

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

Held: Monday, September 16, 2024, at 7:00 pm at Edwards Ave Sterling, CO

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

Others Present: Chief Lavon Ritter, Chief Dan Wiebers, Jared Davis, Kathy Hradecky

Board Members Excused:

The meeting was called to order at 6:59 pm by Stan Kaiser, Chairman, with a quorum present.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Minutes from the Regular Meeting

No formal minutes are available for the August meeting due to failed recording of the meeting and the secretary's absence. Darren Luft moved (2nd Mike Mills) to confirm that meeting records for the August meeting are not available. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Matters

Wes Pollart moved (2nd Mike Mills) to approve the unaudited financial statements for the period ended August 31, 2024, and the expenditures for September 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Management Items

MVFD Truck Purchase

All work on the 2024 Ram is complete except the pony motor needs to be cleaned out. Merino hopes to have the truck in service by next week.

MVFD Request for Reimbursement

Gary Nelson moved (2nd Darren Luft) to reimburse Merino Volunteer Fire Department \$2050.00 for the purchase of a new bumper for the 2024 Ram and for towing the Ford to Korf. The motion passed unanimously.

Website Update

Kathy Hradecky completed training with Tyler Technologies and has begun work on the new website. She will have a preview of the site available at the October meeting. The site is scheduled to be live November 19 or 20, 2024.

2025 Budget Proposal Draft

Kathy Hradecky provided the board a preliminary 2025 mill levy and a draft of the 2025 budget proposal for review. The board will finalize the budget proposal at the October 21 meeting and will hold the public meeting on Monday, November 18.

Informational Items

Merino Volunteer Fire Department Chief's Report

Chief Wiebers reported Engine 27 (Spartan) has come back. Work was done on the plumbing under warranty (10 year), and it was serviced. A new LED light bar for the steps will be provided. All the structural bunker gear arrived and training is complete. Merino currently has 13 volunteers. Engine 21 is currently down with transmission issues

The department is having ongoing conversation with the Town of Merino regarding an \$8000 discrepancy in property tax revenue paid in 2023. The Town Clerk requested the value of the 2024 Ram for insurance and has requested a lease. Kathy Hradecky found a copy of the lease from 2019 for the Spartan, but it was not signed. She will request a copy from Merino and send it to the attorney for preparation of a new lease.

Sterling Fire Department Chief's Report

Chief Ritter reported the department has ordered materials to make the new ambulance (Med 1.5) BLS ready. The department recently received a mutual aid request from Ft Morgan for a fire at Wiggins. The board wants to review/request mutual aid agreements between SRFPD and outlying fire districts. Sterling Fire will have candidate testing in mid-October for potential openings.

Director Reports

Darren Luft did not call Jim Etl regarding property by Redlund. He will try to have more information in October.

Mike Mills asked for the insurance cost for the Ford truck from Merino. Nothing is available as of today. South Platte Auto will put a motor in the Ford (Merino) in order to sell it.

Gary Nelson asked Chief Ritter about the two pumpers that City purchased at the same time, and if they would potentially have to be replaced at the same time.

Stan Kaiser reported New Raymer is glad to host a visit to their new building. A date is to be determined.

The next regular meeting is Monday, October 21, 2024, at 7:00 pm.

Executive Session

At 7:56 pm, the board moved to Executive Session for the purpose of an update on the IGA between the City and County for ambulance service.

Per Chief Ritter, the IGA between the City of Sterling and Logan County for ambulance service was extended for one year to renegotiate and will expire in July 2025. A community committee was initiated to explore options and prepare a proposal. As of today, this committee has never met.

Chief Ritter reported he is losing a paramedic to Sidney, NE who is now paying \$85,000 – \$90,000 with 2 days on, 6 days off. In addition, Ft. Morgan is now paying more creating more competition for employees.

There being no further discussion and no action to report in open session, the meeting was adjourned from the executive session at 8:15 pm.

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

Secretary

The foregoing minutes were approved on the **21st** day of **October** 2024.