

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

Held: Monday, February 19, 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: Chief Lavon Ritter, Chief Dan Wiebers, Jared Davis, Kathy Hradecky

Board Members Excused: Mike Mills

Darren Luft moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to excuse Mike Mills' absence for a family obligation.

Mike Mills arrived at 6:40 pm.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 by Stan Kaiser, Chairman, with a quorum present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Minutes from the Regular Meeting

Gary Nelson moved (2nd Darren Luft) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on January 15, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Matters

Wes Pollart moved (2nd Gary Nelson) to approve the unaudited financial statements for the period ended January 31, 2024, and the expenditures for February 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Management Items

Viaero Contract and iPad Upgrade

Wes Pollart moved (2nd Gary Nelson) to update the current 12 tablets to new 64 gig iPads. The motion passed unanimously. Kathy Hradecky was directed to contact Lance with Viaero to initiate the upgrade.

Property Lease/Sale

Gary Nelson moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to sell the Iris Drive property, and that Darren Luft approach Pivot with a purchase price of \$140,000 to recoup CenturyLink cost. If Pivot won't accept this proposal, then accept their price of \$127,000. The motion passed unanimously.

Darren Luft will continue to gather information regarding the possible purchase of land west of Ayres Elementary (intersection of 9th & Iris Drive).

Website Development and ADA Compliance

Mike Mills moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to pursue the no-cost web design and hosting option with SIPA. The motion passed unanimously with Gary Nelson abstaining.

Informational Items

Merino Volunteer Fire Department Chief's Report

Chief Dan Wiebers & Assistant Chief Jared Davis reported that the Squad 25 engine is blown (dropped the #5 cylinder after 80 miles). Ford is deciding on what they will/will not do, but no information yet.

Jared Davis proposed the following options if Ford won't warranty the engine (there is a concern they may use modifications of deleting the def system as a way around the warranty):

1. Buy a new engine.
2. Convert to a 7.3 gas engine (where does the fuel cell sit?)
3. Purchase a new Dodge cabin chassis for a quote of \$68,316 (Logan County fleet pricing).
4. Sell the cabin chassis with the blown engine to recoup some cost.

Merino took possession of the Willard fire truck. The power train is fine (diesel – International); however, the pump engine (gas) and pump are seized. Chief Weibers shared information about the mutual aid fire in Washington County last week.

Sterling Fire Department Chief's Report

Chief Lavon Ritter reported no new information.

Director Reports

Darren Luft – He asked if the district needs to replace the fire hoses damaged in a semi fire. Chief Ritter reported that the replacement has been submitted to the truck driver's insurance for reimbursement. Darren Luft reported that Commissioner Mike Brownell told him the commissioners are discussing a 1 mil increase for capital purchases for ambulance services. They may also be considering an ambulance district.

Gary Nelson – Gary Nelson asked about the SDA membership renewal. Kathy Hradecky reported that the renewal has been completed and the dues check has been mailed.

Other

Kathy Hradecky reminded the board that the meeting time will change to 7:00 pm beginning in March. She also reported that she will be late to the meeting due to a family obligation.

The next regular meeting is Monday, March 18, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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

Secretary

The foregoing minutes were approved on the 18th day of March 2024.