

Northern Piatt Fire Protection District  
Trustees Meeting  
October 16, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Roll call was taken. Trustees present: Duffy Deffenbaugh, John Hannah, Bob Henderson and Dale Lipsey. Trustee absent: Larry Borhart. Also present: Chief Jones, Cindy Giertz.

Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. Bob made a motion to approve the minutes. Dale seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

The bills payable and treasurer's report were reviewed. John made a motion to approve the bills payable and treasurer's report for September. Bob seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the bills payable and treasurer's report was unanimous.

#### Old Business

- 1) Discussion was held on the bathroom renovation. Duffy noted that Scott Harper has agreed to install the new toilets at a cost of \$100.
- 2) The building generator has been installed. A self-test is done every Tuesday at 10am. The generator auto-transfers in case of a power outage.
- 3) The Chief will take the hose that failed testing in for possible repair. If repair cannot be completed, new hose may be needed.
- 4) The new flagpole has been installed.
- 5) The Chief is meeting with Scott Davis on October 17 to discuss computer services.

#### New Business

- 1) Greg Steffen of Compass Insurance Partners reviewed our insurance coverage. There were minimal changes to coverage and costs. It was noted that our insurance coverage provides replacement cost and provides coverage for district employees to and from their official duties for the district. John made a motion to approve the insurance proposal and pay the premium. Bob seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the motion was unanimous.
- 2) Discussion was held on repurposing of the old generator. It was noted that the generator is 15 years old and is valued at about \$1,000. At the next Village Trustee meeting, Duffy and the Chief will ask if the village is interested in the generator.
- 3) Discussion was held on the levy to be collected in 2020. John made a motion to raise the General Corporate levy by \$4,250 to \$175,995 and the Emergency Rescue levy by \$4,250 to \$27,750. Dale seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the levy amount was unanimous. Cindy will send this information to the attorney.
- 4) Duffy noted that at a recent Village Board meeting, a Board member had issues with a recent call and discussed this with Duffy and Andy Stiger. Andy has discussed this with the department training officer and the issue appears to be resolved.

#### Chief's Old Business

- 1) The Chief noted that fewer members seem to be responding to calls. At a recent call (smoke in a structure), the Chief arrived first and a truck arrived in 15 minutes with only one firefighter responding. It was noted that there are now 12 members on the department. In response to a question as to why there was no activity for fire prevention week, the Chief noted that no

members were interested in participating. Several trustees will attend the October 21 firefighter training meeting to discuss participation with members.

- 2) The Chief suggested waiting to discuss the purchase of new turnout gear until discussion on member participation has occurred.
- 3) There is no update on the FEMA grant. If the grant is not approved, we will still need to purchase at least one new monitor. The filing period for FEMA grants for next year begins in November 2019.
- 4) The Chief took the gas monitor to Champaign Fire Department for testing and was told that the monitor does not have updated firmware installed. Installation of the firmware will cost \$225 and new sensors will cost \$250 each. The Chief will research costs for a new gas monitor.
- 5) The new generator has a hub available which will send texts or place phone calls if problems occur. There is a \$300 upfront cost and an annual subscription fee. The Chief will research costs for the hub.

#### Chief's New Business

- 1) Discussion was held on the Christmas dinner. Duffy will contact the attorney to ensure that using district funds for the cost of the dinner falls within applicable state law. If so, the dinner will be held on December 16, place to be determined.
- 2) The pressure washer is no longer working and needs replaced with a commercial unit. The Chief will research costs for a new pressure washer.
- 3) In response to a question about the minutes of the firefighter meeting included in the trustee meeting packet, the Chief noted that issues with the Homecoming have been resolved and Jacob Cook has been attending departmental activities.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.