

A regular meeting of the Rural Urban Fire Board was held virtually via Zoom and called to order at 7:10 a.m. by Chairperson Matt Schooley. A quorum of the Fire Board was present.

Roll Call

Authority members present: Matt Schooley (Alma), Danny Wernick (Alma), Tish Mallory (Alma), and Doug Merchant (Pine River Township).

Authority members not present: Kevin Beeson, Greg Mapes, and Ron Hunt

Also present: Mark Williams, Harold House, and Teresa Frisbie

Election of Officers

Motion by Mallory, seconded by Merchant, to appoint Kevin Beeson as Vice Chair, close nominations, and declare that he be elected. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Schooley, Wernick, Mallory, and Merchant. Voting no: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Merchant, seconded by Mallory, to approve the minutes of January 27, 2021. Motion carried with voice vote. Voting yes: Schooley, Wernick, Mallory, and Merchant. Voting no: none.

2020 Annual Report

Public Safety Director Mark Williams presented the 2020 Annual Report. A brief discussion followed. He spoke of changes to the 2020 Roster.

Kevin Beeson (St. Louis) entered the meeting via zoom at 7:15 a.m.

Greg Mapes (Mt. Pleasant) entered the meeting via zoom at 7:19 a.m.

They have hired two new firefighters. There was a total of 240 calls for service during 2020. 193 of these were toned calls and 47 were for complaints. Firefighters are required to respond to no less than 50 percent of the calls and their numbers were well above the 50 percent mark. The total number of calls were down compared to 2019. Some of this could possibly be due to Covid-19. The five-year comparison was down, possibly due to business and school closures. With Covid-19 restrictions, the department worked to limit the number of firefighters to no more than 4 at the fire hall at any time. If firefighters did not respond to a call, they would wait at the fire hall for the responding firefighters to return, and then leave to help with clean up.

Ron Hunt (Arizona) entered the meeting via zoom at 7:32 a.m.

2022 Budget Presentation

Chairman Schooley gave a brief discussion on the Budget. There was a slight increase of about \$5,000.00 in wages. The fringe benefits will stay the same as last year. No capital outlay projects have been planned for the year. There are a couple of grants to help reimburse the City due to Covid related issues. One will help reimburse for hazard pay, which will go back into this year's salaries. There are still funds for the Public Safety Reimbursement grant, but it needs to be worked out on how to spend it properly.

Merchant asked if they would use the same run formula as St. Louis. He questioned using the school district as an overlay for the fire department, but that does not work for Arcada Township. Chairman Schooley agreed that a formula needs to be discussed and changed to represent all the local units of

government. Merchant mentioned that the Assessors and Townships for Arcada and Pine River have never been contacted to review any budget numbers and would like to see more involvement. Beeson also agreed that a different formula needs to be looked at to avoid conflicts.

Chairman Schooley suggested setting up another meeting to continue discussions. Mapes asked if there was an easier way to formulate a budget and agreed the numbers have not been accurate. Merchant agreed they need to go with a more simplified formula. Schooley said the commitment from the City of Alma is there to make the changes.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to approve the Alma District Fire Department 2021-2022 budget. Motion carried with voice vote. Voting yes: Schooley, Wernick, Mapes, Hunt, Mallory, Beeson, and Merchant. Voting no: none.

Chairman Schooley spoke briefly regarding the proposed fire garage. Williams said they are working with the city attorney to proceed and finding a location which will work for all the local units. Mallory has checked on a few properties and hopes to hear back soon. Beeson asked if Williams could map out all the firefighters' homes to get a better understanding of where they would be coming from. Williams agreed to supply that information. Mapes questioned whether measuring where the activity has been might be a better indicator of where the fire garage should be located. Williams mentioned they should be closer to the hotspots and/or townships who need them most. Mallory asked if there is room for growth in the fire department. Williams said there may be some issues with daytime responses in the future, but do not see a need for adding more firefighters.

Schooley will take into consideration the suggestions to change the formula for the budget in the future. The next Special meeting is scheduled for April 13.

Public Comment

No public comment offered.

Adjournment

Motion by Mallory, seconded by Merchant, to adjourn the meeting. Chairperson Schooley adjourned the meeting at 8:32 a.m.



Kim Fellows, Recording Secretary

April 22, 2021

Date of Approval