

Riceville Volunteer Fire Department

February 18th 2019

Minutes

BOD Members present: Judy Dillingham, Dan Friday, Carla McLendon, Dean Reed, Lisa McCallister, Danny Arnold, Dereck Lindsey, Mark Dillingham, Chief John Coffey, Katie and Dover Dillingham.

Judy calls meeting to order at 6:37pm.

Judy Asks if everyone got the minutes of the last meeting sent to them.

Carla did not get them.

Dan F. Reads the January minutes

Lisa M. Makes a motion to approve the minutes as read.

Dean R. seconds,

Voice vote unanimous

Motion Passes.

Judy asks for the treasures report.

Dover gives the treasures report

Danny A. Asks for clarification about the two operating accounts.

Katie says that the one operating account is being phased out it was the one compromised.

Judy Thanks Dover.

Judy asks for Chiefs report.

John gives the chiefs report.

Average response time has gotten better again.

Community programs still doing well

Farmers market has had a rough start with the flu epidemic.

Still looking for an eagle scout to help make the space out back more inviting for community use.

The retired librarians that come to the coffee social would like to place a community box type library outside. (Take a book leave a book type).

Roof compensation from the insurance company is around \$3000.00

Janni Aquire to be recognized for exceptional service due to his actions while off duty with care taker and client.

Dean Reed extends the thanks of the board to Janni

Photo fund raiser \$8k so far checks still coming in for the Fire Fighters fund.

Social media is getting better but still has a way to go.

Budget is due in about three weeks

Amanda Edwards to come on a ride along with Chief Coffey to get a better understanding of what we do.

County vehicles are a slim chance.

Duke energy and county LED program is almost complete only a few exterior lights still to be done.

We are still looking at the possibility of leasing vehicles.

We are still waiting on word from a grant for turnout gear.

Our Air bottles have all been tested they are still good for the next 5 years. After that they will need to be replaced. We are going to buy five per year.

Dean R. asks how much does a bottle cost.

\$750.00

Danny A. asks about the life span of a bottle.

15 years

Dean R. who do we get the bottles from.

County policy is to put it out for bid and the lowest bidder gets the contract. Must be compatible with the Sky air pack which is used county wide.

Ambulance 1110 is still having recall work done.

Board member asks about an anticipated return time.

Hopefully this week

We Fixed the bumper on the Skyland unit we where borrowing it was broken before we got it.

1120 is being evaluated by CAT

Dean R. has the Fire engine been repaired.

Yes with the exception of the ambulances everything is back in service.
Putting everything on a maintenance schedule.

Commissioner Edwards invited John to the last commissioners meeting. They voted 4 to 3 of extending a franchise opportunity to Medic. That may allow other for profit companies to come and bid for contracts to provide EMS and Fire protection. From the report by Keith Bost the county does not need this. It may impact federal grants for us. Last year's contract stated that Medic could choose to accept a call or not.

Discussion

Dan F. Brownie Newman does not seem to be in favor of this contract.

John C. Amanda Edwards does not seem to be in favor of this contract.

Discussion:

Medic told the commissioners they had 8 ambulances they only have 7 registered in NC. Many of their vehicles are of a considerable age.

The county is willing to work with Riceville citizens on their billing.

Lee Barrett. Would like to know if a Medic ambulance would be allowed to operate in our district.

John C. The only time Medic would come in is if we are on another call.

Dan F. I would think that if Medic is driving up the road and they are closer they would get the call.

John C. They would not be permitted to jump a call.

Discussion.

Danny A. What is the impact to Riceville Fire?

Dan F. Lost revenue

Dereck L. It could be like Pandora's Box once you let one for profit company into your market you would have a hard time justifying keeping out another like AMI or Rural Metro.

Discussion

Lee Barrett asks what can the public do. The commissioners can't pick a good garbage company to pick up my garbage how can they be trusted to pick an EMS company.

John C. Amanda Edwards has asked people to contact her with their concerns.
Amanda.Edwards@buncombecounty.org

Discussion

Lee Barrett: this is something you should put on your facebook page.

Dan F. are we allowed to?

John C. we need to be careful with our 5013C

Danny A. we can let the community know about an issue.

Mark D. Mike Fryer is the one pushing this. It's his buddy Kermit that will benefit. It's also Pressley and Belcher

Judy D. and Al Whitesides was the fourth vote.

Dan F. we need Al Whitesides to flip his vote.

