

The annual meeting of the Alma District Rural Urban Fire Board was called to order at 7:00 a.m. by Chairman Matt Schooley at the Alma Municipal Building. A Zoom meeting was also opened for virtual appearances. A quorum of the Board was physically present.

Board members physically present: Kevin Beeson, Ron Hunt, Greg Mapes, Doug Merchant, and Matt Schooley.

Board members not present: Tish Mallory and Larry Mott.

Others present: Harold House and Mark Williams.

Election of Vice-Chair

Chairman Schooley opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairperson.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to re-appoint Tish Mallory to serve as Vice-Chairperson for the Rural Urban Fire Board until the next annual board meeting. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mapes, Merchant, and Schooley. Voting no: none.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Mapes, to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2019 annual meeting as presented. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mapes, Merchant, and Schooley. Voting no: none.

2019 Annual Report

Public Safety Director Mark Williams presented the 2019 Annual Report. He noted there have been changes in the roster with the loss of Marlin Brush, and addition of Sam Schaffer. He reviewed call numbers for the year.

The Board recessed briefly while the Secretary retrieved a Zoom call in number for Board Member Larry Mott.

Williams continued with review of the annual report. Chairman Schooley asked Board members if they wanted to see any additional information in the report. No suggestions were offered.

Fire Chief Harold House told the Board they are working to keep purchases down for the course of the pandemic. They are also working to correct an issue with the new pickup truck. House said all the fire trucks are now up to date on tire maintenance.

Board Member Larry Mott joined the meeting via Zoom at 7:16 a.m.

Discussion followed about tire sizes and prices, and what happens with the tires that are removed. Beeson suggested working toward a five-year tire replacement policy, rather than a ten-year replacement policy.

Chairman Schooley asked again if Board members wanted to see any other information included in the annual report. No suggestions were offered.

Other Business-Proposal for Fire Garage

Chairman Schooley explained there has been some discussion with Avalon & Tahoe about making a piece of property available for the construction of a new fire garage. Avalon & Tahoe has offered to donate the property to the Fire Board so they can build a garage, or in the alternative, build a fire garage and lease it to the Fire Board. Their builder will build to suit and will go as large as 40' x 60' on the building size. If they build, the project could possibly be done by the end of the year.

Discussion followed about purchase versus lease. Williams told Board members Avalon & Tahoe had suggested a \$1 lease. Further discussion followed about legalities and technicalities. Williams asked if the Board could give permission for legal review of the proposal. Members agreed. Mapes suggested the idea be reviewed with our insurance agent as well. Beeson noted a fire suppression system would be necessary for the new building and asked if the Fire Board could pay for the system if Avalon & Tahoe put up the building. Schooley said that accepting the offer to build a building would open up opportunities for the Fire Board to look at other options for the money donated by ABATE.

Motion by Merchant, seconded by Mapes, to move forward with the lease option proposed by Avalon & Tahoe for a new fire garage. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mapes, Merchant, and Schooley. Voting no: none. Abstained: Mott.

Commissioner Mott abstained from the vote as he had been unable to hear the entire discussion.

Discussion continued about the proposed building. Beeson suggested calling a special meeting to approve an agreement as soon as it is ready. Merchant asked if the Fire Board would be interested in partnering with Sumner and Seville Townships to build a building outside the Alma city limits. Board members agreed a discussion needs to be held with other departments.

Other Business-Interlocal Agreement

Chairman Schooley asked for suggestions to update the Interlocal Agreement. He said his goal was to make the agreement a functioning document. He suggested starting with updating meeting information to set meeting dates that will meet needs of members. No comments were offered when Schooley asked about using the name stated in the Interlocal Agreement.

Schooley made the following suggestions for updates to the agreement: quarterly meetings will be held the third Tuesday of January, April, July, and October. Language about emergency meetings will be included; the budget will be presented at the January meeting; the "annual" meeting will be held in July, and the budget section will include "30 days to adopt the proposed budget".

Beeson recommended adding language about moving meeting dates if the scheduled date falls on a national holiday. He also suggested a budget workshop prior to presentation of the budget.

Schooley asked about the current formula being used for billing. A general consensus of Board members was that the current formula needs to be simplified. Schooley suggested a meeting be scheduled for October 15th, to review and approve changes to the agreement and review the building proposal.

Merchant asked if response times could be discussed. He is considering pulling Arcada Township out of the district and wants to work with Williams and House to look at districting. Mapes agreed a restructure might be something to consider.

Merchant said this was all put together in 1954. Times have changed, and these things should be reviewed so agencies can work together to improve service. Discussion followed.

Williams spoke up saying that all the agencies would respond to a call no matter what because of the current mutual aid agreement. House explained the mutual aid agreement saves time because the responding agency doesn't have to turn around and call for back up when they arrive on scene. Everyone agreed that times have changed and there needs to be discussion between agencies to facilitate working together.

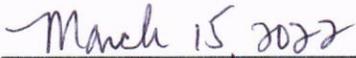
Schooley said a Zoom meeting would be set for October 15th at 7:00 a.m., but bigger discussions need to be held at some point with other agencies involved.

Adjournment

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 a.m. Motion carried with a voice vote. Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mapes, Merchant, Mott, and Schooley. Voting no: none.



Sara Anderson, Recording Secretary



Date of Approval