

CLERMONT FIRE COMMISSIONERS
October 19th, 2021

The Clermont Fire Commissioners held the annual budget hearing on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. followed by their regular monthly meeting at the Town Hall.

Those in attendance were Chairwoman Susan Rifenburgh, Commissioner Laurence Saulpaugh, Commissioner Raymond Bauer, Commissioner Ronald Miller, and Commissioner Joseph Scott. Others present were Chief Collin Brown, Bob Desmond, Brody from Milan fire company, and Secretary Jennifer Flandreau.

Chairwoman Rifenburgh opened the meeting with a salute to the flag.

Treasurer Brian Fitzgerald was not well and did not attend the budget hearing. The budget was presented to the Board and there were no questions or comments by anyone present. Commissioner Miller made a motion to close the hearing at 6:55 PM, seconded by Commissioner Bauer. All in favor. So carried.

The regular meeting was opened by Chairwoman Rifenburgh at 7 P.M

MINUTES: The Minutes of the September meeting were reviewed. A motion was made by Commissioner Bauer, seconded by Chairwoman Rifenburgh to accept the minutes with the change of Fireman Les Coon to Assistant Chief Les Coon. All in favor. So carried

TREASURER'S REPORT:

A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's Report by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Bauer. All in favor. So carried

CORRESPONDENCE:

- RBC Wealth Management \$417,559.85
- American Express offer
- Utica Insurance claim information
- Natural Gas online invitation virtual meeting
- Letter from concerned community members about forcing covid vaccines on our members.

OPEN DISCUSSION:**BUILDING AND GROUNDS:**

Office updates:

Electrician Bob McCarthy completed the electrical work and will come back to add one more outlet.

The door drop box and application holder were installed and will be re-installed.

Insurance claim:

Chairwoman Rifenburg talked to Peter Fingar about the truck and door damage

The policies are connected and will only require one deductible of \$500.00

David Abbit, damage appraiser checked the truck damage - waiting on VRS for a damage estimate.

Scott Dwyer from Utica wants us to send him a quote for the door.

Waiting on Cory from Madison Overhead Doors for a quote.

We may have to look outside the community for a quote to fix the rust on the truck.

FIRE EQUIPMENT:

Commissioner Scott Shed Inventory:

Commissioner Scott created a spreadsheet on the shed inventory.

Commissioner Saulpaugh says we should keep the cots that were given by the County. Maybe move them to the other firehouse.

Chief Brown disagrees with Keeping the cots.

All Commissioners agree to sell the camera and to sell all of the old radios together.

Gear:

We are receiving many new member applications.

Chairwoman Rifenburg mentioned that the Community leasing partners have a leasing program option of \$30,000 worth of gear for five years at around \$7,000.00 a year. We have used them before.

Considering the prices of the gear she questioned if all the gear has to be the same for everyone.

Chief Brown believes everyone should have the same quality of gear.

Chairwoman Rifenburg expressed how much we want to get everyone top of the line gear. It was suggested that we start budgeting for gear every two years.

Another Gear vendor will come to the November meeting.

Chief Brown would like to know the fire tax rate in Clermont. We could possibly raise the fire tax rate on new developments. New construction adds to the fire burden.

Columbia county went to one system, some pagers will no longer be capable of being used with the system.

Commissioner Scott created an email account clermontfiredistrict@gmail.com for the new Rover account and other district business.

Commissioner Scott also created a spreadsheet for Gear inventory. Damaged or out-dated gear will be donated to members for winter wear or thrown away.

Chief Brown

Hose testing: we lost two 100ft lengths. Holes were found in the middle and we might be able to fix and make four 50 ft hoses out of them.

At a structure fire on Cedar Hill road, 6035's thermal camera battery died. The battery is only lasting 10 to 15 minutes of use. The battery should last at least one hour. They do not make these batteries any longer. We can buy a refurbished battery but they also have the potential of not lasting. Chief Brown would like to purchase a new camera. He would like to buy the same camera that is on the 6013. This way everything is interchangeable.

