

Riceville Volunteer Fire Department

May 20th 2019

Minutes

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

Judy calls meeting to order at 6:33pm.

Judy announces on behalf of the BOD to the community that we now have a long term agreement with Chief John Coffey. She hopes it will be long and fruitful and we are glad he is here to steer the ship.

Judy asks if everyone received the minutes from Dan. If so can we have a motion to accept those minutes?

Lisa McCallister makes a motion to accept as sent.

Mark D. seconds.

Voice vote unanimous

Motion Passes.

Judy tells everyone that Dover is not here tonight so Mark D. will read the treasures report.

Mark D. gives the treasures report prepared by Dover and Katie. The 990 was filed for the department. We need to approve for Scott Hues in a vote to move from modified cash accounting to accrual accounting.

Mark D. makes a motion prepared by the finance committee that the Riceville Volunteer Fire Department moves from a modified cash basis accounting to accrual basis accounting.

Dan F. seconds

Judy asks for a vote

Voice vote unanimous. Motion carries.

Mark D. explains to the community that the county manager wanted us to move in that direction.

Someone asks if the county manager wanted other departments to do that also.

Mark D. states that that was his understanding that the new county manager was going to ask all of the departments that she was talking to move in that direction of accrual based accounting.

Katie states that most of the departments are already there.

Someone states again that this was a recommendation from our accounting firm as well as a recommendation from the county manager.

Judy Thanks, Mark D.

Judy asks for Chiefs report.

John gives the Chiefs report. Engine 11 is proposed to be fixed by the end of the summer. Geico has sent us a letter stating that the entire cost may not be covered in the insurance policy. Our insurance company will cover the cost and then look into getting reimbursement from the individual who caused the accident. VA contract is currently under negotiations. VA is looking at a beginning timeline of October 1st 2019. Yoga classes are still Wednesday morning, Wednesday evening and Friday mornings. Community market is now every Saturday until the fall we are still looking for vendors. We had a meeting with the new county manager and county finance people. We went over the proposal that we gave the community and she was supportive of our requests.

Mark C. mentions that the county manager was concerned that there is no policy in writing that we do not charge our fire district citizens for ambulance transport. She would like us to put that policy in writing ASAP.

Judy asks if that is something we need to get Perry to write up?

John C. Mentions that he needs to talk to our billing company to see what we currently have in writing. Then pass that along to the county.

Judy asks John what is the next step.

John needs to get with Katie and the billing company he will keep us posted on what we need to do.

Someone asks to clarify if we are talking about when the county comes into our district.

John States no we are talking about how Riceville Volunteer Fire Department will not charge above what the insurance pays for medical transport. We will accept what the insurance pays but we won't charge anything over that and we don't utilize a collections agency.

John also states that the county would like to know why we don't utilize a collections agency. He thinks it a moral thing not to do so.

Lisa asks that it might be nice to know what that amount is that would go to collections and if it would be cost effective. It would be nice to know if we even have a history of nonpayment.

Bill Mills asks is that goes with everybody or just with the people in the community.

John answers that the county would want to know about everyone.

Bill Mills is concerned about what will happen if he falls and needs the fire departments help. He does not want to be charged by the fire department.

Chief Coffey explains that we will not charge Bill other than what his insurance will pay but he cannot promise that it won't be a county or Medic ambulance that responds and we have no control over the billing for them.

Lee Barrett would like to know if other fire departments in the county have the same type of policy as we do.

No one on the BOD knows the answer to that question neither does Chief Coffey.

Lee Barrett would like to know if a Riceville citizen is charged if anyone else (county etc.) comes in and picks up a Riceville citizen will they be charged.

Answer from is yes. Mark C. explains how it works.

Some one asks if there have been any instances when our unit is available and another entity has come in and covered the call.

Answer is yes but it is rare.

Bill Mills Would like to know why this is an issue now. He wants to know if we are in trouble finically.

The BOD tries to explain that the county just wants a written policy. There is no problem.

Someone asks if residents of the city pay a fire tax.

John Coffey answers yes.

