

APPROVED

Approved at the July 1st Board meeting
With the Attorney to make Corrections noted
in Red.

Liberty Volunteer Fire District
3278 US HWY 90
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433
May 6, 2024
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM and all were present.

In old business, Chairman Mike Engel had Chelco combine all 3 bills into one to come due at the same time. Motion to approve the Treasurers report was Commissioner Randi Waggoner and second was Commissioner Adrienne Campbell and it was approved unanimously.

County Funds update: Chairman Engel signed the agreement for the current fiscal years \$125,000 and we should get it shortly.

The District received \$93,750 from FY2023 and it was agreed to amend the budget to reflect that amount. Commissioner Randi Waggoner made the motion to approve and the second was made by Commissioner Adrienne Campbell and it was approved unanimously. Volunteer Staff Member James Odom reported that he would bring the amended budget to the Board next month for approval.

SLERS Radios: The District has 11 total radios, 9 are in working order, 2 are inoperable. Need 10 to 12 more radios. According to Ben Rice, (not present), one radio was \$4,000. Chairman Engel requested to know the specifics of the radio that he might be able to get a good price. Volunteer Staff Member Odom reported that the Florida Department of Management Services only allows one radio from one vendor only. It is a Harris Radio and is about \$5,500 for a portable radio and roughly \$7,000 for a mobile radio. Fire Chief Dunham said we have 6 radios we can use that have already been programmed but would need 7 more.

Solar Farm FPL Money: Chairman Engel said he was working out a price for the well and that he'd gone to the BCC meeting. The County Commissioners wanted Liberty to submit to the BCC everything that would be required for a well to actually fill a tanker up. He's already figured past the \$125,000 and he is skeptical the BCC would approve that amount. The cost would be split between Liberty and the County due to the location of the Solar Farm.

SAFER Grant Update: Volunteer Coordinator Donna Dunham reported that \$19,445 is eligible to get bunker gear. We need to get 5 sets now. Grant covers \$15,000. It takes 3 to 4 months to get gear, mid-range.

Dot Gov Web Address: Chairman Engel said we are still waiting to get the web address.

New Business:

- **Department Procurement Policy Revision:** Volunteer Staff Member Odom said we are using the old Procurement Policy still and the new policy is not friendly to us purchasing day to day stuff within the budget. He said any purchase over \$500 would need to have 3 bids in writing, no less than 30 business days before the bid receiving time frame. If the policy is followed, it would take over 90 days to get something over \$500 purchased. One tire on some of the trucks is over \$500. Board Attorney Rene Youell said we can add language that the Procurement Policy will be in compliance with the Grant and Federal Law. She said she would revamp it and bring something back to the Board for approval.
- **Department Asset Disposal Policy Development:** Volunteer Staff Member Odom said to his knowledge, there is no Asset Disposal Policy in writing. Board Attorney Youell said she'd write up a disposal policy that would be in line with the State requirements. The motion was made by Adrienne Campbell, seconded by Randi Lightener, and passed unanimously.
- **Report Software approval to seek demos and bids:** The Firehouse software is ending, and we need to have something else. Volunteer Staff Member Odom said he would like to seek a demo of ESO, Emergency & Crisis Management Software, which both Walton County and the City both use. Volunteer Tony Roy said that when we looked at ESO before it was expensive and each one of the modules cost a yearly fee too.
- **ARES requests to use the South Station for Ham Radio Testing monthly and recognition, and for help repairing the Central Station Antenna:** John Blaisdell, Coordinator of Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Rick Royston Assistant Coordinator received approval for their requests. Commissioner Randi Waggoner made the motion to approve and the second was made by Commissioner Adrienne Campbell. They meet on the third Tuesday of every month and every third Thursday is the test session every month. Vote was 4 – 1 with Commissioner Phillip Canterbury voting nay.
- **County wide fire departments coordination meeting discussion.**

Fire Chief Report:

- **Monthly Department Report:** Tires were put on the Engine, Squad, and Truck 7. Still having trouble with Engine 7. Pump test needs to be done; and we did get the Airpack's.
- **Monthly Call Report:** April there were 18 fire runs, 17 medical, 8 (?), 8 service calls, 5 (?). 6 in Mossy Head....

Board Attorney: It was agreed to pay Board Attorney Rene Youell. **Motion made by Wallen-Campbel and seconded by lightener to pay the December 2024 legal services bill.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:37pm