

Brodhead Fire Commission
Friday May 5, 2023
Brodhead Fire Station
10:00 AM

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 10:01 AM

2. Roll Call to determine if a quorum is present.

Present- S. Hazeltine, A. Schneider, P. Faessler, T. Simpson, P. Naramore, C. Jones

3. Motion to deviate from the order of the agenda if necessary.

Motion made by A. Schneider to approve the agenda as presented

Seconded by P. Naramore

Motion Passed

4. Public Appearances: This is the public's opportunity to speak.

Each citizen is allowed 10 minutes to address the Commission.

Gregg Wartgow -Town of Avon- unable to make meeting family emergency asked Admin Assist Osborne to read a couple of points to the Brodhead Fire District.

1.) Regarding the public information officer position: I see no record suggesting that this position was formally and legally approved by the fire commission. This position should be eliminated immediately. While public relations and branding are vital components to a broader tactical plan to enhance the image of the department, aid in recruitment, and improve morale, the position needs to be created, approved and supervised in the right manner. This position should work under the direct supervision of the department's regular chain of command. Additionally, the potential cost of these services must be taken into consideration.

We need to keep our priorities straight.

2) In late December 2022, AFTER it was known that the EMS merger would not happen, an amended budget was still approved by the commission that earmarked nearly half a million dollars for paid-on-premise staff. This payroll budget was based on \$28 per hour, which is roughly 40% higher than the industry average pay for an EMT. To my knowledge, over the past four months, there has been one individual hired. This is unacceptable. For \$28 an hour, we should be aggressively recruiting across a 35-mile-radius to try and build our roster of people who actually deliver the vital services our citizens are paying A LOT of money for. Instead of being so eager to pay lawyers and consultants, let's turn our focus to hiring EMTs, paramedics and firefighters to start delivering the services we are supposed to provide. Our citizens deserve that, and so do the amazing people working in the department who could use some help.

Alice Franks-Gray presented Brodhead Fire Dist. SOGs she has been working on and not part of the agenda. Provided was Mission Statement, Vision Statement, Core Values, Risk Statement, BFD current policies vs State WISOG#, Public Information/Media Relations Position, Article from Firehouse Magazine The Fire PIO: Qualifications of the Fire Dept. PIO. Alice states that Brodhead Fire has several of the SOGs already created from the list of SOGs. Missing SOGs should be created. Alice. When questioned by the District in regards to her volunteerism she asked about the Chief's rights in hiring volunteer positions?

5. Approval of previous meeting minutes. Discussion/Possible Action.

Motion to approve the Brodhead Fire Commission Special Meeting Minutes from March 22, 2023 and Brodhead Fire Commission Meeting Minutes from April 4, 2023.

Motion made by C. Jones

Seconded by T. Simpson

Motion Passed

6. Reports of departments activities:

a. Firefighters Inc.: Nothing at this time

b. Fire Inspector: Nothing at this time

c. Fire Chief:

*A 2% Fire Dues Program Audit Report was provided to the Brodhead Fire Commission members.

Based on April Hammonds review, it is the observation of this auditor that the fire department is in substantial compliance with the requirements of the statutes and administrative rules for State of Wisconsin 2% fire dues program.

*Admin Assist Osborne gave report of calls for **April 2023**: Fire Response 5, Cancel 5, MABAS 3 Lift Assist 4, MVA 1, Assist BAEMS 4, 1st Response 2 **Total 24 Calls**

*The used Engine arrived this morning. BFD will send it to L&S Truck to have DOT Inspection done on it. Will need to switch lettering and name, it will be several weeks before it will be in ready position.

*Chief Scheidegger mentioned meeting with Orfordville Fire Forum he feels at this time there is nothing on the fire side we can do that we are not already doing with auto-aid.

d. Life Quest:

Lifequest Billing and Collection Service combined with EMS Management and Consulting (EMS/MC) in early 2022. EMS/MC has a partnership with Fire Recovery USA and will be processed through the Fire Recovery USA platform. Fire Recovery USA fire is the nation's largest cost recovery company in the USA.

7. New Business

a. Brodhead Fire District Dissolution Discussion/Possible Action:

Brodhead Rural Association officially accepted the rescinded letter of dissolution resolution and is now complete. Dissolution will not move forward and is over. **Remove from Agenda**

b. Possible hiring of a consultant for efficiency study of operation of the Brodhead Fire District. Discussion/Possible Action:

Tabled from previous meeting. At this time not moving forward with the consultant.

Remove from Agenda.

c. Public Information Officer Position Discussion/Possible Action:

P. Faessler made the motion to create the Public Relation Officer Position

Seconded by A. Schneider

Roll Call Vote: Hazeltine Nay, Simpson Nay, Schneider Nay, Jones Nay, Faessler-Nay, Naramore-Nay

Motion Fails

T. Simpson amended motion to PIO to be an unpaid position

Seconded by P. Naramore

5 Nay to paid position 1 for paid

Motion Fails

Discussion on Public Information Officer Position-Need to define the position before you can create a job description.

