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# Leicester Volunteer Fire Department Board Meeting Minutes, August 28, 2023

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## Attendees included:

Board President Ronald Prestwood  
Board Vice President Steven Marlowe  
Chief Ted Godleski  
Board Treasurer Brent Kendall  
Board Secretary Daniel Brice  
Board Members Joan Creasman, Dylan McMahan, Karla Reed, and Susan Weaver

## Guests Included:

### Leicester Fire Department Staff in attendance:

Nicholas Prestwood, Deputy Chief	Austin McClure, A-Shift FF/EMT
Damon Landruff, B-Shift FF/Paramedic	Jacob Gallion, A-Shift FF/EMT
Robert Cutchins, B-Shift FF	Jason Griffin, C-Shift Captain
Michael Henderson, A-Shift Captain	Sonya Griffin, C-Shift FF/Paramedic
Jake Bishop, B-Shift Captain	Grady Smith, FF/EMT, Volunteer
Shawn Hipp, B-Shift FF/EMT	Konrad Fuhri, A-Shift FF/Paramedic
Cade Parkins, A-Shift FF/AEMT	Zachary St. Germain, FF/AEMT
John Willis, C-Shift FF/AEMT	Roger Banks, FF/NRP
	Marty Rice, Vol FF

## Call to order

A meeting of Leicester Volunteer Fire Department was held at LVFD Station 1, 1563 Alexander Rd, Leicester NC, Multipurpose Room on Monday, August 28, 2023, at 7:00pm. Meeting was called to order by Board President Ronald Prestwood followed by an opening prayer, led by Board Vice President, Steven Marlowe, and then concluding with the Pledge of Allegiance. Board President provided opening remarks.

## Secretary's Report, Approval of minutes

Time was given for review of the previous meeting minutes. A motion was made by Steven Marlowe to accept the secretary's report as presented for the Board meeting held on July 31, 2023. Joan Creasman seconded, and motion carried unanimously.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's report delivered by Board Treasurer Brent Kendall outlining spending and balances for July 2023. Spending is on budget to date. Brent also provided handouts to be discussed later.

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Dylan McMahan, seconded by Karla Reed, and the motion carried unanimously.

## Old Business

### Chief Ted Godleski

1. **Main Station Landscaping:** Chief Godleski explained that a decision needs to be made in the next month or two, as October is the latest ideal time to plant grass. Chief also explained that the volunteer that was working on the drainage issue had hurt his shoulder and was unable to complete. A backup plan may be needed.
2. **Brush Trucks Chassis:** Chief Godleski summarized his conversation with Wayne at CW Williams and noted the possibility that one truck will be finished in the next 2 weeks.
3. **New Fire Engines and Pumper-Tanker:** Chief Godleski turned the floor over to Captain Jason Griffin for the status report. Contracts had been signed for the addition of the dump chutes for the Fire Engines. The Pumper-Tanker is starting assembly and expecting delivery in October or November 2023. Captain Griffin also noted that both engines would enter assembly simultaneously, and estimated delivery time would be in January 2024.

Treasury Brent Kendall took the floor and summarized his research on financing and reviewed his handout titled "HomeTrust 4.84 Rate as of 8/17/23", which summarizes the proposed loan and quarterly payments of the new Fire Engines and Pumper-Tanker. Brent then summarized that the proposed total annual sum of payments, totaling \$147,640, was under the amount of the 2023 budget line item 6060 of \$160,314.12. He noted that HomeTrust Bank had provided the best interest rates. President Prestwood inquired on what other banks had proposed, and Brent responded with 7%. Brent also explained that it is best to finance the trucks individually rather than together. President Prestwood directed that if there was a danger of losing that rate, a special board meeting could convene to make decisions. Discussion proceeded among board members and concluded with no significant actions.

President Prestwood returned to the discussion back to the item of Main Station Landscaping. He inquired if any more bids have been submitted. Only one person had submitted a bid, but this was 1 year ago and unsure if that person would still honor that bid. Discussion among the board ensued with questions and suggestions. Daniel Brice asked if he could reach out to someone who may be interested in doing the work. President Ron Prestwood said that he would entertain another bid. Chief Godleski volunteered to forward the bid information to Daniel. Ron tabled this discussion while more information is gathered. The floor was returned to Chief Godleski.

4. **Community Garden Agreement:** Nothing new to report.
5. **Solar Panels at new building:** Nothing new to report.
6. **Class A Uniforms:** Chief Godleski turned the floor over to Roger Banks to explain his efforts. Roger explained that he had researched pricing and found that the lowest bid per uniform was \$675.74, and the high bid was in the \$750-800 range. Discussion and questions from the board ensued. It was noted that 19 sets are needed to cover all full-time staff. Current inventory only covers 1/2 of the staff. The current budget for uniforms was discussed and noted that \$983.32 has already been spent, and there are upcoming orders for t-shirts and job shirts. An inquiry was made of how much was spent in last year's Uniform Budget and found that \$3500 had been spent. Further discussions ensued on reducing uniform items and augmenting existing inventory rather than full replacement. Deputy Chief Nick Prestwood suggested to have a "swap-meet" for everyone to bring all their existing uniform items and to trade and swap with existing inventory to get best uniforms possible with existing inventory, and then create detailed list of items needed to complete the uniform items for required staff.

