

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

**October 19, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Valley Fire District Board was held on **Monday, October 19, 2020** at the Valley Fire District, located at 5287 Dogwood Drive, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. The following were present.

<b>BOARD MEMBERS</b> Amy Anderson, Chair Dan Schneider, Sr. Richard Slocum	<b>OFFICERS</b> Chief Riedel Captain Packard	<b>OFFICERS</b> Lt. Moledor Lt. Levitt	<b>FIRE CLERK</b> Catherine Anson <b>LEGAL COUNSEL</b> Al Schrader
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Prior to the board meeting, dedications and celebration ceremonies were held. The new fire engine was dedicated to founding board members George Fisher Jr, Tom Morehouse, and Norm Rodatt. A plaque was installed on the station house honoring former owners the Reverend and Mrs. Benedict. Son Mark Benedict thanked the department for saving the house and for using it for the benefit of the community. Boston Board Members Randy Bergdorf and Amy Anderson recognized Ed Pullekens for his 38 years of service as legal counsel to Boston Township and the Valley Fire District.

The regular board meeting of the Valley Fire District was called to order by Anderson at 5:58 PM.

**Approval of Minutes.** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve minutes of the **September 21, 2020** regular meeting. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-01]**

**Appropriations Reallocations.** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the appropriations reallocations as listed below. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-02]**

FUND	NAME	FROM	TO
1000-220-100-0000	Salaries	20,000.00	
1000-220-323-0000	Repairs & Maintenance		15,000.00
1000-220-311-0000	Legal Fees		5,000.00

**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. **[20201019-03]**

SB NUMBER	ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NAME	\$AMOUNT
58	-2020	1000-220-318-0000	Training Services 2,000.00
59	-2020	1000-220-380-0000	Insurance & Bonding 28,000.00
60	-2020	1000-220-349-0000	Other Communications 41,000.00
61	-2020	1000-220-323-0000	Repairs & Maintenance 15,000.00
62	-2020	1000-220-323-0000	Legal Fees 5,000.00

REG PO	VENDOR	ACCOUNT	ACCOUNT NAME	\$AMOUNT
3	2020	Stryker	4901-760-323-0000	Repairs & Maintenance 4,753.80

**Bank Reconciliation and Financials.** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the bank reconciliations for the month. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-04]**

**Approval of Payroll.** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the Payroll #11 of October 20, 2020. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-05]**

**Approval for Payment of Bills.** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the payment of bills. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-06]**

**Business.**

- **Life Force Closures.** MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the Life Force closures as noted on each closure. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-07]**
- **Sebastian Medical Leave:** MOTION by Anderson, seconded by Slocum to approve the payment of officer salary for Lt. Sebastian while he is on medical leave. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-08]**
- **Training Bonus Pay:** Procedures and form for approving and processing the bonus pay for completion of training was discussed. Since length of employment can't be required, Schrader suggested that new employees be encouraged to take additional training to increase the likelihood of staying with the department. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the procedure and form for paying the training bonus. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-09]**

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- **Meeting Arrangements.** Slocum has purchased items paid for by Boston Township to set up the media cart in the Boston Town Hall Meeting Room. Draft instructions have been written. The cart is expected to be fully functional and secure by the next board meeting. He will train the clerk and Boston fiscal officer on how to use the equipment. The board discussed holding future board meetings via Zoom at the Boston Meeting Room starting in November due to the pandemic. Notification will be placed on the web, with the West Side Leader, and with the Village of Boston Heights. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to hold future board meeting via Zoom from the Boston Town Hall starting in November until further notice.  
Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-10]**

