

NORTHWESTERN JOINT FIRE DISTRICT

May 11, 2022

Minutes

The Northwestern Joint Fire District Board met in Regular Session at 7:00 p.m.. The Board opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Logan Rife, representative of York Township, Ms. Beth Marshall, representative of Taylor Township, Mr. Jerry McClary, representative of Liberty Township and Ms. Allison Hamilton, Fiscal Officer were in attendance. Chief Tim Merrick, Lt. Rob Morey, Mr. Dave Thomas and Mr. Rod Goddard. The Leesburg Township Trustees, Mr. Bill Lowe, Mr. Jeff Robinson and Mr. Kevin Dotson and Chief John Cook were in attendance as guests.

Mr. Rife welcomed the guests from Leesburg Township.

Chief Merrick presented a power point presentation on the operational challenges and changing dynamics in the community Leesburg is facing in the operations of their Fire Department. Leesburg held a Town Hall style meeting to discuss the future of the Fire Department with their residents. They noted 52 residents attended and completed questionnaire cards. 48 of the 52 residents indicated support in joining an established Fire District. Following the presentation, there was round table discussion of the impact of expanding the District border into Leesburg; which includes Magnetic Springs. All of the District and Township Trustees agreed that the priority is to provide coverage and protection to the residents. Mr. Rife advised that each Township would have to unanimously vote to expand the District; he will discuss with his Board of Trustees at their next meeting. Mr. Lowe asked that each of the District Board members discuss with their respective Boards to get a sense of what each Township's opinion is on Leesburg joining. In the meantime, the Chief and Fiscal Officer will take a closer look at the numbers and put together a study. As there are concerns with staffing, funding, equipment etc, there was discussion of future growth and merging Townships & Districts. Mr. Goddard advised this may be a good time to plant a seed of thought.

The Board reviewed the April 13, 2022 minutes.

- i. Ms. Marshall made a motion to accept the April 13, 2022 minutes; Mr. McClary seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

Ms. Hamilton provided the Board with the 2022 April Bank Reconciliation, purchase orders, payments, payroll and receipts. There was no unusual accounting items to review. Ms. Hamilton advised the previous contract from Deferred Compensation was not the correct one. She will work on getting the contract completed and returned. Ms. Hamilton is waiting to hear from OP&F on coding for the new members. She advised that the health, HRA, dental & vision should all be up and running.

- ii. Mr. Rife made a motion to accept the Financial Report. Mr. McClary seconded the motion.
All were in favor.

Chief Merrick, presented the Board with his monthly report. The Chief reported there were 63 calls for the month April (there were 27 calls in April of 2021) and the Station shifts were filled at 93%. The Department had 140 hours in training. It was noted the Department responded to 3 fire calls within the last 48 hours.

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The Chief is waiting to hear back from Mr. Comstock on his opinion of the asset transfer. He did have a response from Ms. Weaver and included her email in his report.

Chief Merrick discussed the Community Paramedicine program and the overdose cases in the county.

Chief Merrick advised EMA requested to be notified in the event of a HAZMAT or fuel spill situations. They can be of assistance in the clean up.

The County Chiefs are working on a countywide single document for Mutual Aide.

Ventilation practice was held at Lieutenant Morey's residence. Demos were brought by ACE Hardware, All American Fire Equipment & Milwaukee Tools.

The Chief advised the Department has received 10 new radios. He is still waiting for some of the accessories.

Community Interaction Day is scheduled for 6/4 from 1-5 with the Raymond Ball Association.

Ladder testing & Hose testing have been scheduled. The Department will be going to NUCFD for pump testing. It is estimated this shared testing will save about \$1200 per truck.

The Department will be a host site for the upcoming Rabies Clinic.

Chief Merrick advised the SOGs are moving forward.

- iii. Mr. McClary made a motion with a second from Ms. Marshall to approve the Chief's Report. All were in favor.

Mr. Rife made a motion to adjourn the meeting, with Mr. McClary seconding the motion. All were in favor. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Allison M. Hamilton, Fiscal Officer

Northwestern Joint Fire District

Reviewed:

_____ Logan Rife

_____ Beth Marshall

_____ Jerry McClary