

Board Meeting of Leicester Volunteer Fire Department

March 25, 2024

Special Meeting: The meeting was opened with prayer and pledge of allegiance at 6:30. The meeting was in reference to public comment concerning the purchase of a pumper/tanker. Home Trust would be the lending institution with the total of \$299,206 financed (\$75,000 down) for the term of 12 years. No objection to the financing agreement. Joan Creasman made the motion to accept the proposal stated earlier, seconded by Karla Reed and motion passed unanimously. Special meeting closed at 7:00

Board Members present: Steven Marlowe, Brent Kendall, Steve Burnett, Joan Creasman, Karla Reed, Sonya Griffen. Chris Coon, Ken Bailey absent due to illness.

Other Present: Zachary St. Germain, Konrad Fuhri, Tom Kelly, Ricky McHaffey Jr., Jason Griffen, Marty Rice, Cade Parkins, Christina Cable, Johnny Reece, Jacob Boyd, Roger Banks, Rob Cutchins, John Gruber, Lewis Grady Smith

Secretary Report: Motion made by Joan Creasman to accept the report and seconded by Steve Burnett. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer Report: Motion made by Karla Reed to accept the treasurer's report and seconded by Joan Creasman. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Older brush truck was sold for ~~\$17,900~~ ^{\$17,200.00}. New employees have a check-off package that has to be completed after employment. Pullout tray was discussed for the Suburban again. Jason Griffen presented options with CW Williams in which, they can do a turnkey installation with headache rack and wiring. Total cost of \$8300. Suggestion to use the proceed from the sale of the brush truck to cover the cost of the slideout, the uplift of the service truck and floor mats for the chief's vehicle. Also presented that Knox boxes could be purchased for hardships residents from the Ways and Means line item. These purchases will be discussed after the budget is approved.

New Business: 6 new hires: 4 firefighters, 1 firefighter/EMT-P and 1 EMT-P. Board asked about outreach program regarding recruitment. Christina Cable is working on reaching out to schools. Increase of ambulance transport rates were discussed. Roger Banks suggested 10% increase across the board. Base of \$650 increase to \$700, ALS (1) \$810 increase to \$900. ALS (2) \$1000.00. \$15.00 per mile. **County Rates:** basic \$756, ALS(1) \$887, ALS (2) \$1300. \$16.00 per mile. **Riceville:** \$1200 flat rate with \$19.00 per

mile. Sonya Griffen made the motion to equal county EMS rate. No second was made. She states that probably br an increase of \$90,00 if we matched the county rates. Dues, licenses,DEA, medicare and professional services would be paid from the EMS revenue. Konrad Fuhri requested additional paramedic hire for advance airway procedure protocols. Roger Banks to get accurate numbers for transports for Saturday's meeting. Suggestions to increase the district to mutual aid to French Board approximately 346 calls, although it would only increase the calls up to 86 because we are already responding to that district. Possible increase calls to Ella Lane (state pay) and Country Time Lane (Medicare/Medicaid). The county will not be increasing tax revenue and all departments are losing a large portion of their revenue. Discussion about the budget shortfall, still unsure of the actual numbers. Meeting with Taylor Jones and the county finance office scheduled. Discussion of the purchase of the third truck and due to the uncertainty of the budget numbers. If we cancel the truck, we will be penalized \$5000.00. 400 feet of 4" LDH and adapters needed. Hopefully they can be included in the financing. It was tabled until contact with the bank was made. Discussion about landscaping. questions of lawncare and purchasing Zero turn ,pushmowers and weeders. Approximate cost of \$11,600.00. Sonya Griffen was instructed to reach out to VFIS to reach out about (liability)worker's compensation. Sonya Griffen discussed concrete pad to connect sidewalks. Concrete will be free. President Marlowe offered the equipment for the above project and to fix the drainage problems. This was tabled. VFIS insurance is due in June/July. Board requested that Sonya Griffen to reach out to Mr. Gilbert about changing agents. No bids on septic tank. Steve Burnett would call 2 people in reference the septic system. Motion to decrease reserves(fund balance) to 15% per county contract. Karla Reed made the motion and was seconded by Joan Creasman. Passed unanimously. Credit cards for the captains and chief. Look for "rewards program". Increase chief's limit to \$5000.00 and \$2500.00 for captains. Make sure the cards have different numbers. Joan Creasman made the motion and Sonya Griffen seconded. passed unanimously. McHaffey asked about hiring a permanent chief. Steven Marlowe and Steve Burnett explained that it would be discussed in the budget meeting.

Regular session ended at 10:07