He received quotes from three vendors:

NY Fire Equipment \$5,199.00

Edarly \$5,784.95

Ranger \$6,489.00

We still have the money in the budget.

Commissioner Saulpaugh made a motion to buy the new camera, seconded by Commissioner Bauer. All in favor. So carried.

LOSAP:

Commissioner Rifenburgh mentioned there will be three people that will collect in 2022.

LAWS AND POLICIES: All Commissioners

No discussion

LEGAL: All Commissioners

No discussion

OLD BUSINESS: All Commissioners

Solar field:

Chief Brown had a conference call with the project manager and the designer. He asked that they put in a road for the truck to get in, in case of an emergency.

If this project moves forward they should come demonstrate how the solar field works to the fire company.

Chief Brown suggests they install a gate and a key in a Knox box to operate the gate.

Kids are getting into the field and taking down the chain.

Chief Brown agrees with the field to be completed and wants the company to provide training and full access for the fire department.

NEW BUSINESS:

New budget:

Chairwoman Rifenburg made a motion to accept the proposed budget with a roll call:

Commissioner Scott
Commissioner Saulpaugh
Commissioner Bauer
Commissioner Miller
Chairwoman Rifenburg

All say aye.

The County Fire Advisory Committee sent posters free of charge to promote new recruits.

Due to the Corona virus mandates:

There is a strain on EMS right now, they will no longer be dispatching EMS to every call. Mostly alarm activations.

Columbia memorial hospital will no longer be offering free physicals to fire fighters, due to the shortage of staff.

PJ Keeler has a program to reimburse physicals for firefighters up to \$65.00 per member.

Chief Brown would like permission to visit with all mutual aid companies for a 1st, 2nd, and third alarms. This will allow first on scene to confirm structure fire and will cut down on one person being in charge of asking for specific trucks.

It doesn't mean we are signing any agreements, it is a pre-plan for what each company should bring for interior or exterior fires.

All Commissioners agree with talking to the mutual aid companies/
New applications background checks

We received two new applications for company members.

Marc Lebowits received a clean background check. He has EMS and lifeguard

Second applicant : Danielle Scott also received a clean background check.

Approved by the company with a favorable recommendation.

A motion was made by Commissioner Saulpaugh, seconded by Commissioner Bauer to accept the new members.

New Milan contract: All commissioners agree to a new annual agreement with Milan Fire Department for \$2,850.37.

MISCELLANEOUS:

CHIEFS REPORT: There were six calls in September

- 9/1/21 stand by - Tivoli FD - station 2 - 6 FFs - 0.65 man hours
- 9/2/21 Alarm activation - 6 Sharon Drive - 4 FFs - 1.32 man hours
- 9/3/21 Alarm activation - 3751 Route 9G - 4 FFs - 1.13 man hours
- 9/4/21 AAPI - 14 Apple Valley Lane - 9 FFs - 5.8 man hours
- 9/21/21 Alarm activation - 726 Woods Rd - 6 FFs - 1.7 man hours
- 9/23/21 Structure fire - 3 Cedar Hill Rd - 8 FFs - 28 man hours

WORK DETAILS

- 9/12/21 Draft site/water relay - 6 FFs - 12 man hours
- 9/16/21 Review/Test of Hose/Nozzle - 3 FFs - 6 man hours
- 9/27/21 Extraction - 9 FFs - 20.25 man hours

A motion was made by Commissioner Scott to pay the bills, seconded by Commissioner Miller. All in favor. So carried.

FUEL REPORT:

gallons used 64.9 gallons

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Bob Desmond agrees with giving the same equipment to everyone and would like to up his donation to \$2,000.00

He would like us to use his pledge and promote more donations.

"We really appreciate it" Commissioners.

As individuals we can ask for donations for the fire company but cannot ask for donations as the district.

A motion was made to adjourn at 9:45 P.M. by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Saulpaugh. All in favor. So Carried.

Respectfully submitted
Jennifer Flandreau Secretary,
Clermont Fire District