**Reports.**

**Riedel.**

- The new engine is here and is expected to be in service in the next few weeks. Training will begin soon.
- The switch over to the new phone system is progressing. Our internet service has been upgraded to 50MG.
- He is meeting with the ski resorts soon. They have developed an operating plan in response to the pandemic guidelines. We had only 20 calls to both resorts last season due to poor ski weather.
- He's been in contact with Richfield Dispatch. They are proposing a stable rate until the end of the year (November/December) with a new three-year contract beginning in January with a 3.3% increase each year. He and the Peninsula Police Chief are looking at other options. The count- wide system may be online at the end of next year. Instead of dialing 911, Anderson stated that all residents use 2911 to quickly reach the right dispatch center. Riedel suggested we publicize this number in the Community News.
- He is continuing to work with Anthem to set up a direct billing account.
- The officers interviewed two new applicants and are making the following recommendations: to hire Vince Roman as EMT and Brian Leising as Paramedic. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the hiring of Roman and Leising. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-11]**

**Riedel for Duber.**

- The new turnout gear is now in service except for Cern who ordered late and Kamp's replacement gear. New boots and helmets are ordered according to the replacement schedule. The next replacement schedule is set for 2023.
- Repairs have been made or are in process for Tanker 2, Medic 1, and Medic 3.
- The new graphics are still in process.

**Packard.**

- Three employees have completed the rescheduled Advance Wilderness Life Support training. Two have passed with one other scheduled for testing.
- Soblosky has completed the chaplain training and will need to complete a background check. He would like to join a group for chaplains at \$300 per year.  
MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve payment of the background check and the \$300 membership fee. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-12]**
- Training on the new engine will start soon.
- We've been informed that COVID infections are increasing and have been advised to make sure we are well supplied with protective equipment. In addition to masks, we are required to use goggles for training activities. We're in good shape with supplies and are constantly monitoring the situation.

**Moledor.**

- He's been trying to set up a food donation truck for Share-A-Christmas with Costco but the person in charge has been out sick. Anderson stated that Boston will continue with Share-A-Christmas if the department will handle the deliveries. Riedel stated that they will do the food delivery but will not do the more interactive Christmas present delivery.
- Howe Rescue has delayed the testing of the 2018 standards until January due to COVID.
- The recliners are here and in use. The chairs have been covered. He's received good comments on the recliners.
- Talks are continuing on the assisted living facility in Boston Heights. They'll have nursing aides instead of a nursing staff.
- He's been beta testing merge reporting on staffing data to make things easier.

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**Levitt.**

- They've finished cataloging the gear in Emergency Reporting.
- Given the length of time to order specialized equipment, he asked if the board would like updated information on replacing the old tanker. Anderson stated that since we're saving money with Boston Heights contributing to the purchase of the new engine, we should move ahead with replacing the next equipment on the capital funds list. The committee should get started to provide updated costs. The template for the previous report should be used with several options listed.

**Mayor Schneider.**

- Peninsula mayor Scheider addressed the board. He met with park representatives on October 6 regarding the building of a new road garage for Peninsula adjacent to the fire station. While amenable, the park would like confirmation from the fire board that the plan was acceptable to them. He provide a sample letter of agreement for the board to sign. Cost of repairing the driveway and parking area would be shared and he received one quote so far of \$85k. MOTION by Anderson, seconded by Slocum to approve building the Peninsula road garage on the property. The discussion included where the building would be set given constraints on the land, future needs for the fire department, and keeping as many trees as possible. Slocum supported the agreement as a cost savings for both communities continuing with efforts on shared services and working together. Voting: All Yes. **[20201019-13]**

**Other Business.**

- Anderson received a check for \$250 from Mark Benedict to use for something for the house. Riedel said he will look into what's needed.
- Schrader covered the following:
  - The SORT MOU has been fully signed and a copy provided to the clerk.
  - The resolution to sell surplus equipment via internet auction was sent to the clerk. He recommends adding annual board approval for this at each organizational meeting in January.
  - He complimented the board on the ceremonies today.
- On behalf of Boston Township, Anderson announced that the Boston Board has approved sharing a portion of the COVID funds with the department for use with salaries. Other uses by Boston for the COVID funds covered legal services, the media cart, and policing efforts. Riedel thanked Anderson for including the fire department.

There being no further business, Slocum motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine Anson, Clerk

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Amy Anderson, Chair