

PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES
JULY 6, 2021
7:00 PM
PRINCETON PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Gerold called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm. Gerold introduced the new City Administrator Michele McPherson.

Members Present: Dale Shelley (Greenbush Twsp.), Ken Murray (Wyanett Twsp.), Dan Hiller (Princeton Twsp.), Roger Nelson (Blue Hill Twsp.), Arvid Jenkins (Spencer Brook Twsp), Jenny Gerold (Council)

Members Absent: Jim Beck (Greenbush Alternate), Lee Minks (Bogus Brook)

Staff Present: Michele McPherson (City Administrator), Ron Lawrence, (PFRD Chief)

2. Review/Consideration of the March 2nd, 2021 Minutes

Moved by Jenkins, seconded by Shelley, to approve the March 2, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Agenda Additions/Deletions

Gerold stated that the appointment of Board positions should be added under New Business.

Moved by Nelson, seconded by Jenkins to approve the July 6, 2021 agenda as amended. Motion carried.

4. Fire Run Reports and Review of calls and events

Chief Lawrence reported that as of July 6, 2021, there have been 238 calls for the year. He noted that it has been remarkably busy with fires and car accidents lately. There have been 13 calls since the first of July. He reported the following number of calls for the previous months:

- April: 36 calls
- May: 40 calls
- June 37 calls

Of these 113 calls, roughly 54 were medicals (48%). He noted that the percentage of medicals is low compared to other departments who have percentages in the 70 to 80 percent range.

Chief Lawrence noted that the ladder truck had been officially used for a structure fire. It was used in the township for a barn/silo fire. They were able to keep the supply of water to it with tenders from five different departments.

5. Grant Updates-

Chief Lawrence reported that FEMA has started to award winners of the 2020 Fire Act Grant. The department has not received a letter of declination. That is a good sign.

Gerold asked what the Grant will be used for.

Chief Lawrence stated that the Grant will be used for hoses and drop tanks.

Chief Lawrence stated that Dale Shelley recommended PFRD to the Monsanto grant organization and the department was awarded a grant for \$2500.00. He is waiting for them to make the award to us. A presentation will happen per their requirements. The Grant will be used to purchase new flashlights for the new members and update the flashlights on the trucks. Thank you, Dale, for the recommendation.

6. Old Business

Jumpsuits

The Department has received the jumpsuits that were ordered for medicals. Chief Lawrence stated they are waiting for them to make the additional four for the new members; and also noted that the staff person at Aspen Medical resigned, so it may be likely that they will not make any more. Thank you for purchasing them for the department.

Medicals

Reducing the number of medicals by not responding to certain types of medicals where we are not needed at. The medicals we will respond to are:

Heart, Chest Pain, Cardiac Arrest	Breathing Difficulty
Stroke/CVA/TIA	Unresponsive Individuals
Overdoses (We carry Narcan)	Trauma
Diabetics	Seizures
Sepsis	Ambulance Requested
No deputy Responding	Ambulance Delay

There was discussion regarding the differences in information received from the two dispatch centers. Hiller stated that for lifts, the officers are waiting for the Fire Department to arrive and they are not even gloving up or attempting to assist. Chief Lawrence stated that would be a discussion he would have with Chief Frederick.

Moved by Shelly, seconded by Hiller to adopt the above list of medicals the Department will respond to as recommended by staff. Motion carried, Jenkins abstaining.

Foam Trailer

Chief Lawrence reported that the cost of the trailer and foam is \$40,382.00. Phillips Distillery is going to pay \$71,696.00 for the trailer, foam for the trailer and additional foam which will be stored at their facility. The fire department is going to pay \$9,184.00 for extra foam. PFRD will be paying for the upfront cost from the equipment fund and Phillips will be donating to the department to pay back the cost. The City will be paying for the insurance on the trailer. The Distillery understands that it will be used at other locations if needed.

Hiller asked what the shelf life of the foam was. Chief Lawrence stated that it is 15 years, but it can be tested after that time to see if it is still viable.

There was discussion of where/how to dispose of the old foam which is hazardous and may be a contributing factor for cancer. So far, Chief Lawrence has been unable to find someone to take it. Some of the other donated monies may need to be used for the proper disposal of the old foam.

Chief Lawrence reported that his contact at Speedway indicated that the department was awarded \$5,000 but the check has not been sent. He noted that 7-11 acquired Speedway and they are determining which company is going to issue the donation check. Applications have been submitted to Kwik Trip and Holiday Gas stations and he is waiting to hear back from them. He will be looking into Marathon and Casey's for donations as well.

7. New Business

Rescue Boat

PFRD has purchased a 12-foot Zodiac rescue boat for water and river rescues. The boat is needed due to the City's canoe and kayak program and will be available for south end water rescues since it takes an hour for the Mille Lacs County Sheriff to mobilize and respond. This was funded by CIP monies from the City. Chief Lawrence is working with the local sheriffs to work with them on water rescues as they control the waterways. We are waiting for the trailer to come in which is on back order for about 12 weeks.

Murray asked about the motor specifications. Chief Lawrence noted that it is a 30hp motor with a prop protector and the boat will hold eight (8) people.

Appointment of Board Positions

Gerold noted that the positions are Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary.

Moved by Jenkins, seconded by Shelley to appoint Gerold as Chair. Motion carried.

Moved by Jenkins, seconded by Murray to appoint Shelley as Vice Chair. Motion carried.

Moved by Jenkins, seconded by Shelly to appoint Murray as Secretary. Motion carried, Murray voting nay.

Update on New Recruits

Chief Lawrence stated that the new recruits are doing well and are very enthusiastic. They are starting their firefighter training soon. They cannot get on the trucks unless an officer allows them to be.

Wish List for ARP Funds

Murray noted that the townships will be receiving ARP funds and asked what is on the Chief's wish list.

Chief Lawrence stated that since OSHA has limited the useful life of the turnout gear, he would request monies for replacement of them in about 18 months given that they are still good for two more years. He stated that the fine is equal to three sets, so replacement is more appropriate. He estimates the total cost to be \$140,000.

Update on Simulcast Radio System

Administrator McPherson reported that the City is now able to get into the equipment building. She noted that staff is working with the County to identify a means to pay for the equipment given that the grant opportunity has been eliminated. Staff is hoping that the County could use some of its ARP funds to fund the purchase.

8. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda

October 5th, 2021, 7 pm

9. Adjourn

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Shelley to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michele McPherson

Michele McPherson
City Administrator