

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

FEBRUARY 15, 2021

The regular meeting of the Valley Fire District Board was held on **Monday, February 15, 2021** at the Boston Town Hall Meeting Room, 1775 Main Street, Peninsula, Ohio 44264. The following were present with those starred available via Zoom.

BOARD MEMBERS	OFFICERS	OFFICERS	FIRE CLERK
Amy Anderson, Chair	Chief Riedel*	Lt. Moledor*	Catherine Anson
Dan Schneider, Sr.	Asst Chief Duber*	Lt. Sebastian*	LEGAL COUNSEL
Richard Slocum	Captain Packard*	Lt. Levitt*	David Randolph

The regular board meeting of the Valley Fire District was called to order by Anderson at 5:31 PM.

Anderson expressed condolences to Lisa and Charlie Riedel on the passing of Lisa's father.

Approval of Minutes.

MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve minutes of the **January 18, 2021** regular meeting. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-01]**

Approval of Payroll. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve **Payroll #02 of FEBRUARY 9, 2021**. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-02]**

Approval for Payment of Bills. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the payment of bills. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-03]**

Business.

- **Life Force Closures:** The board the discussed two special case closures submitted by Life Force and provided to the board prior to the meeting.
CASE 1: Reduction Request for Attorney's Fees. The patient received a settlement from an accident which will cover the costs of all medical treatment and attorney's fees with a sum left over. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to deny the request to lower the fee for VFD service from \$690 to \$450 since all costs were covered. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-04]**
CASE 2: Hardship Request. The board reviewed the request to waive all costs due to hardship. While the hardship is accurately indicated on the documentation, the patient was combative with the trustee's request for additional information and the accident occurred while on vacation. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve a cost reduction to \$350 from the \$650 original fee to be paid in a lump sum. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-05]**
- **Purchasing Policy.** After reviewing the equipment purchase last month, the board discussed procedures for prior approval of large purchases and equipment repair. The board agreed that officers should call a trustee if emergency approval is needed prior to a board meeting. The trustee will notify the other trustees.
- **COVID Funds.** Anderson reiterated that the COVID funds received from Boston Township were spent in entirety last fiscal in accordance with required procedures and that there are no unspent or anticipated funds available for future purchases. The department did not receive any COVID funds from either the Village of Peninsula or the Village of Boston Heights.
- **Permanent Appropriations.** The clerk circulated a draft of the Permanent Appropriations prior to the meeting for review. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve the Permanent Appropriations for 2021 as submitted. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-06]**

Reports.

Riedel.

- He submitted paperwork to close out the 2016 FEMA grant.
- The old engine sold on GovDeals for \$22,000, a little less than anticipated due to a number of similar vehicles posted at the same time. The funds will be deposited in the Capital fund.
- A pump unit was repaired and a battery replaced.
- **COVID Bonuses:** Following up on last month's request, the board discussed providing a special bonus through Accounts Payable to those employees who went out on calls during last year's pandemic season. The bonus would be paid per call for current employees who went on more than 15 call outs last year. The board discussed using the salary savings resulting from last year's COVID grant. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve a \$3 per call bonus to those employees, estimated at a total cost of approximately \$6,000. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-07]**

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- **COVID Long Term Sick Pay.** The board discussed the procedures to pay individuals who are out sick for a long period due to COVID as approved earlier by the board. Only two employees so far meet this criteria. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to pay employees who are out sick with COVID for a considerable time (retroactive to March 2020) at an average over the previous four months of work for scheduled shift time. The rates will be equal to current rate of pay. The board will review this policy at six months. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-08]**
- **COVID Short Term Sick Pay.** The board discussed the procedures to pay individuals who are out sick for short periods due to COVID as approved earlier by the board. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to pay employees who are out sick with COVID for a short period for missed scheduled shift time retroactive to March 2020. The rates will be equal to current rate of pay. The board will review this policy in May. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-09]**
- **Special Ops Pay.** Anderson distributed a request to consider paying certified employees who are on county teams a higher rate of pay for special calls (such as haz mat, river rescue), along with training hours for continuing education required for the certifications. The request will be discussed at a future meeting.

Duber.

- All of the new turn out gear has been distributed except for two pairs of boots.
- Medic 1 is receiving new graphics and Medic 2 is under repair.
- He submitted a grant proposal for air compressors and other equipment.
- He presented at a county meeting for special grant funds. We may receive a new trailer.
- All four new hires have completed basic training including Steve Groves.

Packard.

- **Training Completion Pay.** Minimum wage for the state has been increased \$8.80 per hour. He requested that we use that figure instead of the approved \$8.70 per hour. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to set the pay rate for completion of training hours equal to the state minimum wage. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-10]**
- They are having difficulty scheduling shift hours on weekends and propose a dollar per hour increase for first and second shift on Saturdays and Sundays. The estimated cost for this is expected to be \$1700 per year. MOTION by Slocum, seconded by Schneider to approve a \$1 per hour increase for weekend shifts 1 and 2. Voting: All Yes. **[20210215-11]**

Moledor.

- He is working with Steve Groves on improving the inspection data collection and may ask the board for software purchases for the program.
- He and Levitt have submitted a grant proposal to the State Fire Marshall.
- Howe Rescue will be inspecting all air packs soon.

Sebastian.

- He is back to full duty and has been looking for grants to purchase new cots. The latest cots were purchased in 2016 and have a 10 year life span.
- He is continuing talks with Stryker regarding the monitors.
- EMS training on Zoom is continuing.
- He thanked the board for approving all the requests for additional pay.

Levitt.

- The pre-build meeting to discuss the new tanker purchase has been scheduled.

N. Sternad.

- The association is discussing holding a drive-through pancake breakfast for this spring.

Capital Equipment Planning. The board and officers discussed the budget schedule for capital expenditures for planning purposes. One item in particular needs careful examination: is it more cost effective to purchase the smaller squad and rebuild it or to purchase the more expensive but longer lasting squad; transfer of squad equipment is another factor. The officers and Slocum will review the list and Slocum will update the budget planning spreadsheet with the new information.

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Anderson.

- The new fire engine was put to use for the first time last week.
- She asked about the status of the leave of absence; no response has been received yet.
- The board thanked the officers for all the work in preparing information for the meeting.

There being no further business, Slocum motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Catherine Anson, Clerk

Amy Anderson, Chair