

January 13, 2016 Prescott Area Fire and EMS Association
Committee Meeting Minutes

Pursuant to due call and proper public notices the Prescott Area Fire and EMS Association Committee met on Wednesday, January 13th at 7:00 pm at the Prescott Fire Hall, 260 Flora St. Prescott WI 54021.

Call to Order/Roll Call: Board Chairperson Dan Johnson called the meeting to order. Present were Board Members: Joe Rohl, Galen Seipel, Lee Olson, Tricia Shearen (arrived just after roll call), City of Prescott: Holly Mitchell, Prescott Fire: Tom Lytle, Steve Findlay, Dive Team: Josh Knutson, Ken McNiff, Howard Thompson, Ambulance Director: Jeff Rixmann, and Prescott resident: Tom Geisfeld.

Changes and Corrections to Agenda: No changes or corrections.

Rohl/Olson motion to approve minutes for November 18, 2015, passed without a negative voice vote.

Fire Inspections: Tom Geisfeld had been present at the November meeting with questions regarding fire inspections. As the Fire Inspector had not been present, Mr. Geisfeld was invited back tonight so his questions could be addressed with Fire Inspector Steve Findlay present. Mr. Geisfeld presented questions and concerns to the board regarding the bill he received for a fire inspection from 2 years ago that he felt was not consistent with the inspection he received this past year. He felt that the inspection from 2 years ago was not as thorough and didn't feel it was worth the charge he received. Mr. Geisfeld also brought complaints of inconsistencies he has witnessed throughout town including visibility/size of addresses, presence of fire extinguishers in public places, illuminated egress lighting in public places, etc. As the 'inconsistencies' mentioned are not his property and may have already been addressed or cited, these are not discussed further. Mr. Geisfeld also requested that in the future the inspector should drive a vehicle with identification on it so property owners know who is on their property and why they are there as well as having the inspector contact the property owner in advance to set a time for best access to the property. There was discussion among the members of the board about the NFPA standards for inspections as well as address sizes and labeling of separate buildings on the same properties. There was discussion that due to the number of buildings that Mr. Geisfeld owns the price was fair even though the inspection may have been less thorough. The Fire Inspector indicated his desire to stay fair and consistent and admitted that the process is still improving. Johnson recognizes the need for consistency and also recognizes the work towards improving this process that has already been made by the Fire Inspector and commits to continuing to improve. Mr. Geisfeld still believes that the charge for the inspections two years ago was too much for the inspection he received.

Rohl/Shearen motion to refund \$100.00 of the fee for the 2014 inspection, passed without a negative voice vote.

Fire Inspection Fees: Clarification was made by the board that Fire Inspections fees should be based on total raw square footage of the structure inspected, not the common areas that are physically inspected. This is for two reasons: 1) The definition of 'common area' is vague and is too prone to argument. 2) There is potential for fire in the entire structure regardless of where 'common areas' begin or end. Johnson states, "It is the wishes of the board that fire inspections are to be billed based on total raw square footage."

Rohl/Seipel motion to approve Fire and EMS cash balances for November and December 2015 passed without a negative voice vote.

Seipel/Olson motion to approve budget as of December 2015, passed without a negative voice vote.

No motion necessary for LifeQuest finance information.

Discussion regarding the possible future structural needs of the fire station points out recent work done on the station which includes new paint and wiring; and the presence of leaks in the steel roof that the department has been unable to fix on their own. The process of preparation for improvements was discussed. As the city owns the building and the Association leases it and is responsible for maintenance, it is believed that the city

would get quotes for the work and the Association would pay for the work. The Association is supportive of beginning the process toward fixing the roof.

Dive Team: Josh Knudson presented the updated Dive Team SOGs, 2016 Dive Team training schedule and FEMA 508-6 standards which include the FEMA standards for Dive Teams in regards to equipment, vehicles and training. These have been emailed to the Association Board Members for further review. The training schedule will be discussed and updated after the Dive Team meeting next week. The team currently has 8 members. A focus for this year will be getting out in the community to promote the team and its services by doing clean-ups, decontamination and by working with groups like the Boy Scouts, Goodhue County and Seiwert's Towing. There was discussion on fee structure and being able to give reasons for charges and what they are based on. Information has been obtained from the Coast Guard and FEMA, but not specifically what we need. Further research will be done by looking at neighboring teams, insurance company payout standards for vehicle recoveries, industry standards, private recovery companies, national response plan, OSHA, DNR fines per day, cost coverage, mileage, contaminants and special circumstances. The Dive Team Truck is being worked on; the \$500 allotted at the last meeting looks like it will be sufficient for the needs of the team but the Association is open to increasing the amount if necessary. There was a question on the formal name of the Dive Team. The Association feels that the labeling on the Dive Truck should be 'Prescott Fire Department' to remain consistent with keeping the Dive Team members as a part of the Fire Department for multiple reasons including insurance purposes. The number on the truck is '6401' which per Pierce County standards is an EMS number. We will wait on looking at the numbering of the truck as numbers may be changing in the future as Pierce County begins using the MABAS system. It is requested that the Dive Team begins to get estimates of prices for graphics for the truck. Discussion regarding how Dive Team members are covered for insurance purposes; this will be followed-up on. Rohl states Association is committed to providing proper support for the Team and its members. (As of 01/19/2016: the insurance agent was contacted and did confirm that Dive Team members, whether volunteer or city employees are covered under workers compensation. Further investigation is being done.) Discussion on Dive Team response times leads to ideas about storing the Dive Truck at the main station during the boating season when the boat is in the water. Johnson states, "We are glad you (Dive Team) are here. We are here to support you."

