

Riceville Volunteer Fire Department

March 16th 2020

Minutes

BOD Members present: Judy Dillingham, Dan Friday, Carla McLendon, Dean Reed, Lisa McCallister, Mark Dillingham, Mark Curran, Katie Payne, and Dover Dillingham.

Chief John Coffey is absent from the meeting

Under these extreme circumstances the fire house and community hall are closed to the public.

Judy D. calls the meeting to order at 6:42pm She thanks Carla M. for doing such a great job on them.

Dean R Makes a motion to accept the minutes as sent.

Lisa M. seconds

Voice vote unanimous

Judy D. asks Dover D. for the treasures report.

Dover gives the report mentioning that Katie P. had gotten the tax we had paid on gas back from the state but was still working on 2016.

Katie P. describes the work with the state to get this reimbursement.

Dean R. asks where we get our tires from and explains that we probably qualify for state contract pricing. Katie P. says that she thinks we are being given the state rate.

Dover says that the checks for the roof didn't get deposited to First Bank as they should have. John has not deposited the checks. We are spending a lot of money on regular scheduled maintenance for the trucks. We have plenty of money right now.

Lisa M. asks about the insurance and the fixing of the roof

Mark D. states that we are on check number three that a check has sat on Johns desk for 120 days we needed to have the insurance company write us a new check. The third check Katie P. got when she was working on the thing with the bank and deposited it. The Chief needs \$4k to pay to finish the roof. He should tell us where he wants to pull that money from in the budget.

Dover D. has a few more things. The Bank is going to give us a special machine that john just needs to run the check through and they will be deposited so there will be no excuse to not deposit those checks. John C. has over \$12k in checks from the fundraiser last fall that still have not been deposited. The Bank also says that they will loan us money if we need it. Also, if we set up a CD like for a building fund or truck fund. then we can borrow against it. They would really like to work with us.

Mark C. asks if there is anything we could refinance if we need to borrow money.

Kattie P. says that the building loan was actually a loan on one of the trucks because the interest was lower for a truck loan over a building loan. It is free and clear.

Mark C. what do we still owe money on

Kattie P. the ambulance and the newest fire truck.

Mark C. how much is the ambulance

Kattie P. \$46k per year

Mark C. \$46K per year for the ambulance

Kattie P. yea it was \$221K

Mark C. at what interest rate

Kattie P. 2.25

Mark C. can we get it any lower than that

Dover D. I don't think they would go lower than that

Kattie P. In the past local government has been our go to but these days first bank seems they could beat them. I think it would be worth looking at fees and the like to make sure they are comparable or if they are better.

Dover D. concurs

Mark C application fees and the like.

Dean R. how long are they financed for

Kattie P. 5 years on the ambulance 7 years on the fire truck

Mark D. The first ambulance before it was wrecked it wasn't that much money. We had to money with it once we got it fixed.

Mark C. did we build this or buy it.

Mark D. we bought it

Dover D. and the bad thing it was used it was a demo. Then they wrecked it and we had to get it fixed again. That was the past its over

Judy R. it was a demo and more money

Dean R. less ambulance more money. And I still say that that wrecked ambulance is being run in Catawba County.

Dover D. I'm sure it is.

More talk about the old totaled ambulance.

Mark D is aggravated about the roof not being fixed because the damage to the inside may or may not have given us any problems if the roof had been fixed when the first check went out. It is a possibility

Dean R. it is a probability.

Lisa M. the first check that was hail damage form months back.

Mark D. when he first started talking to us about it he got an insurance check real quick. He went back to the folks who where fixing the roof and he found out he was going to need more money. So I don't know what he was thinking he should have just deposited it. Then have them cut another check for the difference. Anyway, that is what aggravates me because I feel like that could have been prevented. John doesn't see that. That's problem number one, Problem number two is what I'm going to ask Kattie now. Have we been reimbursed for our deployment down east?

Kattie P. No

Mark D. That's Federal money we are supposed to be reimbursed for. Do you know when that was.

Kattie P. September, I think.

Mark D. then we should have already gotten that money.

Kattie P. the paperwork had to go to the county and the county had to submit it as a whole.

Dean R. are we the ones holding up the rest of the county or is some one else holding it up.

Kattie P. I have submitted the stuff

Judy D. you had submitted it

Kattie P. to John He has been in communication with the planner ????????

Mark D. yea I know who you are talking about.

Kattie P. she is the one who is filling it all together. Angie Leslie

Mark C. the states paying that because you only have so long to do that or it's gone.

Mark D. I'm pretty sure she has given him some of the paperwork back and he needs to correct it.

Lisa or Judy? How much are we talking about ball park

Kattie P. \$5k It wasn't a whole lot

A BOD member states Its still something

Mark C. want's to go back to discuss the roof checks

Kattie P. I was thinking that he thought the work had to be done before he could secure the work but the checks were made out to us so we should have deposited the checks.

Mark C. what part of that did he mis

Mark D. I think Kattie and Dover have tried to impress on him that when a check comes in he has two or three days to deposit it. There is no reason for it to sit on your desk forever. If you have a construction question my god you have a contractor on your board give him a call.

Kattie P. interjects that during the fire fighter fundraiser she put them on every other week deposit schedule because of the sheer number of checks it is easier for the bank.

Mark C. this is three months.

Dean R. And after in the past checks were found in a desk drawer there is no excuse for that.

Dover D. there will be no excuse after they bring the machine out

Kattie P. John should have an answer as to why it wasn't deposited. Because I don't know

Lisa M. its hard to see an acceptable explanation.

Judy D. I believe that's what we are saying.

Mark D. The frustrating thing is that he isn't here tonight. He is so far behind his head is about to go under water.

