



OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH AREA FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Tuesday, June 11, 2019 @ 12:00 P.M.

A. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the South Area Fire and Emergency Response District Board of Directors was called to Order at 12:00 P.M. by SAFER Chairman Al Opall.

Members Present

Opall, Legner, Maloney, and Sparks were all present. Langenhahn excused. Also present: Town of Rib Mountain - Finance Director Dunbar and Administrator Rhoden; Village of Weston - Administrator Donner, Finance Director Trautman, and Deputy Finance Director Trittin; SAFER - EMS Division Chief Bechel, Chief Savage, Deputy Chief Finke, Fire Marshall Christiansen, BC McBain, and BC Witmer.

B. Correspondence/Comments from the public on issues related to the SAFER District

None

C. Consent Items

Approval of prior meeting minutes from May 14, 2019.

Maloney/Legner moved to approve prior meeting minutes from May 14, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of April 2019 vouchers.

Legner/Sparks moved to approve April 2019 vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Business Items

Discussion on billing for structural fire calls.

- Clarification needed on whether to charge or not charge both municipalities for structural fire calls. Currently only Weston homeowners are being charged (which is covered by insurance). Chief Savage is recommending to discontinue charging Weston so that there is consistency between the two. It will result in approximately \$5,000 in revenue loss. The new Fire Code will be updated to state that the Village of Weston and the Town of Rib Mountain will not be charged for structural fires but will continue to be charged for ambulance service, motor vehicle crashes, and hazmat spills. The separate pre-existing agreement with the Town of Marathon with regard to charges will remain the same.
- Action: The Fire Code will be updated and added to a future agenda for approval by the board.

Discussion and recommendations on Wausau area Tanker currently housed at Station 1 in the City of Wausau.

- The tanker is co-owned by several communities and has been housed and maintained by the City of Wausau. It is decades old and needs a lot of work to update or should be decommissioned.
- Chief Savage recommended that the tanker be decommissioned and sold with the proceeds going to the City of Wausau to recoup the costs of maintenance and housing.
- *Sparks/Legner moved to approve the sale of the old tanker with proceeds directed to City of Wausau. Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion on letter from the Town of Rib Mountain to the Village of Weston regarding "Financial Obligations of Rib Mountain for Start Up of SAFER District".

- Sparks suggested that the Administrators from each municipality meet along with Chief Savage and other members of the board to discuss the issue and bring back to the board at a later date.
- Action: Donner and Rhoden will set up a meeting.

Election of SAFER Board of Directors President and Vice President.

- Sparks/Legner nominated Opall for President and Maloney/Legner nominated Sparks for Vice President.
- Opall asked for further nominations and with no additions the nominations were closed.
- *Opall moved for election of Opall for President and Sparks for Vice President. Motion carried unanimously.*

E. Staff Reports

Report from Fire Chief

- The training burn of the house in Weston has been delayed due to asbestos abatement issues and the training burn of a house in Rib Mountain will be scheduled soon. The board will be notified of dates and times and is invited to attend.
- SAFER scored under the average range for Worker's Compensation issues again for 2018. Therefore, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities issued SAFER a dividend check for \$12,640. Chief Savage is recommending that this be used to offset the cost of replacing expired firefighting gear. When the bill is ready for these replacements Board action will be needed to approve the use of the funds at that time.
- The board welcomed a new hire: Battalion Chief Chad Witmer.

Report from Deputy Fire Chief

- SAFER was called to two recent fires: One on Sunday 6/9/19 in Schofield and one on Monday, 6/10/19 in Weston. Response time to the Weston fire was within 3-4 minutes of being called and resulted in very minimal property damage.

F. Remarks from the Board of Directors to set the next meeting date as well as discuss items for the next meeting agenda.

- Opall questioned if there was any resolution on a past incident notification delay. Chief Savage said he had not had any information from that incident but that the fire on Sunday 6/9/19 also had MABAS dispatch problems. Dispatch had contacted him about those issues and had taken responsibility and are working on resolving the issues.
- Opall asked if SAFER has been notified on how the re-addressing is being implemented. Chief Savage said they are working around the issue of new addresses not being correct in GPS by asking for the old address while in route to an incident. He acknowledged that it is causing some delays in response time.

The next meeting date is set for Tuesday, July 9, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

G. Adjourn

Sparks/Legner moved to adjourn. Opall adjourned at 12:46 P.M.