

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

Held: Monday, May 20, 2024, at 7:00 pm at Aero Applicators, Inc. 12502 CR 27 Sterling, CO

Board Members Present: Stan Kaiser, Mike Mills, Darren Luft, Wes Pollart, Gary Nelson

Others Present: Chief Dan Wiebers, Chief Lavon Ritter, Robert Blake, Kathy Hradecky

Board Members Excused:

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 pm by Stan Kaiser, Chairman, with a quorum present. One management item was added to the agenda.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Minutes from the Regular Meeting

Mike Mills moved (2nd Darren Luft) to approve the minutes from the regular meeting on April 15, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes from the Special Meeting

Gary Nelson moved (2nd Mike Mills) to approve the minutes from the special meeting on April 29, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Matters

Wes Pollart moved (2nd Darren Luft) to approve the unaudited financial statements for the period ended April 30, 2024, and the expenditures for May 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Kathy Hradecky reported that the 2023 audit should be complete by May 30 and will be presented to the board in June.

Management Items

Property Lease/Sale Update

The district received earnest payment of \$5,000 mid-March. Should be closing in June or July.

MVFD Truck Purchase

Merino received a drawing of the tank for approval. Production time is 8-12 weeks. They still need a cost from Smart Parts.

Chief Wiebers spoke with Kent Sager regarding lights. An LED light bar, siren and lights down-side of bed with controller is approximately \$10,000 and will have to go to Cheyenne for outfitting. A company in Scottsbluff has a used LED light bar and controller, but they will need to order the siren. Work can be done in two days for approximately \$5,000.

Property Tax Overpayment and Backfill

Kathy Hradecky reported that in 2023 the district overpaid property tax revenue to the City of Sterling in the amount of \$19,514.42. It was recommended by the accountant and the attorney to show that money as a balance in 2024 and adjust the amount paid accordingly.

Kathy also reported that the May property tax deposit included \$51,201.00 in backfill money from 2023. This revenue was passed through to both the City of Sterling and Town of Merino in the May payment.

Building Lease and Rent Increase

The lease on the building at 125 Edwards Avenue expired June 30, 2023. Gerry and Kenny Guerin with SVAN Holdings wish to increase the monthly lease payment from \$3,100.00 to 3,500.00 due to increases in city water/trash/sewer rates and an increase in insurance premiums. Darren Luft moved (2nd Gary Nelson) to enter into a three-year contract with a rent increase to \$3500. The motion passed unanimously.

Informational Items***Merino Volunteer Fire Department Chief's Report***

Chief Wiebers reported that Merino received five additional sets of bunker gear through a grant. The generator installed at the fire station worked well in the power outage. Merino's ISO rating went from a six (6) to a five (5).

Sterling Fire Department Chief's Report

Chief Ritter reported that he needs to replace two sections of hose from the diesel spill. Mike Mills moved (2nd Wes Pollart) to purchase the hose. The motion passed unanimously. SFD's ISO rating moved from a three (3) to a two (2) due to capacity, better city water system, training records, and improved response times. Logan County and the City of Sterling are holding off on IGA in order to discuss the ambulance service. A committee has been formed to develop a plan for the November 2025 election.

Director Reports

Mike Mills spoke with service manager at Transwest about working with them to look at the Merino truck.

Darren Luft asked if Chief Ritter will plot out monthly calls for the last three years on the map to determine a possible location for a new station.

The next regular meeting is Monday, June 17, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:07 pm.

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

Secretary

The foregoing minutes were approved on the 17th day of June 2024.