A motion was made by Vice President Steve Marlowe that in one month that a detailed request after the swap-meet then use the funds from CD investments interest to cover the costs. Joan Creasman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

7. **Yearly Audit:** Chief Godleski provided as a point of information that the yearly audit, letters of engagement has been signed with the auditing company, Goldsmith Molis & Grey. Andrea Blankenship has delivered the records and they will be returned next month.
8. **Articles of Incorporation:** President Prestwood directed Chief Godleski to continue and provide that status of the Articles of Incorporation. Chief summarized his conversation with Mr. Bost (Management Solutions for Emergency Services, LLC). Mr. Bost evaluated the Bylaws and was not satisfied and sent them back to the judge with suggestions. THE ARTICLES OF REINSTATEMENT FOR NON-PROFIT CORPORATION OF LEICESTER VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT document and the Bylaws will require a public meeting to allow our members, the taxpayers, an opportunity to review and ask questions of the changes in the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws. A meeting will need to be advertised 30 days prior and can be done in conjunction with the regular board meeting but will need to be announced that there will be a special meeting for the review of these documents. Ted Godleski relayed from Mr. Bost in relation of changing the name of the organization, or any other changes to the document, that once these are registered, then any changes thereafter will have to go through the entire process again. If there are any changes to be made, this is now the time to do so. Chief then explained that people have asked him about changing the name of the department. Examples given, Leicester Fire and Rescue, Leicester Fire Department and dropping Volunteer from the name. Open discussion ensued. Concerns and arguments included costs of making a change on all legal documents and truck decals, recognition of the professional "paid" staff, and confusion withing the community of the status of volunteer vs. paid. Karla Reed made a motion to keep the "Leicester Volunteer Fire Departing Inc." legal name and allow shirts, decals, etc. to have "Leicester Fire and Rescue". Joan Creasman seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
9. **Haygood Family Disbursement:** Chief Godleski requested to revisit this topic from April 2023, when the approved motion was to provide funds to the Haygood Family through the funeral home. Due to circumstances the funeral home was unable to accept the disbursement. Open discussion among the board ensued. Joan Creasman made a motion to have the funds of \$500 disbursed to the surviving children's grandfather, Dale Haygood. Steven Marlow Seconded the motion. Chief Godleski interrupted the vote and recalled from the April minutes that this was already voted on.

President Ronald Prestwood:

10. **Station #2:** President Prestwood provided the status of the septic issue at Station #2. The neighboring property owner that was originally receptive to assisting called Chief Godleski this past Thursday and denied the proposed easement. Efforts will return to testing plots on the church property, and currently awaiting the county to start digging the test pits.

Karla Reed delivered a handout, titled NEXTGEN SEPTIC, and explained she had done some research on alternative septic solutions and found solutions ranging in price from \$7,000 to \$35,000. Discussions continued and concluded with no requested actions.

Other Board Members

11. Joan Creasman provided an update on the efforts of the Committee investigating the possibility of building a new Station #2 facility. She had received one response to her inquires for potential property sites from Margrett Duckett with the potential possibility of

her selling 11 acres. She will not split the property through, and she wants to study pricing before making a commitment. The site is 9.3 miles from the main station, within the 10-mile limit discussed in the last board meeting. Open discussion ensued. President Prestwood asked if the board wanted to continue investigating the possibility of a new station, and the board responded with verbal and head nodding affirmations.

Old Business concluded.

### New Business

Chief Godleski:

12. Treasurer Brent Kendall provided a handout titled "CD MATURATION SCHEDULE" and reviewed with Board. Discussion proceeded on how to disburse the earned interest. A motion was made by Joan Creasman to renew the principal of the CD that matures on September 18, 2023, and the put the interest earned, \$6477 in the savings account. Vice President Steve Marlow seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.
13. Chief Godleski recognized Captain Jason Griffin to lead the discussion on disposing of the former Chief-18/Car-18 Ford Expedition. As it is no longer needed. Chief Godleski referenced the minutes from the Board Meeting Feb 2022, and believe it was already voted to sell it. Instructions were given to Daniel Brice to list the vehicle on social media for a closed bid auction.

President Prestwood opened the floor to the audience for items of discussion.

14. Damon Landruff stood to speak on rumors of a letter that led to the retirement decision of Chief Godleski. He explained that he did not write a letter and of there was a letter, it did not speak on his behalf. Several in the audience voiced their concerns and opinions on the matter. Chief Godleski provided comments and expressed his love of the department. He acknowledged there was a letter. Joan Creasman requested for the board to receive a copy of the letter. A copy of the letter was provided to the board for review in the closed meeting session. Damon Landreth, Jacob Galion, Shawn Hipp, and Sonya Griffin expressed their desired for Chief Godleski to stay. Konrad Fuhri admitted he wrote the letter and provided his reasons. Discussion was then concluded.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:15Pm. The next meeting will be September 25, 2023, at the Main Station located at 1563 Alexander Rd, Leicester, NC

Respectfully Submitted,

Daniel Brice  
Secretary-Board of Directors