

A regular meeting of the Rural Urban Fire Board was held at the City Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 a.m. by Alma City Manager Aerick Ripley. A quorum of the Board was present.

Roll Call

Board members present: Kevin Beeson, Greg Mapes, Doug Merchant, and Aerick Ripley.

Board members absent: Ron Hunt, Tish Mallory (arrived after roll call), and Daniel Wernick.

Others present: Curtis Dancer, Harold House, Todd Moeggenberg, and Mark Williams.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to approve June 20, 2022, minutes. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Beeson, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.

Voting no: none.

Absent: Hunt, Mallory, and Wernick.

Board Member Tish Mallory arrived at 7:05 a.m.

Monthly Reports

Beeson asked Finance Director Curtis Dancer to summarize the year end reports. Dancer reviewed the information and answered questions regarding private contributions, invoicing, and the stipend for Rescue administration. Dancer agreed to provide a separate report showing outstanding receivables. Members agreed to annual invoicing rather than quarterly invoicing.

Motion by Merchant, seconded by Mallory, to receive the following monthly reports: Fire Budget FY 2022 Year End Report, Rescue Budget FY 2022 Year End Report, Fire Board and Rescue Check Disbursement Reports for June 2022, and the May 2022 Visa Statement. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.

Voting no: none.

Absent: Hunt, and Wernick.

Unfinished Business

Ripley asked for a page-by-page review of proposed amendments to the Interlocal Agreement. He began by noting date changes for budgets and meetings to help meet township deadlines. Ripley proposed a change from monthly meetings to quarterly meetings in January, April, July, and October. Additional meetings can be called by two members of the Board at any time. The January meeting would also be the "annual" meeting for budget presentation. Discussion followed about calling emergency meetings and including language directing the acting Chairperson and/or City Clerk to post meeting notices and deliver necessary information to members prior to emergency meetings.

Additional discussion followed about meeting dates and the timeline for gathering run totals and other information used to propose budgets. A suggestion was made for five meetings each year.

Ripley spoke about meetings necessary for townships to review and approve budgets, asking if the 3rd week of the month would be sufficient. Members generally agreed, with meetings to continue on Mondays. Discussion turned to language in the interlocal agreement requiring five board members for approval of budgets versus four to make modifications to the budget, and whether or not a quorum should be deemed to be five members. The group agreed that a quorum need only be four members. Additional discussion followed.

Williams asked about proposing a budget in October or November, rather than January or February. Discussion followed about the dates and the language in the agreement regarding adopting a budget if the group was unable to agree on a proposed budget. The group agreed proposing a budget earlier would be helpful.

Ripley moved the discussion on to designated jurisdictions and changing the name from Rural Urban Fire Board to Alma Fire District. Beeson noted St. Louis uses a D/B/A. Mapes agreed a D/B/A would work. Lengthy discussion followed about setting district lines, "time & distance" versus the MABAS (Mutual Aid Box Alarm System), who has authority for modifying district lines, and problems that might develop with modification of district lines including necessary restructuring of mutual aid agreements and invoicing/budget changes. Mapes indicated the City is more than willing to work with townships.

Discussion briefly returned to the box alarm system. Beeson suggested the group move on and look at the issue on a different level. He asked the Mayor to issue an invitation for a group discussion of the issues including township officials and fire chiefs. Discussion followed about district lines being jurisdictional and up to the discretion of the townships, rather than fire departments.

Ripley moved discussion back to the Interlocal Agreement and spoke about runs percentage and monthly disbursements. He noted the equipment list on page 18 had been removed as it needed to be updated. He said a more in-depth discussion would be necessary with municipalities and fire departments for consideration of all the issues.

Mapes asked to have any proposed changes to districts brought to the next meeting for consideration. Merchant suggested the formula also needed review. Beeson said he was still hoping to see the capitals list, and a monthly report. Public Safety Director agreed to provide a monthly report but noted it would be sent mid-month. Mapes also asked for a depreciation schedule. Mallory confirmed that five was still necessary for adoption of a budget. Beeson affirmed.

New Business

No new business was offered.

Public Comment

No public comments were offered or received.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 a.m. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.

Voting no: none.

Absent: Hunt, and Wernick.



Sara Anderson, Recording Secretary

Date of Approval: September 19, 2022