

FRANKLIN AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION

Monday, February 5, 2024

The annual meeting of the Franklin Ambulance Association was held on Monday, February 5, 2024. Directors present were: J. Distad, D. Nosbush, M. Mumme, and R. Kokesch. Also present was Radermacher from the city, township representatives, and Fire Dept. personnel.

At 7:30 PM the meeting was called to order. Roll call showed C. Minkel absent.1

Distad motioned to approve the 2023 minutes as presented, Second by Nosbush, passed.

The 2023 Financial Balance statement was presented. The CD was cashed and added to the savings account in anticipation of the MRU department needing supporting funds for the 2023 year. Total cash in hand total \$113,546.97. **Distad motioned to approve the 2023 financial statement as presented, Second by C. Gustofson, Passed.**

Funds were discussed; as there is no income for the MRU department, the Ambulance Association members feel that gaining as much interest on their funds is in their best interest. C. Gustafson suggested that \$50,000 of their funds be put into a 5 year CD, \$25,000 invested in a 2-3 year CD, and the remainder would be left in the savings account to be used for MRU expenses. **A motion was made to invest \$50,000 in a 5 year CD and \$25,000 in a 2-3 year CD, Seconded, Passed.**

New items discussed; The City of Franklin council is pursuing investigating the idea of combining the Fire and MRU departments. There are currently many unknowns on how that would be set-up and ran but the council is hoping for feedback from the Ambulance Association. The financials of the MRU department were discussed as it was stated that in 2023 it cost \$3,629.95 in wages and payroll taxes and an expense sum total of \$7,137.93 to run the department. Association members asked if a raise in wages would entice people to join the department; however, past efforts have shown that wages have not been a factor for folks to join the department. Noted was that CentraCare sometimes has long response times and the Ambulance Association members would not like to loose the local MRU department as the first responders on an ambulance call. Preferably, they would like the see the department grow as more members join. Ultimately, they are not against the Fire and MRU departments combining but would like to see growth overall.

A motion to adjourn was made at 8:00 PM and seconded, passed. Next regular meeting will be Monday, February 3, 2025.

Minutes by Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer

FRANKLIN RURAL FIRE ASSOCIATION

Monday, February 5, 2024

The annual meeting of the Franklin Rural Fire Association was held on Monday, February 5, 2024, at the Franklin Community Center following the annual Ambulance Association meeting. Council present was R. Kokesch and Mumme; staff present was Radermacher and fire personnel.

Birch Cooley township members B. Radermacher and T. Robinson called the meeting to order and Roll Call showed: Bandon-2, Birch Coulee-4, Camp-5, Eden-4, Norfolk-0, Palmyra-2, Sherman-3, Ren. Co. Parks-0, City of Franklin-2, Franklin Fire Dept.-11.

A motion was made to approve the agenda, Second from the floor, passed.

A motion to approve the 2023 minutes as presented was made and seconded, passed.

Trotter read through the Rural Fire Associations financial statement showing total cash on hand to be \$37,443.34; \$18,625 received is assessment income; \$1700 received in fire call income, more has been received since the report was made; the 203 total income was \$20,505.75. **A motion was made to accept the treasurers report, Seconded from the floor, passed.** Radermacher read through the 2023 fire department financial report. **A motion was made to accept 2023 Fire Department financial report as read, Seconded, Passed.** Newly appointed Fire Department Chief D. Menk reported: there are currently 20 active members on the Fire Department and went through introductions of the present and absent members. He reported that the Fire Department currently runs two meat raffle in Franklin as well as runs pull tabs at both bar locations in Franklin and one location in Morgan. The fire department also holds a beer garden and 5k marathon over Catfish Derby Days; holds a pork chop and sweet corn feed annually along with a gun raffle, as well as hosts Santa Days in Franklin. The FEMA grant was denied that was to purchase a washer and dryer to the Fire Hall. Franklin City Council approved the purchase of a new crew cab with the gambling funds to build a new grass rig. The new truck will be a Ford F-550 and will take 18-24 months to build into a grass rig. The current total expense estimate is between \$165-\$175,000. The truck will have an off-road conversion, 400 gallon water tank, and be equipped with a front nozzle. The chasey is estimated to cost \$70,000, upgrade estimated at \$60,000, building the bed estimated to be \$30,000 and radios and lights apx \$6,000. Robinson expressed his opinion on the F-550 to be too big and heavy for responding to grass fires, as he feels the lighter the better. Menk acknowledged his opinion but expressed that the Fire Department has been discussing the details on a new grass rig for some time and feel that the F-550 will fit their needs for more seating and water tank capacity. Menk also noted for clarity that all of the expenses for the truck are to be paid for out of their gambling funds held with the City of Franklin and no expenses will be allocated to the Rural Fire Association. **A motion was made to accept Menk's Fire Report as presented, Seconded on the floor, Passed.**

Discussion was held on unpaid fire calls; a letter was received from the owner of one automobile owner that lost their vehicle in an automobile fire; this individual expressed difficulties paying the bill as they are a single parent with a low income that can barely cover their costs of living; The Rural Fire Association discussed and voted to send one more bill and offer to forgive half of the bill if the other half could be paid within 30 days and if no payment is received the complete bill will be sent to collections, **Motion was made on this matter, Seconded and Passed.** Another unpaid fire call was discussed; this individual has begun a payment plan to payoff his fire call as they have medical expenses that are making it hard to pay the whole bill at one time. It was stated that the fire call invoice was not turned into insurance as they were under that thought that it wouldn't be of benefit when their deductible is higher than the fire call bill; noted from Harmoning was that fire calls are covered, and deductibles need not be met. The Fire Association members voted to inform the individual to turn invoice into insurance and if full payment is received from insurance, any payments made from the individual will be reimbursed; **A motion was made and seconded, Passed.**

Assessments per section are currently at \$250 per section and there are 74 ½ sections. This year the assessment income received is close to covering the expenses owed to the city. **A motion was made to leave the assessments at \$250 per section, seconded, Passed.**

Fire Call rates were discussed. Automobile accidents were never charged out by the Fire Department as they were charged by the Ambulance. Since the MRU cannot charge, discussion was held on adding auto accidents to calls charged for. **A motion was made to charge each individual driver involved in an auto accident as a regular fire call, \$850 for first hour and \$150 per hour after, Seconded, Passed.**

Trotter asked that township representatives to make sure their contact information has not changed.

A motion was made to approve the reimbursement amount of \$18,658.99 to the city for half the expenses, Second by the floor, passed.

A motion was made from the floor to adjourn at 8:44 PM, Second from the floor- passed. The next regular meeting will be held February 3, 2025 at the Franklin Community Center, Camp Township to chair.

Minutes by Trista Radermacher, City Clerk/Treasurer