

## BROOKLYN FIRE & EMS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES 04/21/2021

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm by President Mark O'Brien. Members present were John Marx, Kim Gruebling, and Jim Lunde. Mark Bruner was present via online video conference. Also present were Mason Barber and Justin Wicik. Sarah Andrisevic and Cory Lloyd were present via online video conference.

Motion: Gruebling/Marx to approve minutes of 3/17/2021 meeting as written. Motion carried. Bruner abstained.

No public comments.

Marx gave an update on the strategic planning committee. 36 surveys were completed, 22 from EMS and 14 from Fire. Some of the completed surveys are from elected officials. Marx commented a town of Brooklyn official said they had to answer I don't know for a lot of the questions. He said he would work up questions for the general public, more of a customer satisfaction survey. The next strategic planning committee meeting is next week. He would like to continue the strategic planning process, but do anything they can to accelerate it. He will outline components that make sense for a district this size. A benefit to a strategic plan is to provide it to the decision makers, the local governments. It's a really good tool to reassure them you know what you are doing. It will emphasize to the five municipalities the board has a good handle on how this place operates and what its needs are. O'Brien commented he doesn't think the strategic plan needs to be too long, keep it short and simple so all five municipalities have something to go on and look at if they have any questions.

Chief Barber reported the department responded to 17 calls during March. They were really heavy in the village of Brooklyn during March with 12 calls. They responded to a mutual aid call at Kopke's greenhouse on the date of the last board meeting. They were there for just over 4 hours. They have seen a surge in outside fires. Old Engine 2 has been taken to WI Surplus and is set to go to auction next week Tuesday. There is a \$10,000 reserve price for it. Dan Dean is still interested in purchasing the engine. They received a grant application from New Glarus Brewing Company. He thinks they should apply for it. Chief Barber asked the board how they felt about past members coming back in a limited capacity, as just a driver for example, not doing any of the physical activities. He plans to ask Oregon and Stoughton chiefs how they would handle it. He thinks the position should have a minimum age or service requirement. O'Brien commented he would like to hear what Oregon and Stoughton have to say about it first and bring it back to the board next month. Marx commented they could require a medical waiver for the position. Chief Barber is concerned that we tell people we need help and there is help there, but if we say no, it would send a bad message.

EMS Director Wicik went over burn permits. He showed the board where on their website: [brooklynfireems.org](http://brooklynfireems.org), people can enter information for a control burn. It has the burn ordinances for each municipality. The burn submissions are more for informational purposes. A lot of people still call into the station to notify of a control burn. The department does not give permission for people to burn but they can prohibit people from burning when the DNR says no outside burning.

EMS Director Wicik reported the department had 29 runs from the last meeting through tonight. Part-time staff covered 17 of those runs. When they get dispatched, the county gives them 6 minutes to acknowledge and have a vehicle in route. On the summary handed out, the time from unit notified to in route is 4.5 minutes. The part-time staff helps keep the time down, during

the day they are usually in route within 2 to 3 minutes since they are at the station. There were 7 Mutual aid calls, 6 in the village of Oregon. The out of service hours for the month was 18 hrs 45 mins; there were no calls during those out of service times. They are at 69 total out of service hours for the year. He completed a survey for the Baraboo district ambulance survey. It was an 80 question survey wages and benefits for 30 different municipalities. He will report back when they get the results back. They got a medical bag back that was in the police squad from the village. They are waiting to receive a defibrillator back too. The village did a meet a great with the new police department and EMS was there as well.

O'Brien asked if they knew what the village would be doing with their 2<sup>nd</sup> squad car and if that would be any value to the district for a for a first response weekend officer vehicle. Chief Barber said they would be interested in purchasing the squad car from the village if it is available. The squad has higher mileage, and an older model vehicle than what they had proposed. It would be a good thing to try because it would be a lot lower investment. O'Brien said it would be a good trial, could save time and lives and save running too many trucks. See if it works for a year or two and then put it in the budget for a new one. Mark Bruner said he would discuss it at the next village board meeting.

Chief Barber reported they got an email from the commander of the Brooklyn/Oregon American Legions because of Covid, they wanted to honor an outstanding firefighter and EMT from Oregon and Brooklyn and were looking for recommendations. The assistance EMS director Cory Lloyd nominated EMS Director Wicik. He won at the local, county and district level. He is waiting for the state committee to decide. Brian Smith was the recipient of the local award for the fire department. There was an EMT and firefighter from Oregon awarded too.

EMS Director Wicik reported since the department was COVID-19 public testing site, they should be getting some money back from the county.

Motion: Lunde/Marx to table action on payment of hazard pay until next meeting. Motion carried.

The district secretary handed out March financials. Marx asked if they closed the books on 2020. He would like the unallocated cash balances recalculated for the next meeting.

Next meeting will be May 19, 2021.

Motion: Lunde/Gruebling to adjourn at 7:29 pm. Motion carried.