

BROOKLYN FIRE & EMS DISTRICT BOARD MEETING MINUTES 06/16/2021

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, Justin Wicik and Sarah Andrisevic.

Motion: Gruebling/Marx to approve minutes of 5/19/2021 meeting as written. Motion carried.

No public comments

John Marx gave an update on the strategic plan. They approved an outline of the plan at the May meeting; Marx will work on writing the strategic plan. He sent out two sections, district profile and summary of survey results that came in from staff members and elected officials. The next section will be strengths and weakness followed by goals and objectives. The last section will be changes to the district agreement that will need to be made to achieve the goals and objectives. They will get results of the community survey on this coming Friday and will put those results in the next draft. Mike Brusberg asked if there is a timeline to get it done. Marx commented he would like to get it done sometime in August, so they can present any changes to the district agreement at the joint meeting. Brusberg commented he would like Marx to talk through the strategic plan at a village board meeting.

Marx handed out a summary of what the district can do regarding charging for fire calls. You can charge for fire calls, but you have to estimate how much you will collect and reduce the levy by that amount. It would not be practical for the district to estimate how many calls there would be in each municipality. That is predicated that each municipality would need to have an ordinance with a fee schedule. The district is a standalone entity and Marx thinks they could charge people for services, which are not tied to each municipality. He suggests if the board wants to pursue it further, they would need to speak with an attorney. He would be reluctant to do it unless they had a solid legal opinion to do so. He also commented if people knew they were being charged for a fire call, they would try to put out an out of control fire by themselves. One board member from the town of Brooklyn thinks they should charge for fire calls. Marx commented there is also potential to file a claim with the state for calls on state trunk highways (104, 92 and 14). That doesn't have anything to do with the levy. It does require trying to collect the fee from the motorist or the motorists' insurance company before asking the state for money. Need to document you tried to do all that too. O'Brien thinks we ought to get some legal advice before voting on it. Gruebling asked if the district can just charge for fire calls on the highway and not charge homeowners. People that own homes are already paying for the service and people driving through are not. Chief Barber commented he doesn't like the public relations aspect of it and having to be the ones to tell people they will be charged. Gruebling would like to charge just for highway calls. Brusberg asked what they are trying to solve for. Marx commented the town of Brooklyn fee. Marx is going to look more into charging a fee for just highway calls.

Motion: Lunde/Gruebling to table vote on charging a fee for fire calls until after consulting with a lawyer. Motion carried.

Marx commented the municipalities have until Friday to apply for the federal ARPA funds. He brought this up because the money can be used for premium paid targeted to workers that faced heighten risk through the character of their work. Also, premiums paid can be provided retrospectively for work performed any time since the start of the COVID 19 pandemic. He thinks that the December hazard pay payment they didn't make would be covered under these

funds. He asked the municipalities as they are developing their plans on how to spend the money, to keep the hazard pay in mind. Marx is going to ask the Fire Chief and EMS Director to put together a list of needs related to COVID that can be given to the municipalities if they have money to put towards it.

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

(The Fire Chief and EMS Director had to leave the meeting to respond to a call and were not able to give the Fire Chief's or EMS Director's reports).

Motion: Gruebling/Marx to table action on disposing of car 1 ATV 2, and its trailer. Motion carried.

The district secretary handed out May financials. The fire department received a grant from the DNR.

Next meeting will be August 11, 2021.

Motion: Gruebling/Marx to adjourn at 7:26 pm. Motion carried.