

BROOKLYN FIRE & EMS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES 05/19/2021

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

Motion: Gruebling/Marx to approve minutes of 4/21/2021 meeting as written. Motion carried. Brusberg abstained.

Linda Kuhlman commented she received the service award program annual report and sent it to Sarah. She also mailed out the statements to all the members. She said to let her know if anyone has any questions.

Kim Gruebling commented the town of Union and Evansville charge for fire calls, this district does not. He was wondering why we don't charge. John Marx commented there is a state law for every dollar collected on fire calls; you have to reduce your tax levy. He read somewhere there was a proposal to repeal that but was not sure if it was. Gruebling commented that Evansville charges for every call and they review the calls every month.

Marx gave an update on the strategic planning committee. A citizen satisfaction survey went live on Monday and will be active through June 18. So far there have been 50 responses. There is a meeting coming up next week. He had promised to put out an outline of the strategic plan prior to the meeting.

Motion: Marx/Gruebling to approve Towns Association webinar purchase for \$30, split between fire and EMS. Motion carried.

Marx commented the village has decided to sell their old squad at Wisconsin Surplus. O'Brien commented he has researched the vehicle and thinks the district should put a bid on it for \$8,500 plus a few thousand more to add the proper equipment. There is a fee based on the selling price. Marx asked who would use it, what they would use it for, and where it would come out of the budget. Chief Barber commented it would be a vehicle that could be used as an officer take home/quick response vehicle. The officers of fire and EMS would use it, so there would be a 9 officer rotation. They are graded/rated with their acknowledgement time with the county. They have 6 minutes to be in route when they get a call from county and for a lot of members it's hard to get to the station and be out the door in 6 minutes, especially for members who live in the county. The idea was it would help their response time. Marx asked if they would be able to enforce their officers having to take the vehicle every weekend. Chief Barber thinks they will. EMS Director Wicik commented they have a lot of seasoned guys that are not officers, but if someone is qualified and meet certain criteria, they would be able to take the vehicle in addition to the officers. Brusberg asked if there was a way to pay members a per diem to respond in their personal vehicle as a trial to see if it works. EMS Director Wicik commented they would need to have lights to identify them as a responding unit, and state law says if you have a light, you need to have a siren. Marx commented how it would affect member's car insurance. Gruebling commented switching equipment between every member's cars, things may get broken or missed. Marx asked what car 1 and car 2 are used for. Car 1 pulls the main ATV; it's a 1994 chevy blazer. Car 2 is a 2017 chevy truck purchased by the association. Right now it's used for fire inspections, going to meetings and trainings. They have been using it instead of the squad on medical assist calls. Marx asked if car 2 could be used instead of purchasing another vehicle. Marx commented that EMS has unallocated funds of \$257,000 and fire has \$44,000. Fire only has 22% of their budget as a reserve, so there is money there. Marx

is concerned that if they buy it, but they can't get anyone to take it home. Chief Barber is looking at selling car 1, ATV 2 and the trailer it sits on, and suggested the proceeds from the sale of those vehicles go to the purchase of the quick response vehicle. Chief Barber commented a SUV vehicle would be better than using a truck because of all the equipment they would have on it, it would be easier to secure and still able to transport 4 members. EMS Director Wicik commented a hand held radio is approx. \$2,800 as a comparison to providing each officer with a radio for faster acknowledgment time. Chief Barber commented there is a truck mounted radio available to go into another vehicle. He will ask the members how they feel about it during their monthly meeting tomorrow night.

Motion: Marx/Brusberg to authorize the fire chief to bid on the village squad up to \$8,500 plus \$850 for buyer fees with money from unallocated reserves, 60% from EMS and 40% from fire and chief to use his discretion to bid or not based on what he determines probable use will be at the next business meeting. Motion carried.

Chief Barber reported the department responded to 11 calls during April. They are 4 calls ahead of 2020. There were 3 mutual aid calls and they continue to be the larger calls. They continue to be busy with brush fires. During April two of our members were awarded "Outstanding member" awards by the Brooklyn Oregon American Legion post 160. Chief Barber asked if the board is comfortable opening up the station to pre-pandemic status, not requiring masks. Marx doesn't think it is anything they need to vote on. The mask mandate in dane county expires June 2nd. Bartelt asphalt donated crack filling for the parking lot.

EMS Director Wicik reported the department had 18 runs from the last meeting through tonight. Part-time staff covered 12 of those runs. There were 3 Mutual aid calls. The out of service hours for the month were 36 hrs. They are at 106 total out of service hours for the year. The ambulance is in route on average 3.6 minutes after the announcement is made. Marx commented he would like to look at the arrived at scene numbers in the district compared to out of the district, since there are several mutual aid calls to Oregon that skew the numbers. EMS is in the process of planning a 25 year event for August. The department received \$1,769.25 from dane county emergency management for being a COVID testing site twice.

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

The district secretary handed out April financials.

Next meeting will be June 16, 2021.

Motion: Lunde/Gruebling to adjourn at 8:08 pm. Motion carried.