Kattie P. we are still in the treasures report do we want to talk budget amendments here or do we want to wait until new business.

Mark D. I have seen them and I can vote on them if there are no changes.

Kattie P. I haven't changed anything to the budget amendments.

Mark D. then I can vote on them.

Mark D. makes a motion to accept budget amendment as sent by email.

Kattie P. the second one was for the audit fees I have gone back to them and asked them that we need a price up front for next year. I know they do that for other departments. Scott Hughes is a partner of JPS he is the one who should be giving us an answer.

Discussion about JPS

Dan F. we have a motion on the floor

Judy D. has it been seconded

Dan F. seconds

Voice vote unanimous.

Kattie P. so these amendments will go into next month's budget.

Lisa M. I had a question all of the ones that were highlighted are over this doesn't address them all.

Kattie P. Yes

Lisa M. when are you going to address them, and why did you pick just these today

Kattie P. these were major one's items over \$10K so I can do amendments for all of them but the bottom line is not affected.

Lisa M. there is one for the building

Kattie P. Ok so that is the extra building payment we made it was not budgeted for it was on next years budget in July so that is two building payments in order to pay it off early. The other was legal fees I will need some direction on what to budget for next year's legal fees.

Dean R. what kind of retainer do we have with him.

Kattie P. he does not require a retainer.

Judy D. just an hourly rate then.

Dan F. why don't we cut what we paid him last year and hopefully that's all we will need. It's a shot in the dark

Judy D. and last year was pretty hectic.

Kattie P. says that last year it was only \$2400.00 it's not really terrible

Judy D. its hard to say

Dan F. What was budgeted and what was paid

Kattie P. \$2k was budgeted and \$2400.00 was paid

Dan F. I thought it was higher than that

Dean R. yea we kind of backed off of that.

Kattie P. the only other was information tec. It was a shot in the dark we tried to separate office supplies with tec. The total office line item is well in range but the information tec. is not so we will adjust that this year. How about 990 is that new business.

Mark D. we can discuss it.

Dean R. what is it

Kattie P. it's our tax return I can make copies and give them to you so we can vote on it next month.

Mark D. Do you know about the budget he was going to give us it tonight? The county will need it at the end of April

Katie P. the budget will not be presented tonight. I guess it will be presented at the next meeting.

Judy D. but then we have to vote on it.

Dan F. We need to ask John to email it to us so that we can see it before we vote on it.

Judy D. 10 days

Kattie P. part of that is the county has not given us our numbers yet.

Dean R. we don't have them

Kattie P. he should base it off of last year's numbers. So, when we get the actual, we can adjust it.

Kattie P. discusses her master's program and how we should build a rainy-day fund. The county manager wants to see us have a fund that we can operate with that fund for a time.

General discussion about Kattie's project

Kattie would like suggestions of where to put funds to build rainy day fund or building fund/ truck fund and the like

Dan F. I would like to get to the point where we have at least 10% of our budget in a rainy-day fund. Bare minimum

Dean R. mentions that with this virus we can't count on our sales tax.

Mark C. the county manager wants us to get that surplus in place.

General discussion on how to gain this surplus that we should have.

General discussion on the possible impact of Corvid-19 on next year's budget.

Dover has one last thing to add if we can get the employees direct deposit to the bank two days sooner the bank will charge us less for the checks we write.

Kattie P. yes, the employees direct deposit if we can get the pay role to the bank on Wednesday instead of on Friday, they will charge us less for the checks.

Mark C. then all employees would need to set up direct deposit.

Kattie P. All of the employees already have direct deposit

Judy D. how much are we talking about

Kattie P. about \$75.00 per month. About \$900.00 per year.

General discussion on the payroll checks.

Judy thanks, Kattie and Dover. Judy mentions that we do not have a chief's report.

Judy asks if we have any old business? Judy mentions that the handbook is not completed yet.

Mark D. mentions that the 401K portion needs to be approved before Katie leaves. The resolution for the 401K needs to be approved tonight.

General discussion about the handbook and the corrections that need to be made.

Mark makes a motion to approve 401K resolution with Katies changes see resolution for wording.

Dean R. seconds

Voice vote unanimous.

Kattie P. gives the resolution to Dan F. to sign.

Judy D. makes sure that everyone knows that the BOD training has been postponed.

Judy D. asks if we have any new business

Mark D. has noticed that the concrete pad out front needs to be fixed. Mark has asked Dan F. to get some estimates.

Dan F. has contacted one person who lives in the district he looked at it and thinks that the concrete inside the building is ok he suggests replacing two of the slabs with 6 inches of 4000 psi concrete with fiber and 6 inches of compacted road bond. Dan will check with the county on whether or not we need a permit.

Dean R. asks if 6 inches is enough.

Dover D. thinks it would be if we can get a good compacted base.

General discussion about the weight of a fire truck and what is under that slab

Lisa M. would like to know what happened to the front garage door. She would like for us all to be updated about things like this.

Discussion about how the door was broken. Discussion about getting it fixed. Discussion about Fairview Door. More discussion about the concrete pad.

Judy asks if there is any other new business.

Kattie P. asks if the concrete slabs should budget into this year or next year?

Dan F. is not sure if we can anyone to do it before the end of this fiscal year.

Mark C. how much do we have in building maintenance this year.

Kattie P. says we are at 57% of the \$20K budget

Dan F. says budget \$12K and if the bids come in lower that would be great.

Discussion on concrete contractors.

We move into executive session at 7:51

come back from executive session 9:33pm

Dan F. makes a motion to adjourn

Dean R. seconds

Voice vote unanimous

Adjourn 9:34pm