

A regular meeting of the Rural Urban Fire Board was held at the City Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 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 (arrived after roll call), Tish Mallory (arrived after roll call), and Daniel Wernick.

Others present: Curtis Dancer and Mark Williams.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Mapes, to approve July 18, 2022 minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

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

Voting no: none.

Absent: Hunt, Mallory, and Wernick.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to approve August 15, 2022 minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

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

Voting no: none.

Absent: Hunt, Mallory, and Wernick.

Monthly Reports

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Mapes, to receive the following monthly reports: Fire Budget Actual Ending August 2022, Rescue Budget Actual Ending August 2022, Fire Board Check Disbursement Report August 2022, Rescue Check Disbursement Report August 2022, Visa Statement for August 2022, and MERS Annual Actuarial Valuation Report.

Finance Director Curtis Dancer briefly reviewed reports pointing out two changes requested at the last meeting for a separation of the administrative stipend into its own line item, and the addition of an outstanding invoices report.

Board Members Ron Hunt and Tish Mallory arrived at 7:06 a.m.

At a question from Beeson, Dancer explained quarterly billings and noted only one billing was outstanding and payment was expected shortly.

Dancer also explained information included in the MERS Actuarial Report. Discussion followed about level of funding and defined benefit versus defined contribution.

Motion to receive reports carried.

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

Voting no: none.

Absent: Wernick.

New Business

City Manager Ripley spoke briefly about the proposed Alma District Fire and GESA Ithaca Structure Fire Auto Mutual Aid Agreement. One additional edit for a grammar issue has been made since the last discussion about this item.

Public Safety Director Mark Williams answered questions from board members explaining that the agreement was formerly a handshake agreement between chiefs, and this would formalize and clarify mutual aid assistance. The written agreement will also help to improve ISO ratings. Merchant noted there would be no charge on either part, but response would depend on availability. Mapes expressed concern about overworking firefighters and asked if the agreement with St. Louis should also be formalized. Williams assured members he will be monitoring responses to keep firefighters safe and will keep the Board apprised.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Mapes, to approve and adopt the Alma District Fire and Gratiot Emergency Services Authority (GESA) Ithaca Structure Fire Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement and authorize signatures, as necessary. Motion carried.

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

Voting no: none.

Absent: Wernick.

Unfinished Business

Ripley presented the Fire Fixed Asset Summary. Beeson asked for replacement values and Williams indicated he would bring those back to the Board. Discussion followed about replacement standards, technology advancements, and battery replacement for future vehicles.

Williams noted Fire Engine #3 will need to be replaced next, and it may become necessary to replace the ladder truck with a truck carrying a longer ladder than the current truck. Additional discussion followed about the ladder truck.

Beeson asked about liquid cash. Dancer reviewed current investments and available cash. Discussion followed.

Ripley moved discussion to the Interlocal Agreement, the last item on the agenda. Discussion followed about the proposed name change from Rural Urban Fire Board to Alma District Fire Board. Ripley will present a final copy for review at the next meeting.

Williams asked to speak to the Board regarding fire packs. He explained changes to MIOSHA regulation that will require fire packs to have a "heads-up" and "buddy" system included by 2025. Williams noted replacement packs are expected to cost approximately \$6,000 each for nineteen (19) packs. He asked the Board to consider allocating \$76,000 in ARPA funds towards replacement of the packs, and he would find the remaining balance in his budget. Discussion followed about using equipment consistent with surrounding agencies to minimize additional training. Mapes asked if additional funds were available from the state since the upgrades were mandated. Williams said he expected grants would be difficult to obtain, as all the state agencies would be vying for any available funds. Additional discussion followed about the benefits of a group order with other agencies.

Mapes moved to approve \$76,000 in ARPA funds, together with \$20,000 from current budgets, for the purchase of new air packs for the Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Merchant.

Discussion followed about masks and the additional budget funds and amounts. Ripley asked for clarification of the motion. Additional discussion followed. Beeson suggested simply approving the commitment of ARPA funds. Mapes agreed to amend the original motion.

Additional discussion followed about how to obtain the ARPA funds from the county. Dancer will confirm.

Motion by Mapes, seconded by Beeson, to approve the commitment of \$76,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, towards the purchase of replacement air packs for the Fire Department. Motion carried.

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

Voting no: none.

Absent: Wernick.

Public Comment

No other members of the public were present.

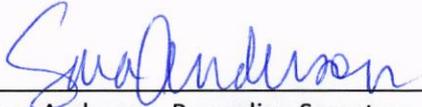
Ripley noted the next meeting is scheduled for October 17, 2022. Discussion followed about changing the meeting dates and times. Members agreed to change to quarterly meetings following final adoption of the Interlocal Agreement, and change the meeting time for the next meeting to 3:00 p.m.

Motion by Merchant, seconded by Hunt, to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 a.m. Motion carried.

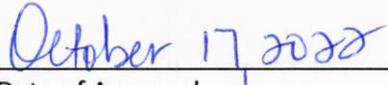
Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.

Voting no: none.

Absent: Wernick.



Sara Anderson, Recording Secretary



Date of Approval