Worker's Compensation Issue to be moved to later in meeting.

Assistance to Firefighters Grant: Has been completed to request around \$5000 to replace 7 ladders that did not pass inspections by the ladder testing company.

EMS Chief's report: Jeff Rixmann – The Prescott Ambulance Station had over 400 calls in 2015. River Falls EMS as a whole had 2283 calls for 2015, 1469 of which were 911, 600 + were transfers for which insurance generally pays 100%. Medicare payments will be decreasing again for 2016 by 2.1%. 1532 calls had enroute times under one minute. EMS has obtained a grant for a LUCAS device and a ventilator for the Prescott Ambulance from River Falls Hospital, Regina Hospital and companies and organizations in the Prescott Community. The new pick-up truck is here but not yet in service. It will be used to pull the command trailer and the Gator/Trailer and as a quick response vehicle. One of the part-time staff from Prescott was moved into a full-time position in River Falls. We have hired one EMT and one paramedic, so six of the seven positions in Prescott are filled with paramedics. The Training Officer position is still open but we are looking at changing the job description, but the position will still be expected to be based in the Prescott station 8a-5p M-F.

Fire Chief's report: Tom Lytle – The AFG grant has been submitted. The Department is working on reviewing the MABAS cards with the Pierce County transition about a year away. There will be a Firefighter II class in Hudson that we have 2 guys for. February training will include Jeff Rixmann coming in to discuss motor vehicle accident responses. River Falls Fire is hosting a Fire Academy with topics including: RIT (rapid intervention team), fire ground management, pump operations, Incident Command Structure. We will be sending some of our fire officers. Pancakes will be Sundays from 8a-noon from February 21-March 20.

Issues with dispatch/paging: Pierce County has not been paging Prescott Fire to car accidents. This is a big problem because the ambulance on scene often depends on the fire department to get the victims out of a mangled car, set up a helicopter landing zone or assist with manpower. Lytle had initially contacted Rixmann regarding the issue and then Steve Albarado at dispatch. Dispatch stated that they are in the process of

training new dispatchers who forgot to page fire to these incidents and the staff overseeing the new people missed it also. Apparently Ellsworth and River Falls are having a similar but different issue in that dispatch is not paging EMS to structure fires. Rohl had requested records from dispatch regarding this issue in the recent past and had thought that the issue had been corrected, but it has not. Rohl questions whether the Sherriff's Department is doing all that they need to do to correct this issue. Johnson will follow-up with the Sherriff in regards to this. Johnson requests Lytle forward him the times/dates that this has happened.

Revisit Workers Compensation Issue: Bill Dravis has submitted a letter of overdue debt that has gone to collections to the Association asking them to 'take care of it'. The debt is in regard to a workers compensation injury that occurred November of 2012 for which Bill apparently received medical treatment incurring outstanding debts. Bill settled the workers compensation claim in June 2015 through Administrative Law agreeing to accept \$2000 from the insurance carrier to pay the claims incurred from the injury. It is unknown if the \$2000 was used to pay the claims or not, or if the monies covered the total balance of the claims. No records of bills, payments or receipts were presented at this time. The settlement affords Bill the right to appeal this decision through the Department of Workforce Development within a one year time frame. The Association did not make this decision and cannot appeal on Mr. Dravis' behalf. The issue is between Mr. Dravis and the creditor and/or the Department of Workforce Development. Johnson wishes for the city administrator to review this with legal counsel to make sure the Association has no further responsibility in this matter. If the Association doesn't have any further responsibility per legal counsel this will be a closed issue.

Other business: Rohl thanks Oak Grove for information regarding a high capacity well for Clifton's information; would like to contact River Falls Fire to see if a high capacity well would improve the ISO rating for the township. City Council did approve the Fire Department to have alcohol available at their Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday January 23.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday February 24, 2016 at 7pm at the Prescott Fire Hall, 260 Flora St. Prescott WI 54021.

Seipel/Rohl motion to adjourn passed without a negative voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Holly Mitchell
Administrative Assistant
Prescott Fire and EMS Association
City of Prescott