

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
STERLING RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

Held: Monday, January 15, 2024, at 6:00 pm at State Wildland Fire Station.

Board Members Present: Stan Kaiser, Gary Nelson, Mike Mills, Darren Luft, Wes Pollart,
Others Present: Robert Blake, Chief Lavon Ritter, Chief Dan Wiebers, Jared Davis, Kathy Hradecky

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 by Stan Kaiser, Chairman, with a quorum present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Minutes from the Regular Meeting

Gary Nelson moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on December 18, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from the Special Meeting

Mike Mills moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to approve the minutes from the special budget meeting on January 8, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Matters

Gary Nelson moved (2nd Mike Mills) to approve the unaudited financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2023, and the expenditures for January 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Management Items

Election of Officers

Darren Luft moved (2nd Mike Mills) to elect Stan Kaiser as Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

Gary Nelson moved (2nd Darren Luft) to elect Wes Pollart as Vice Chairman. The motion passed unanimously.

Wes Pollart moved (2nd Mike Mills) to elect Gary Nelson as Treasurer. The motion passed unanimously.

Secretary's Position

Robert Blake submitted his resignation as the board secretary in December 2023. Darren Luft moved (2nd Mike Mills) to accept Robert's resignation and to appoint Kathy Hradecky as the board Secretary. The motion passed unanimously.

Darren Luft moved (2nd Gary Nelson) to appoint Robert Blake as non-voting Advisory member of the board. The motion passed unanimously.

Transparency Notice for 2024

Kathy Hradecky will update the transparency notice with the approved changes above and submit it to the SDA website, the Logan County Clerk and to the board upon completion.

2024 Board Meeting Dates and Time (Calendar)

Wes Pollart moved (2nd Mike Mills) to approve the 2024 calendar for meeting dates and time. The motion passed unanimously.

2024 Designated Location(s) of Meeting/Agenda Notices

Darren Luft moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to post all meeting notices on the website and at the Logan County Courthouse. The motion passed unanimously.

Website Compliance

Kathy Hradecky presented information from Streamline regarding the development of a new website that meets the required ADA compliance standards. She is waiting for additional information from another vendor. The decision was tabled until the February meeting.

Informational Items

Merino Volunteer Fire Department Chief's Report

Chief Dan Wiebers reported that Merino responded to 118 calls in 2023. They still do not have a scheduled time with Korf/Ford to return Squad 25 for evaluation and repair. The ballistic plates and vests approved in January have been ordered. Allan Harriman of Willard contacted Chief Wiebers to come get Willard's 4-wheel drive, 500-gallon truck when the weather warms up now that Willard has disbanded their department. There was a discussion about annexing the remaining properties in that area into the Sterling Rural Fire Protection District. The board will continue to explore this.

Sterling Fire Department Chief's Report

Chief Lavon Ritter reported that Sterling responded to 3,108 calls in 2023 which is a 100-call increase from 2022. At this point in 2024 the department is averaging 8.5-9 calls per day. The department will host an awards banquet on February 5, 2024, at Parts and Labor

Director Reports

Darren Luft asked about the remaining credit cards. Currently Robert Blake and Kathy Hradecky carry cards. Kathy will check on the remaining cards to determine if they have been shredded. Darren asked about training for grain bin rescues. Chief Wiebers reported that the 2018 State Fire Convention was the last training. He also reported that every fire station in the area has an entrapment set up except for Merino. Sterling will have an entrapment class this year. There was a discussion about whether Sterling Fire is offering competitive salaries with comparable departments. Chief Ritter stated that there is no comparable department for Sterling. Finally, it was determined that the wind turbine collapse in Peetz was the result of a blade strike.

Gary Nelson asked about the location of the entrapment apparatus. It is kept on the service truck.

Stan Kaiser reported that a New Raymer board member stated a \$1.6 m figure for their new building. They are saving money with Kyle Lambrecht, Fire Chief, serving as the general contractor and volunteers doing the work on the inside sleeping quarters. VAP out of Kansas is putting up the metal building. New Raymer is willing to share information regarding the building.

The next regular meeting is Monday, February 19, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

The foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of the minutes.

Secretary

The foregoing minutes were approved on the 19th day of February 2024.