
***MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS OF THE ALVA FIRE CONTROL &
RESCUE SERVICE DISTRICT***

March 14, 2022

Meeting called to order by Chairman Crittenden, at 6:43 P.M, of the Alva Fire Control & Rescue Service District. Others present were Chief Kuhn and Commissioner's Shearer, Watkins, Fichter and Spence. Also, in attendance was Chaplain Paul Cords as well as one District Volunteer.

Pledge of Allegiance / Moment of silence.

Prayer – Pastor Paul Cords.

Award / Recognition – Chairman Crittenden revealed that the Burgess Memorial was presented to family members prior to the Board meeting. He stated that Ahern Aluminum and Mary Lou's Western Wear contributed items that were placed on this memorial. Crittenden also thanked district Fire Fighters, Jenkins and Wright, for their help in its completion.

Commissioner Fichter made a motion to approve the February Minutes from the previous regular meeting. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Spence and unanimously approved.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept the February financial data. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and passed unanimously.

Chairman Crittenden called, "Is there any public input on any business agenda items?" There was no public input.

Administrative Assistant, Sunny Sipes, presented Resolution #22.03.01 concerning the Call for Election for Board Seats #2, 4 & 5 during the upcoming, November 9, 2022, elections.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve Resolution #22.03.01. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Shearer and all Board Members unanimously agreed (copy attached hereto).

Chief Kuhn presented a copy of his original and revised Employment Contracts to Board members. He asked members to consider renewing his contact with an

extension to, October 1, 2022. He stated that this will also give Board members an opportunity to think about any revisions that they see would be beneficial to the district. Crittenden asked if anything had changed within the contract? Kuhn stated the renewal date as well as the verbiage that would allow him to receive overtime, at 1.5 times his regular hourly rate, for employee shifts that he is called to cover. He stated that he has filled-in for several shifts, due to employee shortages, and he has not been compensated. Kuhn also stated that he had a phone interview with a prospective, well qualified, Fire Fighter/Paramedic this afternoon. He relayed that he has a final interview on Thursday and felt confident that this individual would accept the open position. Commissioner Spence stated that he would like to see the upcoming/proposed Contract prior to its renewal.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to accept Chief Kuhn's presented Employment Contract renewal through, October 1, 2022. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and approved. Commissioner Shearer declined the renewal contract as written.

Kuhn informed the Board that it was now time to purchase the needed SCBA air packs and tanks. He stated that the current equipment is over 16-years old and out of useful life. He presented the Board with a proposal from Ten-8, along with an option to finance the equipment, in the amount of \$47,011.58. This quote included 5-air packs, 10-cylinders and 10-masks. Kuhn informed them that he was going to apply for a Fire House Subs grant in order to cover the next round of purchases. He also stated that there are areas within the budget that they can "pull" from in order to help offset this expense. Commissioner Spence reminded Kuhn that the Union is available to help in the process of applying for grants. Kuhn demonstrated the SCBA equipment to Board members. Commissioner Shearer inquired as to "why so many tanks to purchase"? Kuhn stated that he wanted enough spares to equip Volunteers and additional responding Fire Fighters. Crittenden asked if the old tanks could be used with the new packs? Kuhn stated, yes, but he wanted to be sure that he was following ISO regulations. Spence felt that the old tanks could be used as backups. Kuhn stated the he had concerns with the masks not well-fitting employees. He stated that updating old equipment is very important and he has concerns with mixing old and new devices. He informed the Board that the Fire House Subs grant has a quick turnaround time and the AFG grant is also an option for the district.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the presented SCBA equipment through Ten-8 (copy attached hereto). This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

Chief Kuhn informed the Board that a tire was blown on the brush truck during a recent brush fire. He stated that replacement tires for this military vehicle are not currently being produced and any replacements are very costly. He presented the Board with a quote, from Boulevard Tire Center, for custom offroad, readily available, wheels and tires. He stated that the estimate provided was for (5) wheels.

However, he felt that (4) would be sufficient since these items are readily available should a replacement be needed. Shearer inquired if any other company sells these tires? Kuhn stated that most fire districts use Boulevard Tire due to their competitive pricing and quick turnaround time.

Commissioner Fichter made a motion to approve the purchase of (4) custom wheels and tires, through Boulevard Tire Center, as presented to the Board. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Spence and unanimously accepted.

Chief Kuhn presented the Board with his Chief's Report. Kuhn thanked the Alva community, Fire Fighters and Volunteers for their help with the successful barbeque. He stated that 287 meals were sold and that Volunteers raised \$2,294. Crittenden stated that, due to feedback received, he would like to go back to the way that Alva Volunteers previously handled this barbeque. Next year he would like to set-up tables at the Station that would allow guests to stay and eat, correspond with each other, view the equipment and enjoy our beautiful property. All Board members agreed. Kuhn thanked district Fire Fighter, Hannah Anderson, as well as Hog Body's restaurant for preparing and donating the coleslaw and baked beans. He also thanked Alva Camp Fire for donating the wood and Alva Diner for the donated dinner rolls. Kuhn offered his gratitude, as well, to the Oak Park Community for their generous donation of \$3,500. Chief informed the Board that there was a total of 55 calls in the previous month of which 41 were EMS related and 3 were fire calls. He also stated that the district received the 50/50 Equipment Grant funding, from the Division of Forestry, in the amount of \$8,579.

Commissioner Watkins made a motion to approve the Chief's Report. This motion was seconded by Commissioner Fichter and unanimously approved.

Sunny Sipes discussed with the Board the qualifications and guidelines required to use Impact Funds for equipment/land purchases. Commissioner Watkins stated that he would like to have all information, in regards to the previously discussed water truck purchase, presented at the April gathering.

Crittenden called for the Union Report. There was no Union Report.

Crittenden called for Volunteer / public comments. There were no Volunteer comments.

Chairman Crittenden called for Commissioner comments. Commissioner Crittenden stated that he had received a call from Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann's office. They stated that they had received an anonymous letter from an individual, within the Oak Park Community, along with two months copies of the district's previous Minutes. Crittenden stated that he is still waiting on these copies from Mann's office. His secretary stated that Mann had her draft a letter to the individual informing them that the Alva Fire District was an independent special district, he had no jurisdiction over this matter and that any concerns would need to

be addressed at one of their public Board meetings. Commissioner Fichter stated that he reviewed the flood elevation for the district property in regards to the pole barn construction. He also stated that he would be happy to perform a survey if need be.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Commissioner Shearer then seconded by Commissioner Fichter. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sonya R. Sipes
Administrative Assistant