

Northern Piatt Fire Protection District
Trustees Meeting
July 15, 2020

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

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

Minutes from the June meeting were reviewed. Larry 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 for July were reviewed. John made a motion to approve the bills payable and treasurer's report for July. Bob seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the bills payable and treasurer's report for July was unanimous.

Old Business

- 1) One bid was received for the generator in the amount of \$1,010 from Travis Houser of DeWitt, IL. John made a motion to accept the bid. Dale seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the motion was unanimous. Cindy was asked to notify Mr. Houser about the bid and make arrangements for payment and pickup of the generator.
- 2) Discussion was held on the status of computer services for NPFPD. David Kramer of Horizon Connections noted that the district was paying his company for email services, web services, backup, security software, and patch management. When he received the letter from the trustees notifying him that we were discontinuing services with Horizon Connections on June 30, 2020, he discontinued all services. This caused loss of access to all emails, etc., including the inability to complete required federal and state reports. Duffy contacted Horizon Connections and asked that the email service be reinstated for at least one month so we could complete necessary functions of the district and this was done. The trustees noted that they were provided information about what was perceived as the lack of urgency in dealing with computer issues that had occurred since September 2019. They provided the name of an outside consultant and asked the Chief to contact him to ask that a bid be prepared for the district's computer services. The bid was presented and approved by the trustees. David noted various concerns he had about the situation, stating that while he hadn't seen the bid, he felt that some of the items in the bid were not needed. Cindy noted that there were several times that issues she had with her computer were not completed in a timely manner, causing the district to not be compliant with Illinois law related to the Open Meetings Act. It was noted that when the district began using computer services, the domain name of npfpd.com should have been owned and the annual fee paid for by the district, however David noted that he owned the domain name and had been paying the annual fee as a donation to the district. David noted that he does not charge any additional fees for repair of computers, etc., considering this as a donation to the district. The trustees noted that they appreciated this but that everyone was unaware of this. David noted that he wants to ensure that the district gets what is needed in the way of computer services without wasting taxpayer money. Brian Cahoe noted that Horizon Connections seems to be providing a basic service to the district, expressed concern about the cost of the contract with the outside vendor but noted that he is also concerned about the potential conflict of interest with a private company owned by someone paid by the district receiving payment for a service. Jason Nolan suggested that the district use Horizon

Connections to provide information on what computer services we need, whether provided by him or an outside vendor. David stated that he is willing to help in any way, noting that if the district continues with an outside vendor, he will detail what we have and what needs to be done. David also noted that only email services have been restored, not web services, backup, security software and patch management. Cindy noted that she submitted a payment to Horizon Connections today to cover the period through August 31, 2020, so David was asked to resume all services until the trustees are able to discuss the district's computer services in more detail.

- 3) Duffy noted that the Chief should plan on delegating some of his responsibilities. For example, the Assistant Chief or another officer should also attend trustee meetings. If the training officer needs training gear or a specialized training course, he should plan to attend the trustee meeting to discuss this.
- 4) In response to a question from Duffy, Cindy noted that approved minutes of all trustee meetings are kept in a binder in her office with access available to all district staff. In addition, she submits the approved minutes to Bryan Edwards for inclusion in the "members only" area of the district webpage.

New Business

- 1) The resolution to approve the Fiscal Year 2021 budget was read. Bob made a motion to approve the resolution. Dale seconded the resolution. A roll call vote to approve the resolution was unanimous.

Chief's Old Business

- 1) In the absence of the Chief, Assistant Chief Cahoe and Cindy reported that the cardiac monitor has arrived and training was held on the device at Monday's firefighter meeting.
- 2) It was also noted that the breaker for the new pressure washer has been installed.

Chief's New Business

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.