**Fulton Fire Protection District**

**Trustee Meeting Minutes**

**January 8, 2025**

On January 8, 2025, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Fulton Fire Protection District was held at 6:00 P.M., pursuant to notice at the Fire Station in Fulton, Illinois.

1. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00 P.M. by President Steve Bull.
2. Roll Call: Trustees Present: Steve Bull, Boyd VanDellen, Art Kilburg, Stan Warren, and Kent Nicolaysen

Absent: None

Office Manager: Brandy Haring

Members: Cade Hansen, Jon Butz, RJ Sikkema, Rachel Bielema, Emma Kuehl, Eric Burden, Logan Schaver, Andrew Meurs, Justin VanDellen

1. Approval of Minutes: Roll Call #1 approved the motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes as presented from December 11, 2024.
2. Approval of Bills – Regular and Upcoming: Roll Call #2 approved the motion to approve the Check Register for December 2024, and the additional due before the next meeting, as presented.
3. Approval of Treasurer’s Report: Roll Call #3 approved the motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report for December 2024 as presented.
4. Public Forum: Smoke Detectors were addressed, the new city ordinance was addressed regarding having a smoke detector in every sleeping room, the officers will talk to the Code Enforcement Officer Adam Wherry to get clarification.
5. Old Business and Action Items (if necessary)
   1. Fire Chief: There was no update given regarding the move to a full-time chief, if that’s the direction the board chooses to go. Jimmy Pell provided a resignation letter. A discussion was had regarding any future investigation and Trustee President Steve Bull explained the investigative process would probably stop. The members addressed concerns with resigning with no consequence with the board of trustees. The trustees assured the members that they have taken the actions they know how to take. The board advised the members they have addressed the concerns with Whiteside County, the State’s Attorney’s Office, State Police, and our attorney.
   2. Vehicle Purchase: Cade Hansen, member of the vehicle committee, asked the board for the list the committee had requested at the December meeting. Trustee Vice President Boyd VanDellen advised he thought the committee would see what’s out there and bring it back to the trustees. A list will need to be discussed with the trustees and the members of the vehicle committee.
   3. Safe Haven (Cameras outside): Trustee Vice President Boyd VanDellen advised he spoke with Gary Spencer, who said we can have the cameras, we just cannot use the camera footage against anyone using Safe Haven for its true intent. Member Emma Kuehl advised that a baby box would cost about $15,000. The department will continue to only offer Safe Haven when staff are present.
   4. Funds in CD: There was a discussion about putting funds in a CD for a future vehicle purchase. The board would like to see some funds go into a CD; however, the board advised waiting until they know more about the cost of fixing Engine 2.
   5. Flag Poles: Table until Spring
   6. Light bars for trucks: There has been no communication between the department and the person who was supposed to be installing the lights. We will move away from this for the time being and will address it again in the future.
   7. Carpet/Floors: This will be tabled for next year’s budget.
   8. Awnings: Table until Spring.
   9. New Boots/Gear: Rachel is still waiting for a list of needs from EMS members.
   10. Apron/Blacktop: Table until Spring.
   11. Sink in Kitchen: Roll Call #4 approved the motion to approve the purchase of a new dish table/sink for the kitchen. This will be attached to the dishwasher that is currently installed in the kitchen.
6. New Business and Action Items (if necessary)
   1. Hear Fire Chief Report
      1. Officer’s Requesting update on Fire Chief: This was presented in Old Business.
      2. Cole Grant Probation Status: Roll Call #5 approved the motion to move Cole Grant to Full Membership with the department.
      3. Andrew Meurs Probation Status: Roll Call #6 approved the motion to place Andrew Meurs on probation, pending a favorable background check.
      4. Radios: The department previously submitted for a grant for radios; however, that grant was denied. Acting Chief Burden spoke with Fulton Corp regarding the needs of the department and addressed the need for radios. Grants from other companies were also discussed. Additional research is needed on other grants.
   2. Hear EMS Coordinator Report
      1. Ann Magill-Hamilton Probation Status: Roll Call #7 approved the motion to move Ann Magill-Hamilton to Full Membership with the department.
      2. Arian Casey Probation Status: Roll Call #8 approved the motion to extend Arian Casey’s probation by an additional month.
      3. AED: Roll Call #9 approved the motion to make the extra AED surplus equipment to be sold.
   3. Hear Office Manager Report
      1. Whiteside County Exempt Property: The exempt property certification was signed by Trustee President Steve Bull to be returned to the County Clerk’s office.
      2. Statement of Economic Interest: Brandy advised the board members that they should be receiving the Statement of Economic Interest in the near future and to ensure they return it to the county clerk.
      3. GEMT: Brandy explained GEMT to the board. Per EMS/MC (Andres), we could get an extra 25% in revenue. GEMT pays the other 50% and then eventually they ask for 25% of it back. This is an option for the future. Brandy will provide more information when it becomes available.
   4. Trustees
      1. Engine 2 Pump: The seal on the pump is blown and leaking into the gear box. The estimated cost to fix will be around $6-7,000. RJ will reach out to Toyne to see if they can come give a quote.
      2. Bay #1 Door Fixed: The door opened about halfway and then stopped. Reisenbigler doors from Prophetstown came and fixed the door. The invoice will be coming.
      3. Lift Bags: The airbags for auto extrication are no longer able to be used. The department advised that we don’t always use them, so they’re not a necessity. The cost to replace it is around $10,000.
7. Action following and related to closed session: The board of trustees went into closed session at 7:00 P.M. to discuss Personnel Matters Related to Specific Individuals (5 ILCS 120/2(e)). The open meeting returned at 7:25 P.M. There were no action items.
8. Additional business, information, and announcements: Background checks were discussed, specifically, who completes them. They are currently completed by the police department.
9. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.