. Karla asked if the Board has a deadline for when a decision needs to be made, and Mark Curran said just as soon as possible. Chief Kelly will get with the Committee Chairperson about scheduling the next meeting.

7. Election of Officers: The Board elected Officers as follows:

(1) Chairperson – the nomination of Mark Curran by Dean Reed was seconded by Paul Campbell. The vote was unanimous. The Board was reminded that when there are no other nominations (running unopposed), the action is approved by acclamation.

(2) Vice Chairperson – the nomination of Mark Dillingham by Judy Dillingham was seconded by Dan Friday. The nomination of Dean Reed by Lisa McCallister was seconded by Carla McLendon. Mark Dillingham was elected by a vote of four to three, with two Board members abstaining (Mark Curran and Paul Campbell).

(3) Secretary – Dan Friday asked not to be considered due to the number of years he has served in this capacity. Mark Curran thanked him for all of his hard work.

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The nomination of Carla McLendon by Dean Reed was seconded by Dan Friday. There were no other nominations, so this action was approved by acclamation.

(4) Treasurer – the nomination of Lisa McCallister by Dean Reed was seconded by Carla McLendon. The nomination of Dover Dillingham by Mark Dillingham was seconded by Judy Dillingham. Dan Friday clarified that anyone can be appointed by the Board as Treasurer. If that person is not a Board member, he/she serves in a non-voting capacity. Lisa McCallister was elected by a vote of five to four.

Dean Reed asked if an audit should be conducted between outgoing and incoming Treasurers for the protection of both persons. Katie Payne responded that our Auditors do not stop at June 30. They audit up through the last day they work, and they are not done yet. The Auditors will present their report at the November Board meeting.

8. Public Comment: The meeting was opened for public comment. Mary Brown asked how a person could be appointed to a position if they currently have a complaint lodged against them. She also asked how long it would take until the complaint was investigated. Mark Curran responded that a person could remain in a position until an investigation had been done. He said the Board would be discussing how to address the multiple complaints we have in hand during Executive Session. He asked for everyone's patience during the process.

9. Adjournment to Executive Session: Dan Friday made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:30PM. Carla McLendon seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved. The Board returned from Executive Session at 8:38PM and moved back into the Regular meeting.

10. Old Business Resumed:

A. Approval of Minutes: Judy Dillingham made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 16th Executive Session meeting as written. Mark Curran seconded, and the motion carried.

B. Personnel Complaints: Dan Friday made a motion to engage Keith Bost and MSFES to investigate all of the outstanding allegations/complaints/letters, with the condition that the timeline and cost are first discussed with the entire Board via email. Kathy Higdon seconded the motion, which carried with none opposed.

11. Adjournment: Dan Friday made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:44PM. Mark Curran seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.