



**OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**SOUTH AREA FIRE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DISTRICT**  
**Board of Directors Regular Meeting**  
Tuesday, May 14, 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 12:04 P.M. by SAFER Chairman Al Opall.

**Members Present**

Opall, Legner, Malone, and Sparks were all present. Town of Rib Mountain Finance Director Dunbar, EMS Division Chief Bechel, Chief Savage, Deputy Chief Finke and BC O'Connor were also present.

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

None

**C. Consent Items**

Approval of prior meeting minutes from March 12, 2019.

*Legner/Malone moved to approve prior meeting minutes from March 12, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.*

Approval of March 2019 vouchers.

*Malone/Legner moved to approve March 2019 vouchers. Motion carried unanimously.*

**D. Business Items**

Appointment of new SAFER Board Members.

- The Board of Directors welcomed two new members from the Village of Weston: Mark Malone and Wally Sparks. Election of President and Vice President will be at the June 2019 meeting.

Discussion and possible action on sale of ambulance.

- The new ambulance has been fully equipped and is in service. Chief Savage suggested the outgoing ambulance be put on Wisconsin Surplus Auction for sale. Sparks suggested that detailing the vehicle may bring in higher bids. *Malone/Sparks moved to place ambulance for sale on Wisconsin Surplus. Motion carried unanimously.*

Discussion and possible action on acceptance of grant and purchase of UTV trailer.

- The current UTV trailer is not rated for a high enough weight to accommodate the UTV while it is holding water which means delays in filling the tank when responding to grass fires. BC O'Connor applied for and received a grant from Co-Vantage for \$2500 which will cover over half of the cost of a new trailer. Request was made to use general funds from the sale of air packs and other equipment to pay for the remainder which will be approximately \$2,380. The old trailer will also be auctioned on Wisconsin Surplus. *Sparks/Legner moved to allow the use of general funds to pay for the balance of new trailer. Motion carried unanimously.*

## **E. Staff Reports**

### **Report from Fire Chief**

- Chief Savage reported that two houses were intentionally burned for training purposes and were carried off successfully. Live burns are invaluable training for staff and are a cost saving for the homeowner when compared to demolition. There are two more homes in Rib Mountain that may be available for additional training burns.
- Call volume has been steady. There was an unusual call for a shooting over the weekend. Chief Savage thanked the board for their approval and subsequent purchase of ballistic protection several years ago which was used by the responders for this call.
- Staffing Levels: One of the Battalion Chiefs has resigned. Interviews for a new Battalion Chief were conducted on May 13, 2019 with four candidates. An offer will be made to one of the candidates today. Two paramedics are also leaving for other positions. The SAFER Grant as outlined in last month's meeting minutes will assist in the transition of four part-time paramedics into full-time paramedic staff. The grant determination will be in June or July 2019 and should help with the difficulty in staffing and turnover rates.
- Budgeting for 2020 will begin next month. Part of the 2020 budget will need to include the replacement of 20 to 25 expiring turnout gear units at approximately \$2200 per unit. Replacing this many at once is unusual and efforts are being made to rotate the expiration and replacement as well as possible.

### **Report from Deputy Fire Chief**

- Deputy Fire Chief Finke addressed the new Fire Code: A new fire code was drafted last year in order to have a consistent code for both the Village of Weston and the Town of Rib Mountain. The Village accepted the code as drafted but the Town forwarded it to their attorney who has revisions. The progress has been stalled and Chairman Opall was asked to contact the attorney to complete their revisions. Once revised it will need to go through the approval process again. The urgency is to ensure the code is in place prior to ISO (Insurance Safety Organization) rating which helps to determine resident tax levels. Action: Chairman Opall will contact the attorney and Finance Director Dunbar will also check on its progress.

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

There were no remarks from the Board of Directors. The next meeting date is set for Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

## **G. Adjourn**

*Opall moved to adjourn at 12:44 P.M.*