**FULTON FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

**TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

**July 24, 2024**

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:58 P.M. by Board President Steve Bull.
2. Trustees: Steve Bull, Stan Warren, Boyd VanDellen, Art Kilburg

Office Manager: Brandy Haring

Members: Jimmy Pell, Eric Burden, Rachel Bielema, Terry Boonstra, Nick Neblung

Public: N/A

1. New Business and Action Items (if necessary)
   1. No action items were addressed. Chief of Police and member Nick Neblung addressed the meeting attendees regarding his thoughts of the leadership with the Fulton Fire Protection District. He believes the Police Department and the Fire Department have a great relationship and everyone works well together. He’s thankful for the training that the Police Officers have received from the department, which ultimately saved a life recently. He also touched on how hard public service is right now, it’s not just EMS that struggles, it’s all public service and he acknowledged it’s hard to train when people don’t show up. Chief Jimmy Pell provided facts that in 2018-2019, the fire department had 129 fire calls and 22 of those calls, there were not enough people to get a truck out the door with 12 active members out of 25 total. This year, we’ve had 150 fire calls, everyone has had a truck respond, if not more, we have 25 members and 22 of them are active. Jimmy asked the Board of Trustees what could be done better to gain the trust of the trustees. Terry Boonstra advised that things are getting done and gave examples of good things that have been happening with the department. A concern was raised that the Trustee’s don’t know who the fire department members are and ideas regarding how to fix that were discussed. All meeting attendees agreed that the “Us Versus Them” mentality isn’t working and that’s not what they want to see moving forward. Moving forward, whenever big purchases need to be made, a committee will be formed to discuss the parameters of what can and be purchased to know what we’re looking for first, before jumping in to discussing purchasing a truck we don’t know will work for our community and ensuring it is taxpayer appropriate. Trustee Boyd VanDellen reminded the attendees that the trustee’s are there to manage the finances and oversee the department. He reminded the officers that they are responsible for managing the department. The officers asked that the Trustees let them manage the department and engage in meaningful conversations to keep everyone on the same page.
2. No public comment
3. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.