



4/13/2022 9:23 AM

2022

Robert McGilloway
Fire Chief

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Peter Bennett
President

Vacant
Vice President

Suzy Trino
Treasurer

Karen Connery
Secretary

Donald Beckstead
Island Management

George Preckwinkle
Seat 1

Annie Hyder
Seat 2

Heath Wilder
Seat 3

March Meeting Minutes

The meeting came to order at 9:39 am on 3-4-22.

Present were President, Peter Bennett, Annie Hyder, newly appointed Vice President, Suzy Trino, Treasurer, Karen Connery-Albert, secretary and other executive board members, Heath Wilder, George Preckwinkle, Donald Beckstead and Fire Chief, Chief McGilloway.

Karen Kaufman and Ginny Amsler were also in attendance as Useppa homeowners.

Board members had received the minutes of the past board meeting of February 11, 2022. George Preckwinkle moved to approve them, and Suzy Trino seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Suzy Trino.

We had an opening balance of [REDACTED] over five accounts: operating, revenue holding account, capital, severance, and fund raiser account.

Suzy explained each account's function.

- The Operating has [REDACTED] put into it each month and salaries are paid from it. Tax money from Lee County is put into the revenue holding account twice a year.
- The Capital account is only to be used for rainy day expenses. It must be spent for such and not reappropriated.
- The severance account is used when there is a change of guard, and the fund raiser account can be used for anything the board approves. Presently we need about [REDACTED] a month.
- The ending balance was [REDACTED]
- She reported that all general expenses are under budget, but it is the payroll expenses that are over.

President's Report:

Peter made the formal appointment of officers for this year. Annie Hyder as vice-president, Suzy Trino as treasurer, and Karen Connery-Albert as secretary. The question was asked as to whether the board can accept more members. Currently, we have six members who are homeowners, and one member, Donald Beckstead, representing the island. Suzy made a motion to approve the appointments and Donald seconded it. All were in favor and the motion carried. Officers were accepted.

Presently, the previous Fire Chief is designated as the company registrar. The change prompted a motion upon removal to add Sawyer Smith as the designee in case we need legal representation.

George made the motion to approve this change and Suzy seconded it. All were in favor and the motion passed.

The President also spoke of the recent Pancake breakfast, the idea, and its execution by Chief. It was a huge success and attended by residents and island workers. The breakfast was an awesome event that generated momentum and excitement about the new fire department developments on the island.

Useppa Island Fire Rescue
PO BOX 640 Bokeelia, FL, 33922
239-283-7578
uifd@useppafire.org
<http://useppafire.org>



Annie Hyder, as cochair, reported on the Gala fundraiser coming up on April 2, 2022. The team has been messaging the potential attendees with a save the date announcement, sending the invitations in the mail to those off island and putting the others in mailboxes for those on island. The theme is "Protecting Paradise", Chief's suggestion. In retrospect, we would have liked to have a banner or signage at the breakfast to remind folks of the upcoming event.

RSVP's are due on 3/19. We are hoping for 100 attendees. Many have already donated very generous live auction items and to date we have over 20 silent auction items, and willing to take more if they are not someone's cast offs. Again, there will be a check-in table and each guest will be presented with a brochure, two drink tickets each and a bidding paddle.

CJDJ still has the deposit from our cancelled gala from 2020 and he is available for this year. We are also considering hiring fire dancers.

Dan O'Connell has graciously agreed to be our auctioneer. We are also looking for volunteers for decorating, check in and Sunday morning check out and settling up.

We do not have credit card payment access but are considering the cost of this.

Chief McGilloway would like us to consider a casual fund-raising summer event for boating and dining members, perhaps with chicken on the beach. When he expressed concern that there no way him for fit this into a busy summer island schedule, Donald Beckstead assured us there is a way to interface with other events going on during the weekend.

Chief McGilloway's report

The chief reported that he'd met with Assistant County Manager Christine Brady and Director of EMS Ben Abes on Feb. 16th. All agreed that Useppa has fallen through the cracks with nothing new being formalized since the Original MSTU (Municipal Services Taxing/Benefits Units) in 1982. They are consulting with the County Attorney's office and are expeditiously revising a new draft of the MSTU. It was to be delivered by March 4 for review.

