



OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
SOUTH AREA FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DISTRICT
Board of Directors Regular Meeting
Tuesday, October 15, 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 12:01 P.M. by SAFER Chairman Al Opall.

Members Present

Opall, Langenhahn, Maloney, and Sparks were all present. Legner 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; Wipfli representative Keith Koszarek; SAFER - EMS Division Chief Bechel, Chief Savage, Deputy Chief Finke via phone, BC Mc Bain, BC O'Connor, Larsen, Franck, Fire Marshal Christianson, Mattke, BC Lang, Stieve and Pound.

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

None

C. Consent Items

Approval of prior meeting minutes from September 10, 2019.

Maloney/Sparks moved to approve prior meeting minutes from September 10, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Business Items

2020 Budget Presentation

- We are on track for only a six percent increase with the budget. Zero raises for all employees, we will cut out one position during the week day at Station 2 and we will drop from 4 to 3. Take out a lot of the outside training and not bring in a class for Swiftwater kayak rescue. We will need to rely on mutual aid on busy days during the week days. The Board advised Chief Savage to get rid of the policy in place for our personnel to be allowed now to work with other Paramedic Services in the Wausau Metro Area. Also, the Board advised that Kronenwetter, Riverside District and South Area Fire District should join together and become one in the future.

Action: Moved to next month's agenda.

Discussion and possible action on Town of Stettin contract.

- Met with the Town a month ago. Just received email from Tracey the City of Wausau has approved everything. Town of Stettin was told we are in agreement as long as our revenue line was not decreased, which they are fine with. The Town is waiting for the City to come back with the operational change.

Action: Moved to next month's agenda.

Discussion and possible action on contract with Marathon Joint Service Agreement.

- Do we need to change the contract or leave it as is with receiving 50/50 per fire. This has been going on for 7 months. Deputy Chief Finke forward the email to the Board from Marathon's Administrator. The Board is requesting to see the fees before moving forward.

Action: Moved to next month's agenda.

Discussion and possible action on 2019 financials.

- Ambulance fees and Credit Card charges are still being processed for 2019, and we will come close to the budget. We have seen a decline in Ambulance Transfers. We will work on tracking all the financials.

Action: Moved to next month's agenda.

Discussion and possible action on purchase of ambulances.

- If we put one ambulance on the budget for 2020 and a second ambulance on the budget for 2021, we would purchase both ambulances at the same time and take delivery of the one ambulance in 2020 and the other in 2021. This would save us about \$12,000.00 if we purchase them together. The manufactures would use the second ambulance for about 90 days as a demo unit. We would like to purchase the same ambulances as the last two rounds, we've had very good luck with them and we would like to have the same consistency. Right now, we have four or five different bodies laid out differently and makes it difficult for the crews and maintenance. We would like to have an exclusive vendor for our ambulances to stay consistent. Cost would be \$212,000.00 and \$240,000.00 with saving \$6,000.00 on each ambulance. When the chassis is dead, remount the body and save \$50,000.00 to \$75,000.00. These are replacing a 2010 with 100,000 miles and corrosion. And the 2011 with 140,000 miles and have spent nearly \$15,000.00 in repairs in the past 18 months.

Action: Moved to next month's agenda.

Discussion and possible action on ambulance rate changes.

- For our level of service, we charge a little less than the City of Wausau, and the billing company recommends that. The Board advised that we match our rates to the City of Wausau and raise our Mileage to \$19.00 to make money as we offer the same service. Also, the Board asked that we give our billing company an extra percentage to retain the remaining 50% of the bill from customers.

Action: Maloney/Langenhahn moved to approve. Motion carried unanimously.

E. Staff Reports

Report from Fire Chief

- Monthly Board Activity Report will be generated every month.
- Mutual Aid call in Schofield. Was second on scene after the engine, and we were running operational attack. Came back that it is a possible crime scene, it changes things, but still had to keep putting out the fire. We fought the garage fire with Everest Metro presence. It was an interesting dynamic and it increased our awareness. It was an eye-opening day.
- An apology to the Board for some items sent through email during the process of the 2020 Budget.

Report from Deputy Fire Chief

- Nothing to report.

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

- Nothing to report.

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

G. Adjourn

Maloney/Langenhahn moved to adjourn. Opall adjourned at 2:09 P.M.