

=====SAUK FIRE DISTRICT=====

COMMISSION MEETING

Minutes
Wednesday, May 19, 2021
7:00 P. M.

President Sean O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call: Commissioners Present: Mark Hintz, Jerome Ballweg, Donna Ziegler, Robin Meier, Greg Sprecher, Jeffery Lohr, Tom Schneller, Sean O'Connor, Don Gieck, David White, Mike Wipperfurth, Norbert Hardtke, Mike Fehrenbach. Online: David Lendved, Jim Wipperfurth, Janine Godfriaux-Leystra. Absent: Tom Murphy (unable to attend, Janine Godfriaux-Leystra substitute). Chief James Kirch.

The agenda was posted in compliance with open meeting laws at the Sauk City Fire Station, Sauk City Village office and Town of West Point office, Town of Roxbury, Town of Prairie du Sac.

The minutes for January 20, 2021 regular meeting were distributed via email. Motion by David White to approve the minutes, with one correction. Second, Norbert Hardtke. Motion approved by voice vote.

Communications: Don Gieck is new chairman for town of Honey Creek.

Treasurer's Report: Financial statements as of April 30, 2021 were distributed and discussed. Total assets = \$769,808.59 New sub-accounts were added to better track costs. Those do not have budget lines, now but will in the future. Motion by Jeff Lohr to accept the financials as presented. Second, Mike Wipperfurth. Motion approved by voice vote.(See attachments, Balance sheet, Income-budget)

President's Report: Items to report are on the agenda.

Chief's report: Incidents/Fire Calls to date = 64, in same period in 2020 = 70. Roster/membership is at 38. Fire department has joined the Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce. Recruiting efforts include convincing employers to allow volunteers to leave work for calls, as well as recruiting men and women that can respond during day-time hours. Fire inspections in the towns are complete, the balance of village inspections to be completed before June 30, 2021. Proceeds from sale of surplus equipment: Crown Victoria station car = \$3029, ATV 6X6 = \$6850, trailer = \$1710 and miscellaneous items = \$1620.01, for a total of \$13,209.01. No report on audio visual equipment purchases upgrades for meeting/training room, table till September meeting.

Vehicle Maintenance Report: No report.

Action Items:

Auto-mutual aid agreement between Merrimac Vol Fire Department, village of Prairie du Sac fire Department and Sauk Fire District: Motion by Mike Wipperfurth to approve the auto-mutual aid agreement for structure fires between, Merrimac, Village of prairie du Sac and Sauk fire District. Second, Mark Hintz. Motion approved by voice vote.

Agreement is like one already existing with village of Prairie du Sac and Sauk Fire District, except for departments to strive to have two combined trainings per year. Road construction on Hwy 78 to Merrimac may create response challenges, those will be addressed at the time of a call. Sauk County Dispatch is working with departments to provide the proper service. During the mutual aid meetings, the idea of the idea of joining departments into one entity was discussed, it was suggested that the

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departments start by training and working together, more. The future may include EMS and fire as a joint effort.

Potential changes to intergovernmental District Agreement/Standard Operating Guidelines and Policies: Motion by Mark Hintz to establish a committee to investigate make change recommendation to inter-governmental fire district agreement. Second, Robin Meier. Motion approved by voice vote.

Committee members appointed: Robin Meier, Mike Fehrenbach, David White, and Chief Jim Kirch. Changing the agreement to allow borrowing power for district and removing some items that might be more suited as policies, was discussed. The residency requirement for firefighters was an item discussed that could be more flexible as a policy. The question was raised, what to do in the interim when a fully trained candidate presents themselves, but the residency requirement restricts him/her from joining the department. President O'Connor instructed the Chief, within reason, to allow such a candidate(s) to be added to the roster. Positions should be filled to keep a roster that provides for the needs of the department.

Motion by David White to amend current agreement to include service to 100% of Sumpter effective January 1, 2022 Second, Mike Wipperfurth. Motion approved by voice vote.

Till a new agreement is ratified by member municipalities the change to include all territory in Sumpter is needed.

Village of Sauk City request to establish Park on district property. Motion by Robin Meier to instruct the fire chief to notify the village that the district is not interested in allowing a park on district property. Second, Mark Hintz. Motion approved by voice vote.

The Village Recreation Committee thought the corner of Polk Street and Monroe Street would be a good location for a mini-park for the neighborhood and wanted to know our long-term plans for the property and if there would be an interest on our part to allow the village to establish a mini-park. Discussion included, liability and the possibility bartering for snow plowing and lawn mowing service in exchange for authorizing the village to create the park. The department's plans potentially include building a storage/training structure on part of the land, the area is currently used for training purposes including landing of med-flight helicopters. It was also discussed that curious children may be at risk if they were to run to see fire trucks leave on a call. Currently, maintaining control of the property is in the best interest of the district.

Apparatus purchase and special assessment to replace Ladder 9. Motion by Norbert Hardtke to purchase a mid-mount aerial tower ladder truck the net cost not to exceed \$1,400,000 dollars with a special assessment to the member municipalities not to exceed \$1,000,000 dollars [*Pierce Velocity Ascendant* model from *Reliant Fire Apparatus*]. Second, David Lendved. Motion approved by voice vote.

A \$400,000 down payment will be made from current district funds. The municipalities were made aware of the purchase and special assessment. Department or district members met with village of Sauk City, town of Honey Creek, town of West Point and town of Prairie du Sac by in-person, phone, or virtual meetings to provide information and answer questions about the purchase, special assessment info was sent to all municipalities. Radio equipment is an additional purchase item. In the past the fire department has provided fundraising money to purchase some of the required loose equipment. Estimated time for delivery is 12 months, which should put arrival in June of 2022.

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Disposal of current Ladder 9. Motion by David White to authorize the district officers to approve the sale of the current Ladder 9 apparatus before the new vehicle arrives if the district receives an offer to purchase of \$50,000 or more not including loose equipment. Second, Norbert Hardtke. Motion approved by voice vote.

The plan is to have the Chief research sale or disposal opportunities and keep the current vehicle till the new one arrives, however if an acceptable offer is received before then, the district would sell the vehicle prior to that time.

Election of officers: Motion by Jerome Ballweg to nominate and cast a unanimous ballot to elect current officers. [*President Sean O'Connor, Vice-President Mark Hintz, Secretary Mike Fehrenbach, Treasurer Robin Meier*]. Second, David White. Motion approved by voice vote.

Suggestion was made, when reviewing district agreement, to stagger the election of officers so as not to have all positions voted in the same year.

Upcoming meetings:

Sauk Fire District Officer's meeting, July 21, 2021

Sauk Fire District Commission meeting, September 15, 2021

Motion by David White to adjourn till the next regularly scheduled meeting, September 15, 2021.

Second, Tom Schneller. Motion approved by voice vote.

Meeting adjourned 8:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Fehrenbach, Secretary

Not Yet Approved