It should determine whether we are an independent or special district or other option. This will clarify what level of service should be provided by the County.

Regarding our Budget: all accounts are paid, and we are at 58% of our annual budget. Chief has spoken with Keith, our accountant about switching to quick books, and paying through the bank rather than using debit cards. He is also working with Matlacha to purchase BLS supplies and fuel from them.

There have been four 911 calls during the past month...one would be determined as ALS and the other as BLS.

Regarding Staff and Payroll: we currently have an agreement with Upper Captiva for staff coverage. They have sent us 2 FF/EMT's on two different dates in February and we sent them one staff member to cover their shortage on March 1.

Regarding Apparatus and Fleet: new shelving was built for fire truck E221 to maximize the storage and function. Brush221 is now running but needs service and some parts to make it a permanent fix. S221 (6x) was fixed temporarily but needs additional parts and service.

We have a mechanic with whom Chief is working out the details of servicing our equipment. One captain from N Captiva, with years of experience as a diesel mechanic, spent his day repairing our diesel, while on duty here.

Regarding Equipment:

Hose and ladder testing has been delayed and is resuming this week at Matlacha. All air packs were serviced and tested. Members were FIT tested. A complete chart of what is needed and some quotes for repair or replacement are compiled. Chief hopes to piggyback with other local departments to save on purchasing.

Useppa Island Fire Rescue
PO BOX 640 Bokeelia, FL, 33922
239-283-7578
uifd@useppafire.org
<http://useppafire.org>



Regarding our Water Supply WAPS (Water Access Points):

Chief has used photos from google earth to show where our water access points are now and what he envisions for the future, such as the addition of more dry hydrants, and changing the capacity of sources that only have 2" lines to 4" lines. He is working with Billy our "water man" to create better functioning water access. (Be sure to check the graphics on our web site.) these improvements could possibly affect our insurance rates as does the percentage of homes with sprinkler systems and the number of firefighters we have access to. Chief is still trying to locate a company to service these sprinkler systems. He will be sending a letter to all homeowners to learn the number of interested homes with sprinklers to get a package service. This letter will also recommend Knox boxes for all. A plan to improve home signage for looks and longevity is also in progress.

Regarding social media and our website:

He is locked out of FB and has asked Atty Sawyer Smith to intervene with the former Chief. The accounts and names are also mixed for banking and will be rectified.

Grants: it will be 8 weeks before the masks we acquired through the grant will be delivered. Five additional masks will cost \$1650, not covered by the grant but Chief is applying for another.

New Programs: Chief would like to initiate four new programs on the island; a medical database for homeowners and employees; a pre plan building inspection, as in use today on Captiva and Matlacha whereby the fire department can pull up information on the square footage of the building, and other pertinent data. Cost would be approximately \$900; extinguisher training with expired extinguishers to be brought here for practice on the beach by homeowners and staff; and offering employee CPR and stop the bleed classes.

Chief concluded by reiterating the new Mission, Vision, and Values of Useppa Fire Rescue. These will be added to the website after the gala.

Ginny Amsler commended Chief for his performance to date as did Heath Wilder as a representative of the HR Committee which was formed to focus on helping the FD build a relationship with the community. The Chief is certainly doing all of that as well as tending to operations and administration.

New Business: Suzy and Chief will be working on next year's budget. Lee County needs to have it by July 15, 2022 and we will have a draft of the new one at the next board meeting on April 8.

Chief is applying for a SAFER grant to fully equip 2-3 new firefighters, including the cost of advertising to hire them. We also need four additional sets of bunker gear. Three that we have are for extra-large individuals. Chief will try to barter with these for something else we might need from another fire department.

We also need to address the grant we received to train volunteers. What is it being used for and is it affordable to train? He is also exploring the cost of a full physical from Lee County that includes full audio, TB and drug testing.

A board member asked why the sheriff was recently on the island. Chief reported that the island had asked for assistance with a possible "psych hold" for someone. The FD in turn, called the Sheriff who would be able to manage this type of call

The meeting came to an end at 11:20 when Suzy made a motion to adjourn, and it was seconded by Karen. All were in favor and the motion passed.