

MEETING MINUTES

Northern Piatt Fire Protection District Board of Trustees

April 16, 2025

Call to Order

The meeting called to order at 19:00 PM.

Roll Call

Roll call taken. Trustees present: Donald Deffenbaugh, John Hannah, Dale Lipsey, Thad Gilman and Matthew Althaus. Also present: Chief Jones, Joyce Dowell.

Routine Matters

Approval of March Minutes – Minutes of the March 2025 meeting were reviewed. John made a motion to approve the minutes. Matt seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the minutes was unanimous.

Approval of Bills Payable and Treasurer's Report for April 2025 – The bills payable and treasurer's report for April reviewed. Thad made a motion to approve the bills payable and treasurer's report, Dale seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the bills payable and treasurer's report was unanimous.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

1. Concrete Replacement – John discussed with attorney and she stated we could split the work into two different projects. She recommended doing the second half of the project six months after the first. Trustees discussed if the North or South side of the station should be done first, specifics of what needs to be done, proper drainage, possibly do south side of building first. John made a motion to accept the bid from Brandt Construction for \$24,000 to do the south part of driveway. Matt seconded the motion. A roll call vote to approve the \$24,000 Brandt Construction bid for new concrete on south side was unanimous.
2. Fire Truck Purchase – John had hoped to get a bid from someone, but never heard back. The board discussed a proposal from Weis Fire & Safety Equipment for Rescue vehicle, which will also be used for EMS calls. All rescue equipment will be on the new truck, equipment will move from two current trucks onto one vehicle, and there won't be a need to drive multiple vehicles. Extrication equipment will be on the new rescue truck. Truck delivery estimated at 12-18 months. Dale made a motion to order the rescue vehicle from Weis Fire & Safety Equipment for \$368,514. Matt seconded the motion. A roll call vote to purchase the Weis Rescue Truck was unanimous.
3. 2025 Election – Discussion of people to appoint for the two open Trustee positions. Discussion of length of terms for these two vacant positions. It was decided Duffy will call County Clerk Jennifer Harper for clarity.

New Business

1. Third Party Energy Supplier – Chief mentioned our contract with 3rd party energy supplier, Engie will expire in May. If we don't renew or choose a different company, the energy bill may revert back to Ameren. Discussed rates with different energy companies. John made a motion to discontinue Engie and use Ameren exclusively. Matt seconded the motion. A roll call vote to discontinue Engie and use Ameren exclusively was unanimous.

2. Ad for 2025 Homecoming Book – Duffy was asked if the Fire Department would like to put an advertisement in the book this year. Todd will look into what was done previously.

Chief's Old Business

1. Truck repairs 8679 – Chief has not heard back for these repairs.
2. Electronic CPR Mannequins – Current mannequins are sufficient for now.
3. New Display Sign – Chief provided information to Trustees on the different outside signs members had investigated. Discussion was held on the different specifications and what would meet the department's needs best. The Fire Department would provide half funds for this purchase. Thad made a motion to purchase the 7.4 x 5.3 sign from Sign Command. Dale seconded the motion. A roll call vote to purchase the new outside LED sign was unanimous.

Chief's New Business

1. HGACBuy Program – A nationwide government procurement service to help make purchasing more efficient. This program takes care of the paperwork and processing that the department needs to purchase the new rescue vehicle. Matt made a motion to approve participating in the HGACBuy Program and Dale seconded the motion. A roll call vote to participate in the HGACBuy Program was unanimous.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 20:15.

Next Meeting – May 21, 2025