

A special meeting of the Rural Urban Fire Board was called to order by Chairperson Matthew Schooley at 7:04 a.m. Participants attended remotely via Zoom in accordance with PA 267 of 1976, as amended. A quorum of the Board was present.

Board members present: Matt Schooley (Alma), Danny Wernick (Alma), Greg Mapes (Mt. Pleasant), Ron Hunt (Arizona), Tish Mallory (Alma), Kevin Beeson (St. Louis), Doug Merchant (Pine River Township). All members appeared remotely via Zoom.

Board members absent: none.

Also present: Carleen McGill, Harold House, Jim Bailey, Mark Williams, and Teresa Frisbie.

**Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to approve the minutes of February 26, 2020, as corrected. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mapes, Merchant, and Schooley. Voting no: none.**

Chairperson Schooley presented draft revisions to the Interlocal Agreement for consideration and review. He began with Section I relating to the name of the Fire Department. Mapes suggested renaming the Board to match the name of Alma's fire trucks: Alma Fire District. Mallory suggested Mid-Gratiot Fire Department. Discussion followed about what would work best for Central Dispatch, and the legal implications of changing the name of the Board.

Schooley read Section III and no comments or questions were offered, so he moved to Section IV. Mapes and Beeson questioned the language in this section, Mapes asking if the section should reflect supervision rather than operating, and Beeson asking why we are considering land ownership. Mapes wondered if the Board should be changed to an advisory board or if an entity should be created. Discussion followed about the Authority being created in Ithaca.

Mapes asked about the actual issues with the Board and if the townships feel they have a voice on the Board. Beeson said there are some things to consider that have changed over time. There is a problem with multiple rescue units being called to a scene causing confusion for fire personnel. He told members he feels there are important things to talk about, and there needs to be more communication.

Mapes agreed that things have changed and felt that additional meetings would be beneficial for hammering out details. Additional discussion followed about township needs for rescue versus Alma's needs. It was generally agreed that more information would be needed regarding the Board's ability to acquire and hold land and buildings. Schooley will seek more information from city counsel.

Schooley then moved to review of Section V relating to meetings. Discussion followed about how many meetings are needed, and if they need to be "set in stone" in the interlocal agreement. Schooley will take suggestions and make additional revisions to the draft. Meetings will generally be held quarterly, and quarterly reports will include rescue run numbers.

Schooley asked for thoughts on changing the current formula. Merchant said the formula has been the same since it was adopted in 1954. Others agreed that what may have been in the past is not necessarily right for the present or future and run counts would definitely be an easier basis for a new formula.

Beeson asked to return to Section IX and consider changing the boundary language to match what is in practice today. Schooley will confirm with city counsel if the change can be made by resolution of the township boards.

Discussion returned to land purchases and who would be the owner of record for new fire halls. Beeson and Mapes both agreed insurance and liability issues need to be reviewed, as well as who should be responsible for insurance coverage and if the townships should bear a portion of the costs.

Public Safety Director Mark Williams spoke briefly about the new facility proposal. The idea started as a storage building for new dive team equipment. A.B.A.T.E. and others, including the Elks Club, have held fundraisers to help with the construction of a new building, and there is now enough to consider a fire hall. Locations need to be considered. Airport property owned by the City of Alma had been suggested, but it is not ideal. Beeson said Sumner and Seville have both been considering new buildings. There may be many benefits to sharing resources and centrally locating a building in Seville or Sumner township if a location can be found. Williams said he is open to any suggestions but is hoping to move quickly on the building as soon as a determination is made.

Mapes asked if there had been any thought given to a third location. Williams said it is definitely in his long-range plan.

Mallory said she did look into some properties and is waiting to hear back on them. One possible location is the corner of Pingree and Lincoln. She believes there may have been a well there at some time in the past, and that may be beneficial.

Mapes left the meeting at 8:35 a.m.

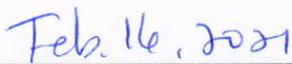
Schooley will take comments into consideration and review the revisions to the Interlocal Agreement. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16<sup>th</sup>.

Public comments:

Fire Chief Harold House thanked everyone for their discussion.

**Motion by Hunt, seconded by Mallory, to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 a.m. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mapes, Merchant, and Schooley. Voting no: none.**

  
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Sara Anderson, Recording Secretary

  
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Date of Approval