

**VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING**

**February 17, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Valley Fire District Board was held on **Monday, February 17, 2020** at the Valley Fire District, located at 5287 Dogwood Drive, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. The following were in attendance.

<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b> Amy Anderson, Chair Dan Schneider, Sr. Richard Slocum	<b>OFFICERS</b> Asst. Chief Duber Capt. Packard	<b>OFFICERS</b> Lt. Moledor Lt. Sebastian	<b>FIRE CLERK</b> Catherine Anson <b>LEGAL</b> Al Schrader
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The regular board meeting of the Valley Fire District was called to order by Anderson at 6:30 PM.

**Announcements:** Anderson recognized yesterday’s anniversary of the passing of Jerry Dean.

**Approval of Minutes.**

MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Anderson to approve minutes of the **January 20, 2020** organizational meeting.

Voting: Yes by Anderson and Slocum. Abstained by Schneider. [20200217-01]

MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Anderson to approve minutes of the **January 20, 2020** regular meeting. Voting: All Yes by Anderson and Slocum. Abstained by Schneider. [20200217-02]

**Appropriations Reallocations:** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the purchase orders. Voting: All Yes [20200217-03]

FUND	NAME	FROM	TO
1000-220-311-0000	Accounting and Legal Fees	(3,000.00)	
1000-220-590-0000	Clothing		3,000.00

**Purchase Orders.** Items at \$2,500 or more must be signed by the board. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the purchase orders. Voting: All Yes. [20200217-04]

SB NUMBER	ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NAME	\$AMOUNT	
28	-2020	1000-220-590-0000	Clothing	3,000.00

REG PO	VENDOR	ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NAME	\$AMOUNT	
01	-2020	Stryker	4901-760-740-0000	Capital – Equipment	\$15,500

**Approval of Payroll.** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the payroll. Voting: All Yes. [20200217-05]

**Approval for Payment of Bills.** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the payment of bills. Voting: All Yes. [20200217-06]

**Business.**

- **Financials.**
- **Social Media Policy.** The revised draft was circulated prior to the meeting. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the revised social media policy. Voting: All Yes. [20200217-07]

**Reports.**

**Duber, for Riedel.**

- Dan Edwards has resigned. Duber and Riedel have been in contact with most of the personnel with attendance issues, with a few remaining.
- Kevin Dupre, who has accepted a position in Salt Lake City, is requesting a leave of absence for 6 months. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the request. Voting: All Yes. [20200217-08]
- Planning continues on radio reprogramming; Lieutenant 3 questionnaires have been sent out.

**Duber.**

- 15 people have been fitted for new turnout gear with one remaining.
- Sebastian, Soblosky, McVey, and Reynolds have completed the annual swift water training.
- Visual Mark Systems is generating graphics for the new numbers required for our vehicles. Drafts will be available soon.

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- He is requesting \$1500 for two t-shirts per person. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the purchase. Voting: All Yes. [20200217-09]
- Calls of note: an accident on the turnpike involving a van and semi took a long time to clear and a haz mat situation involving leaking propane tanks on 271 (mutual aid with Richfield).

**Packard.**

- With no movement on the completion of chaplain training, he proposed that the position be filled by Steven Soblosky. The officers present agreed with the proposal and felt strongly that such a position is needed. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the appointment of Soblosky to the position. Training funds, previously approved, have not been used. Voting: All Yes. [20200217-10]
- The department honors a particular firefighter and EMS person with an annual award in each category at their Christmas party. This year, the awards go to Nick Sternad for firefighter of the year and Hannah August in the EMS category. The board congratulated the winners.
- The officers have been researching long-term retention methods given the difficulty in staffing all hours and the cost of turnout gear. Top methods based on their exit interviews, research, and practices at other departments, include social activities, pay, and training pay. Two methods of increasing retention were raised.

**TRAINING PAY:** He proposed a method of paying a bonus for completing training, calculated at the rate of \$8.70 per hour. The total hours would be paid upon completion of the training as a bonus. Currently, training is done at the employee's expense. The total hours depend on prior experience. For a brand new employee, the amount could be 50 to 60 hours. The board consulted with the legal counsel and as long as every new employee was offered the bonus, there is no problem with the plan.

MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve a bonus for completing training, calculated at the rate of \$8.70/hour. Voting: All Yes. [20200217-11]

**RATE INCREASE:** He proposed an increase at \$1 per hour for paramedic and EMS ranks. Budget figures and salary calculations were distributed prior to the meeting. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve \$1 per hour increase for paramedics and EMS personnel beginning with the next pay period (February 23). Voting: All Yes. [20200217-12]

**Moledor.**

- The chief conveyed information to him from the last meeting regarding the purchase of the remaining SCBAs. After discussing the situation with the chief, he is dropping the maintenance training bringing the cost down to \$35,000.
- 10 inspections were completed last month. The 2019 backlog is close to being completed with this year's inspections starting. He plans on tweaking the program for efficiency.
- He order the gas for testing the meters with an expected cost of \$300.

**Sebastian.**

- The LUCAS device has been received and he demonstrated the device for the board. It will be added to our maintenance contract after the warranty expires. Everyone has been trained on the device and it is already in service.
- He is investigating other hospitals to partner with given the recent difficulties in getting supplies and equipment.
- He and Levitt completed safety officer training and are now certified.

**Ron Fenn.** He stated that Marge Donnelly passed away recently; her husband Dick is 91. The safety committee will be meeting with Slocum, Anson, and Riedel tomorrow night to discuss shared equipment purchases.

**Anderson.** She met with Richfield Township representative Mayor Wheeler and Jeff Shupe at their request regarding fire and ems coverage from Valley Fire.

There being no further business, Slocum motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Anson, Clerk

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Amy Anderson, Chair