

**PRINCETON FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES  
JANUARY 10, 2023  
7:00 PM  
PRINCETON PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

**1. Call to Order/Roll Call**

Gerold called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

**Members Present:** Dale Shelley (Greenbush), Dan Hiller (Princeton), Mike Thompson (Blue Hill), Arvid Jenkins (Spencer Brook), Ken Murray (Wyanett), Jenny Gerold (Council)

**Members Absent:** Bogus Brook representative

**Staff Present:** Michele McPherson (City Administrator), Ron Lawrence, (PFRD Chief), Troy Thompson (PFRD Captain)

Murray requested a moment of silence on behalf of Roger Nelson, Blue Hill Township's former representative who had passed away in late 2022.

**2. Review/Consideration of the October 4, 2022 Minutes**

Moved by Jenkins, seconded by Shelley, to approve the October 4, 2022 minutes as presented. Motion carried.

**3. Agenda Additions/Deletions**

Moved by Jenkins, seconded by Shelley, to approve the January 3, 2023 agenda as presented. Motion carried.

**4. Fire Run Reports and Review of calls and events**

Chief Lawrence reported the following number of calls for the previous months:

- October 37 calls; 51% medicals
- November 51 calls; 41% medicals
- December 42 calls; 45% medicals

For the year, the total number of calls was 472, one (1) more than in 2021. The percentage of medicals for 2022 was 48 percent.

**5. Grant Updates-**

Chief Lawrence stated that the Fire Act Grant application for hoses and drop tanks was unsuccessful. Hoses will be purchased using the Equipment Reserve Fund.

Shelley asked how much the hoses would cost. Lawrence stated that the cost is estimated at \$36,000.

M. Thompson asked what the lifespan of a hose was. Lawrence stated that it was 20 years and the material is more durable, lighter and they don't need to be dried.

The DNR 50/50 grant was used to purchase upland firefighting equipment and the backpacks have been delivered.

There is a new Fire Act Grant window opening soon.

**6. Old Business**

There was no old business.

## **7. New Business**

### Elect Chair and Vice Chair for 2023

Gerold stated that a Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary need to be chosen for 2023.

Jenkins nominated Gerold to serve as Chair. Gerold accepted the nomination.

Moved by Shelley, seconded by Jenkins to elect Gerold as Chair for 2023. Motion carried.

Jenkins nominated Shelley to serve as Vice Chair.

Shelley nominated Jenkins to serve as Vice Chair.

Shelley accepted the nomination.

Moved by Jenkins, seconded by Hiller to elect Shelley as Vice Chair for 2023. Motion carried.

Gerold noted that there is a Secretary position, but that minutes are taken by Administrator McPherson. Murray is currently in the position of Secretary.

Jenkins to nominate Murray as Secretary. Murray accepted the nomination.

Moved by Shelley, seconded by Jenkins to elect Murray as Secretary for 2023. Motion carried.

### Township Fire Bills

There was much discussion regarding the annual fire billing.

Murray stated that Wyanett is only going to pay an increase of 5 percent, not the 19 percent that was the result of the 2022 billing.

Murray stated that they are not getting anything from the PRFD and that they have invested more than any other township towards the operations. They want to be treated as a valued customer.

Murray stated that he could choose to contract with another department.

Gerold stated that three to five percent was an estimate. There were extenuating circumstances that were revealed when staff started to research the issue that no one anticipated.

Hiller stated that the City can't keep asking the Townships for money. He stated that the ISO rating and its impacts to insurance rates is fictitious.

Hiller asked what the City paid for their portion of the budget.

Murray stated that PFRD has good people. He stated that he has two fire services, and one never gives him any trouble.

Murray stated that he believes that the City is trying to drive Wyanett away.

Hiller asked if Blue Hill was leaving at the end of the year.

Thompson stated that he didn't want Blue Hill to leave PFRD. However, he is only one vote and if another offer is better, then the vote could be to leave.

Murray stated that he was upset that he didn't receive any phone call or a heads up prior to the bills being sent. He felt that PFRD was continually dropping bombs on the Townships.

There was discussion regarding the Townships having an interest in the equipment.

Jenkins noted that the Isanti Fire and Rescue District has a budget of \$700,000 which is significantly more than PFRD.

Hiller questioned the need to bill residents for fire calls.

Hiller suggested having a line item in the operating budget to for the purchase of trucks; this would be reflective of a bond payment.

Jenkins noted that there would be an even larger increase if the truck line item was included in the operating budget.

#### **8. Next Meeting(s) & Agenda**

March 1, 2023 7 pm. This will allow for a meeting prior to the Annual Township Meetings.

#### **9. Adjourn**

Motion by Jenkins, seconded by Shelley to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting adjourned at 7:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Michele McPherson*

Michele McPherson  
City Administrator