Dan F. asks where are we on the community library box.

Chief Coffey responds that the box is built and he is having trouble finding a piece of Plexiglas for the front.

Lisa says she might have something for that.

Dan F. says he will donate a piece if John gives him the dimensions.

Mark D. asks if there is any kind of update on the engine.

Chief says no change from the last meeting.

Reba asks if the meeting with the county manager was special or a routine budgetary meeting.

Chief Coffey says it was routine it will happen every year.

Mark C. explains that it helps the county manager to know if what we are asking of the county is reasonable or not.

Dean R. makes the comment that he thinks the county manager is trying to keep everything in order so departments do not get passed over or (Shanghaied) this year like last year.

Judy asks Lisa for a fund raising update.

Lisa responds that we need to reschedule the Cornhole tournament because of scheduling conflicts.

Judy D. needs the name of a service company from Katie.

Katie responds Asheville Packing? Inaudible

Dean R. is that just a ????????

Pisgah service

Judy thanks Lisa

Judy D. for old business we did get our budget to the county. Is there anything we need to talk about that now.

Judy D. we need to go into executive session to discuss some things dealing with the attorney and Danny Arnolds resigning.

The BOD goes into executive session 6:54

The BOD comes back from Executive session at 7.21

Judy D. announces that the BOD has accepted Danny Arnold's resignation from the BOD. We are now ready for public comment.

Dan F. reads the rules for public comment.

Public comment

Lee Barrett would like to know when we will be filling the vacancy left by Danny Arnold.

Judy D. States that we will do it in due time.

Lee Barrett would like to be considered for the position.

Lee Barrett would like to know why the BOD has banned Mr. Lewis from the premises.

Dan Friday answers Mr. Barrett. That it was a personnel issue Mr. Lewis and his attorney have previously been presented with a letter that they can share with the community but that we cannot since it has to do with his employment.

Lee Barrett would like to know how it can be a personnel issue since he is not an employee of the fire department.

Dan F. the letter is old, he has had the letter for a long time.

Lee B. so the letter was originated back when he was an employee?

Dan F. I can't comment on that.

Anita Lewis: "My name is Anita Lewis and what you just said Mr. Friday is a lie"

Dan F.: Excuse me Anita you are addressing me personally and that is against the rules of the public comment period. I will ask you to refrain from doing that.

Bill Mills would like to know why we are talking about charging residents that have never been charged.

He wants to know if the Fire Department is in trouble. He says he still has not gotten an answer. (This has been answered previously Bill is not listening to the answer).

Dan F. tries to answer the question again. We have always charged your insurance company. However we do not at least since I have been on the BOD and maybe since you where on the BOD we do not charge Riceville Fire district individuals for EMS calls. The only reason that it has come up now is that the new county manager would like us to have that policy in writing. We are in the process of finding out what our billing company has as our policy and then it will probably be brought back to us to approve for the county manager. In addition the county manager is interested as to why we do not sent unpaid bills from other parts of the county to a collections agency.

Bill Mills still does not understand he talks about it being a community fire department.

Bill would also like to know why we have two ambulances

John answers his question that it is our back up ambulance. He also answers that it is really hard to be a volunteer in the fire service since the amount of training needed.

Dean R. answers Bill's question that nothing has changed from before. The county just wants a policy in writing as to what we do. Unless the county forces us to change this policy we do not want to see that happen. We are a community Fire Department.

In audible???

Merle Johnson, in regards to the secondary ambulance why don't we sell it? Second why are we asking for a 2.5 cent fire tax increase?

Dan F. answers and tells about the open meeting on the 24th. We are basically understaffed and underpaid. So the 2.5cents is to bring us closer to the recommended staffing levels.

Merle Johnson, Would like us to cut our benefits and the bonuses that we give to our fire fighters in order to get closer to the recommended staffing level.

Judy are there any more comments...

If not can we have a motion to adjourn

Dean R. makes a motion to adjourn

Dereck Lindsey seconds

Voice vote unanimous.

We adjourn at 7:36pm