

BROOKLYN FIRE & EMS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES 01/20/2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by President Mark O'Brien. Members present were John Marx, Kim Gruebling, Jim Lunde, and Pat Hawkey filing in for Brit Springer. Also present were Mason Barber and Justin Wicik. Sarah Andrisevic was present via online video conference.

Motion: Lunde/Gruebling to approve minutes of 12/16/2020 meeting with a typo fixed. Motion carried. Hawkey abstained.

No public comments

Chief Barber reported the department had 11 calls during December. The department had a total of 157 calls during 2020, 12 fewer than 2019. The new truck has arrived; it is not in service yet. It doesn't water or fire hose on it yet. They have a meeting in early February with their salesman for acceptance training, after which it will be ready for service once they get everything transferred over. He is planning to have old engine #2 ready to be listed on Wisconsin surplus by the next meeting.

EMS Director Wicik reported the department had a total of 241 calls during 2020. It is 50 calls more in a single year than previous highest year. There were 196 calls during 2019. Also for 2021, they are double the call volume this time last year. As of the meeting they are at 18 calls and were at 9 the same day last year.

John Marx commented it was January 15th of 2020 that the village requested a strategic plan, he reached out to Heather Kirkpatrick with the dates he was available and didn't hear anything until September, that they couldn't vote for a budget until they had a strategic plan. Nothing was done in September, October, November, or December. He would like the village to explain when it's going to get off the ground.

Mark O'Brien handed out an outline of a strategic plan he put together. He commented he was directed by the Oregon town board at their last meeting that they've had no response from the village and to get something started, draw up an outline and present it at this meeting. Would like the townships and the village to take a look at it, see what they want.

Jim Lunde asked if there was a date yet as to when they would like to hear from the different municipalities. O'Brien commented no. Hawkey commented yes, that Heather Kirkpatrick sent out an email to everyone that supposed to be on it and its February 2nd, 2021. Fred Clark commented that date referred to a town of Rutland meeting and that she had asked for a date the week of February 8th and he said everyday works and has not heard back. Hawkey commented Heather hasn't responded yet because she just sent it out. Marx commented Heather has not responded because she is not happy with the people that have been nominated for the committee and is insisting they have to be an elected representative. Hawkey commented that's on the recording from the municipal meeting. Gruebling commented the municipal meeting was to approve the budget, we actually have the authority to vote as the representatives. The village keeps bring it up that they have to be an elected official, he is an elected official and he disagrees. The village does not have the authority to tell them who to pick as their representative. There are 5 municipalities and 4 believe they can pick whomever they want. And if that was passed at the municipal meeting, it was by mistake because he never would have allowed it. He agreed they should have the committee. Hawkey commented it was her understanding at the municipal meeting that it was supposed to be each person was going to nominate somebody from their board to be on the committee. Anyone else can be there and participate. Wayne Ace commented he remembered from the meeting, he thought he said

everybody on the fire/ems board is on this committee then the townships and village can pick one person to add to that. The 5 that are on the board know all the history and what's going on to help the committee steer things along. That's how he feels it should be done, everyone on the fire board should be on and one person from the municipalities, whether it's a board member or a citizen makes no difference. O'Brien commented he was appointed to be the town of Oregon's representative for the strategic plan committee. Hawkey commented this was from all the municipalities; there is a recording of what was said at the meeting. at that time, that's what people said, they said pick a person from the district board and pick a person from your municipality. And it was supposed to be an elected official, that's what the recording says. If people felt differently, they should have said something differently at that meeting. It was her understanding Heather is trying to schedule a meeting and is waiting for the town of Rutland to give them someone who will represent the town of Rutland. The village's stance is if we said it at the group meeting, then that's what we should go with. Marx commented the joint meeting, according to the district agreement has one purpose, that's to adopt the budget and that's the only authority the joint meeting has. Absent something he hasn't seen in the agreement, he doesn't know why this commission can't say here's how we want to do a strategic plan.

Motion: Gruebling/Marx to allow each municipality to pick their own (one) representative to the strategic plan committee. AYES – Lunde, Marx, Gruebling, O'Brien. NOES – Hawkey. Motion carried.

O'Brien commented he would like Fred Clark to be with him at those meeting, since he is on the town of Oregon Board, as a non-voting member. Hawkey asked is Heather supposed to contact O'Brien for the new members of this committee and who is Rutland putting up. Pete Loughrin commented they have an agenda item to choose their representative on their February 2nd meeting.

Marx commented after the last meeting the district found out we only received partial reimbursement from the state for the hazard pay paid out over the summer. Marx suspended hazard pay for the month of December. They did vote to put money from the unallocated cash reserve to the salary line not knowing when the state money would come in. Now that the state money did not come in, is there still enough money left from the reserve to cover hazard pay for December. The district secretary commented there is just under \$7,000 left in the salary line and hazard pay has been between \$4,000 and \$5,000 each month. EMS Director Wicik commented they are going on more calls with the potential for more exposure, and most of EMS has been through the vaccination process, but it is not the end of the world if they didn't receive the hazard pay. Hawkey asked what the total amount spent on hazard pay was and how much was reimbursed. The district secretary said \$33,781 was spent on hazard pay and \$1,600 was reimbursed. Marx asked if the state ever told us in any communication that there might not be enough money. The district secretary said not until after she reached out to the state regarding the payment they had received. Hawkey commented they should have done what Brit said in the minutes is true, they should have re-evaluated the base pay for the volunteers instead of doing the hazard pay because and it was only done for EMS and not fire and the fire department was also exposed. Chief Barber commented with everything covid the fire department would stage on the road or driveway and wait unless they were needed. O'Brien commented he would like to see an hourly rate increase for both EMS and fire. Marx made and then withdrew the motion to approve hazard pay for December.

Motion: Gruebling/Marx to revisit hazard pay next month. Motion carried.

Motion: Gruebling/Lunde to approve a credit card with a \$5,000 limit for EMS Director Wicik. Motion carried.

The district secretary handed out year-end financials. EMS was approx. \$7,000 under budget. She pointed out EMS received significantly more income from runs this year. Fire was approx. \$27,000 under budget. Chief Barber commented there are still some invoices for year-end that have yet to come in on engine #2. She also included a copy of the bills paid in December for both departments. Hawkey asked if there is a contract for mowing, it was over budget this year. Dan Dean has the contract and it is billed per mowing and not a flat rate amount for the year.

Next meeting will be February 17, 2021.

Motion: Lunde/Gruebling to adjourn at 7:31 pm. Motion carried.