

Riceville Volunteer Fire Department

Minutes

April 19th, 2021

The members present are Judy Dillingham, Mark Dillingham, Dan Friday, Carla McLendon, Bill Edge, Dean Reed, Mark Curran, and Lisa McCallister. Dereck Lindsay has an excused absence. Others present were Dover Dillingham, Allan Blount, Jason Willix. Katie Pane has had a covid-19 exposure and will be absent. The meeting took place in the Fire Departments auxiliary building.

Mark D. Calls the meeting to order at 6:36 and tells us that Judy D. is going to be a few minutes late.

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

Judy gets here at 6:37

Dover gives his report EMS is almost back to where it was. We are over on a few things in the budget, but these are mostly things we can't control, we are under in many other categories.

Mark D. gives Kattie P.'s portion of the report.

Katie P. had a meeting with the Avril Pender and staff about our budgetary needs in the coming year. The meeting went very well. The county manager and staff seemed to approve of our needs. They will let us know by April 30th on their official opinion. After we get that opinion, we will be able to decide what to do next. EMS collections are back to normal. Advalorum and sales tax collections are better than expected.

Budget amendment for dues and subscriptions

Kattie has finished her self-evaluation and has submitted it to Judy D.

Katie would like us to amend the budget as follows.

Move \$3k to dues and subscription line item 5601 to match needs

Move \$2778 to Gasoline line item 5402 for uncertainty in what fuel prices may be next year.

She removed \$5778 from line item 5627 which is our reserve.

We will need a motion to approve these changes.

Lisa M. asks about the overages in dues and subscriptions.

Mark D. answers that the cost went up on ESO reporting online subscriptions and the online reporting software.

Lisa M asks about the Management solutions cost.

Mark D. mentions that it is in the budget, but we can remove their costs from the budget if we decide not to renew their contract.

Lisa M. asks if we are paying for subscriptions that we are not using.

Mark D. answers that he thinks Kattie P. got together with the former chief before he left, and they got rid of that stuff.

Mark D. Makes a motion to approve the budget with these changes presented tonight.

Dan F. seconds

Voice vote unanimous.

Judy D. asks about the minutes.

Dan F. announces that Carla M. had a correction to the regular meeting March 22, 2021, 3 lines down struck the word special.

Mark C. makes a motion to accept the minutes as corrected.

Lisa M. seconds

Voice vote unanimous

Judy D. asks about officer's reports.

Mark C. asks about the meeting that Katie went to and if we could go with her, he also asks if we need to increase our EMS billing.

Mark D. says that usually we could go to the meeting but that she forgot to notify the BOD when it was happening and that we just did almost double our EMS rate last year, (October of 20) because we bill a close percentage of what the county bills. The Insurance reimbursement is linked to what the county bills.

Mark C. asks if we are recovering our costs?

Jason Willix does not know that, but he says that we did go up on our billing rate. Flat rate billing not billed per procedure. \$1200 plus loaded mile.

Officers report. Captain Blount 1110 is now fixed 1120 is now fixed again. Swift water gear that we purchased is almost all in. He encourages folks to take a look at the supplies.

Lisa M. asks if there is a way we could do a demonstration for members of the community.

Allan B. answers that there are some spots that we could do that However it would be good to preplan an event like that.

Mark D. asks our new EMS officer if she has a report.

Jen Henderson: Tells us about the purchase of a well needed IV pump. She is also setting up an interview of a possible new paramedic. She is also going thru protocols and our current policies.

Jason Willix gives his report. He is still working on the ambulance replacement. He introduces Mike Henderson to the BOD.

Discussion about ambulance replacement. Van vs. Truck.

Discussion about four-wheel drive vs. two-wheel drive.

Discussion about grants.

Dean R. mentions that Kattie P. has applied for the firehouse subs grant.

More Discussion about trucks and motors.

Discussion about selling the existing ambulance.

Mark C. asks about the medical pump.

Jason W. and Jen H. explain the problems with the current medical pump.

Mark D. asks about Tac11 (2007 Tahoe)

Allan B. answers that the mechanic has had two separate rear ends sent to him and he did not like either of them. The mechanic would like to rebuild the rear end with new parts.

Judy D. asks about warranty.

Discussion on warranty and cost of repair.

Discussion on the agreement with the mechanic.

Mark D. asks for an update on the sign outside

Allan B. answers that he does not have an update for us but will get the info from Redden.

Jason W. gives an update on the internet in the fire station and auxiliary building.

Judy D. asks who is our internet provider

Jason W. answers charter.

Judy D. asks if there is any new business.

Lisa M. talks about options for the community center acoustics.

Discussion of carpeting, ceiling, curtain panels for the walls to help with the acoustics.

Judy D. says that NC Covid guidelines have relaxed for the community center.

Jason W. has had several calls about the rental of the community center.

Discussion about the rental of the community center

Discussion on whether the county has opened up any of its facilities.

Mark D. suggests that we add a cleaning fee to the rental of the community center. With that fee we would hire an outside cleaning service to clean the community center.

Discussion on increasing security deposit and rental fee

Discussion on the process of reserving the community center.

Dean R. met with David the neighbor across the street. He has a problem with folks using the community center parking lot for basketball and us not allowing him to use the parking lot for his 6-8 cars every Saturday and Sunday.

Discussion about space and his expectation to use the parking lot.

Discussion about his visitors being from out of state and not from this community.

Discussion about fairness

Discussion about abusing our hospitality.

Discussion about community parking

Discussion about neighbor not wanting us to check off our trucks and not liking us to mow the grass when it bothers him.

Discussion about common courtesy.

Discussion about people parking here and staying on the premises when they are parked here.

Dean R. suggests that we remark the parking lot.

Discussion on gate for blocking off the back side parking.

Discussion on community center opening

Dan F. makes a motion to keep the community center closed and revisit the opening of the center in the June meeting. Also, to have staff find out about cleaning fees and deposits.

Discussion about fees and administrative work involved in the rental of the community center.

Carla M. seconds

Voice vote unanimous

Discussion about opening BOD meetings.

Discussion about setting up the garage bays for a BOD meeting.

Discussion about advertising the meeting or not.

Dan F. makes a motion to open the May 17th BOD meeting to the public.

Mark C. seconds

Voice vote unanimous

Harts with Hands donated a pallet of hand sanitizer to the department. 30 OZ pump bottles.

Discussion on employee bathrooms

Judy moves us into executive session. 8:03

We come back from executive session 9:05

Dan F. makes a motion to adjourn.

Carla M. seconds

Voice vote unanimous. 9:06