The Board of:	Riceville Volunteer Fire Department
Met at:	7:00PM
On:	Monday, October 13, 2025
For:	Annual Board and Members Meeting
Moderator:	Dan Little (Chairperson)
Members Present:	Lee Barrett, Kent Creasman, Merel Johnson, Butch Laughter, Lisa McCallister, Carla McLendon and Steve Wickham
Not Present:	Heidi Hensley

1. Call the Meeting to Order: Dan Little called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and announced that registration was closed.

2. Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer: Dan Little opened the meeting in prayer and then asked everyone to stand if able and join him in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

3. Approval of Minutes: Dan Little read the minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting. Lisa McCallister made a motion to accept the minutes. Lee Barrett seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

4. Treasurer's Report: Katie Payne provided an overview of the Summary Financial Position and Major Expenses, relaying we have an Operating Reserve Fund balance of $510,000; a Vehicle Fund balance of $525,000; and a Building Fund balance of $1,370,000. We paid $90,000 down for Ambulance 1120, which was received in August 2024. Monthly payments began in September 2024. Delivery of the new fire engine ordered and paid for in December 2023 is expected in early 2026. There were major expenses associated with repairs following Hurricane Helene in September 2024, which were covered by insurance. The Department received two $50,000 grants this month from NCOSFM specifically for Wildland Urban Interface Preparation.

Kent Creasman made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for 2024-2025. Merel Johnson seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

5. Fire Chief's Report: Chief Kelly provided an overview of his Annual Report entitled Adversity Meets Resilience. The report contains response, training and fire life safety education statistics; Department/Member accomplishments; and personnel and responsibility updates. The Department has continued its dedication to serving the Community with the core values of Family, Professionalism, Compassion, Community and Dedication for 60 years now.

6. Elections: Dan Little relayed four applications had been received for the four seats, with one of those being a two-year term due to the resignation of Kathy Higdon earlier this year. He asked each of the applicants (Kent Creasman, Merel Johnson, Carla McLendon and Mark Siler) to introduce and tell those present a little about themselves. Section 3.4 (Election of Board of Directors) of the Department Bylaws states in part, "If the number of applicants and open seats are the same, they can be accepted by acclamation and no vote will be required." These four applicants were accepted by acclamation, and Mark Siler was asked to join the Board at the table.

Note: Twenty members of the Community registered for tonight's meeting. Five additional members of the Community arrived after registration had closed and the meeting was in progress.

7. Old Business: There was no Old Business to come before the Corporation.

8. New Business: There was no New Business to come before the Corporation.

9. Public Comment: Dan Little asked if there was any objection to moving into the Regular Monthly Meeting and holding public comment until that meeting. No objections were voiced.

10. Adjournment: Merel Johnson made a motion to adjourn the 2025 Annual Meeting at 7:33PM. Kent Creasman seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Note: Chairman Dan Little only votes in the event of a tie.