Discussion about duty to act and about bonded and certified employees the Medic contract would be a departure from the other contracts in the county.

Discussion

Community member asks: Is this a closed bid or could the Fire Department put in a bid as well.

John C. We would have to back that bid up with equipment and man power which currently we do not have.

Discussion about Medic running in other counties besides Buncombe.

Dean R. asks didn't they deliver a baby in Henderson county.

Mark D. that baby was delivered by the father before anyone got there to help. Skyland was first on the scene. Then Medic transported the mother and child to the hospital.

Discussion on jurisdiction.

Lee Barrett; If the county offers them a different contract than the one they offer you could you talk to your attorney and ask if that is some kind of discrimination.

Good thought.

Dean R. this all goes back to Amboy and Racing

John C I'm not worried about Medic. I'm worried about the bigger picture all of the departments with the exception of the municipal departments could get out bid by rural metro. We are 5013C that contract with the county for services.

Dan F. could we use the public comment at the next county meeting to address this.

5013C discussion on making a statement to the county and talking to the attorney.

Mark D. did you ever get any more info on the complaint that Fryar mentioned at the last meeting about our sirens on Riceville Rd.

John C. yes it was a valid complaint but we are not allowed to run without sirens so we can't do anything about it.

Dean R. I hear them from both sides and I do not mind.

John C. the first call went to Vehan. He asked them to contact me. They did not, they then called Fryar. Fryar then called me and asked me to break the law. I won't do that. So that's the end of that.

Community member asks if the county commissioners would retaliate if Riceville is the only one to stand up and speak out about this matter.

John C. Oh Sure, Mike Fryer has been very aggressive with me on this issue.

Discussion about retribution Lee Barrett

Judy D. would it be possible to coordinate with all of the willing Fire Departments.

In audible conversation

Currently a complaint at a nursing home to the medical director about Medic stalling on a critical call needing a medical necessity form before they would transport the patient.

Judy D. one more question about the little library stand do you have a cost on that?

John C. I was going to build it free of charge.

Judy Good I like the Idea.

Lee Barrett Do we have the staff to man both ambulances 24/7

John C. no

Lee Barrett What do we need to do that.

John C. \$2000 a month for pay

Lee That would keep Medic out of the district.

John C. yes but your fire tax would go up.

Lee I don't have a problem with that it's the only tax I don't mind paying.

Discussion about needing 10 people on staff.

Discussion about the community being behind the Department.

Judy D. Thank you John.

Danny A. quick question about leasing what is available.

John C. the tac truck and ambulances.

Danny personal turnout gear how much is that

John C. 5K per set

John C. Copies of the financials are available any time but I make sure to have copies at the coffee social so stop by and read the financials. Our goal is to be more transparent to the community.

Mark D. you have enough for 5 sets this year.

John C. Yes that's correct. Hopefully we will get that grant.

Discussion

John C. Pay raises and promotions are happening this week. Some employees are going above and beyond.

Danny A. Part time and Full time

John Full time only.

Judy D. when should we start talking about some fund raising to help the department.

John C. I would like some board members to come to the next auxiliary meeting.

Danny A. let us know

Dean R. says Londa just needs us to tell her what we need for the memorial.

Judy D. When do they meet?

John C. usually the last Tuesday of the month. Moved to Feb25th 7pm

All of our meetings are open to everyone.

That's the chief report

Dover D. John won't take credit for it but he has brought our propane cost form 2.40/gal to 1.35/gal from Blossomans.

Judy D. so for old business we do have a committee and Mark D. and Mark C. are looking at the pay and are going to make recommendations to the board.

Judy D. for new business it has been discussed about the Medic issue.

Judy D. we are going to need to go into executive session for a few minutes. But let's do public comment first.

Lisa M. On new business can we talk about forming some smaller committees one on pay one on fund raising, Finance. Committees are there to make proposals not decisions.

Dean R. which one do you want to be on

Lisa M. I think fund raising

Judy D. Alrighty then. I would suggest a social media committee and I know just the person for it.

Inaudible conversation.

Terry Duckworth would like to thank John C. for all he is doing in the community and in the fire house he has done a great job and moral is better than it has been in a long time everything he is hearing is positive. The employees feel that they have a chief they can talk to who will listen to their concerns.

Judy D. we now have to move to executive session. 7:55

We come back from executive session Dereck makes a motion to adjourn

Mark D. Second

Voice vote unanimous.

We adjourn 8:53