Admin Assistant Osborne and 1st Assistant Chief Chris Searles have both been through the Wisconsin Emergency Management training for basic PIO.

Chief Scheidegger does not have time to talk to the media during an active scene. Media would have to wait until the scene is secured before he could make a statement.

Rick Harding-Supervisor Spring Grove Township- Rick agrees 100% with Greg Wartgow, from Avon Township, points made under the Public Comment section of agenda. Nothing is to be given out until you have all the facts and follow the Chain of Command. A Public Information Officer is the Chief and Admin Assistant unless assigned by the Chief. PIO position was not taken to the Brodhead Rural Association. Rick reviewed a LinkedIn account that Alice Franks-Gray has stated that she is the full time PIO for the Brodhead Fire and EMS District. Rick H. asked when did the merger go through for it to be Brodhead Fire and EMS District? Federal labor standards blurred lines of full time and volunteer. Rick H. stated that Greg Wartgow's full time job is in public relations and would be happy to write any public relations for the Brodhead Fire District. Rick H. feels this has spiraled out of hand and feels BFD should abandon position today.

Alice Franks-Gray stated Fireman want to fight fires not do the public relations. If PIO is in a Command structure it's not fair not to pay Command staff wages.

d. Possible hiring of Fire Chief Discussion/Possible Action:

T. Simpson after talking with the Fire Chief would like this removed from the agenda.

1st Assistant Chief Searles feels we do not need a full time Chief. Chief Scheidegger working at station during day and working in town at night you have a full time coverage with Chief Scheidegger. If you were to hire a full time Chief most likely they would live out of the District.

e. Select member to share resources Fire/EMS Discussion/Possible Action

C. Jones until Orfordville stops trying for full time and goes to hybrid or part time coverage it will be a liability at this time.

S. Hazeltine- Other than training with Orfordville personnel and assisting on calls with auto aid other departments do not have the resources to take care of Orfordville. Need to take care of our house first.

Chief Scheidegger will talk with the Orfordville Chief also when assisting with auto aid instead of sending our Truck 2 may need to reconstruct auto aid for the engine instead.

1st Assistant Chief Searles until Orfordville stops paying for full-time personnel it will continue to spiral down. Volunteers are needed and do not feel appreciated when you have someone sitting getting full time wage and then expect volunteers to come in at a fraction of the price.

Alice Franks-Gray mentions maybe a Safer Grant, maybe some assistance.

f. Bylaw Committee-Discussion/Possible Action:

Brodhead Fire Commissioners passed to have Compensation & Benefits-Leave Work in a previous meeting. Brodhead Fire Officers presented a bylaw to go with the passed motion. In bylaw, employees who miss compensated work hours at their regular, paid job would be paid 1.5 times their normal Brodhead Fire District pay for that call. After discussion S. Hazeltine we need to pay for the coverage if employees leave employment. Brodhead District Commissioners would like the Brodhead Fire Officers to amend the bylaw and bring it back with an updated pay proposal.

g. Election of Brodhead Fire District Officers-Discussion/Possible Action

T. Simpson nominated Steve Hazeltine for President of the Brodhead Fire District.

Seconded by A. Schneider

Motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot by A. Schneider

Seconded by C. Jones

P. Faessler nominated A. Schneider for Vice-President of the Brodhead Fire District.

Seconded by P. Naramore

Motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot by T. Simpson

Seconded by P. Naramore

A. Schneider nominated P. Faessler for Treasure of the Brodhead Fire District.

Seconded by P. Naramore

Motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot by T. Simpson

Seconded P. Naramore

P. Faessler nominated T. Simpson for Secretary of the Brodhead Fire District.

Seconded by C. Jones

Motion to close nominations and cast unanimous ballot by C. Jones

Seconded by P. Naramore

h. Treasurer's Report-Discussion/Possible Action:

Operating Account Balance: \$423,159.85

Money Market Capital Account Balance: \$62,080.66

Total Accounts Balance: \$485,240.51

Motion to approve Treasurer's report made by C. Jones

Seconded by A. Schneider

Motion passed

a. Move money from Paid on Premise - Other budget lines to Money Market Capital Account to pay for used engine. Discussion/Possible Action

Discussion by C. Jones may want to look into switching the Money Market for a better interest rate. P. Faessler will check into this.

Motion by C. Jones to move money from Paid on Premise- Other budget lines to Money Market Capital Account to pay for used engine.

Seconded by P. Naramore

b. Payment of loan for used engine to be paid in full. Discussion/Possible Action

After discussion on paying the engine in full or to wait until 1st payment was due
Commissioners decided to pay for the used engine now and not accrue interest.

Motion by C. Jones to pay off the loan for the used engine in full.

Seconded by A. Schneider

i. Payments of Bills-Discussion/Possible Action:

April bills paid after April 4, 2023 Meeting:

AT&T Mobility \$42.99, Bandt (DNR Grant) \$10,944.06, City of Brodhead-Snow Removal \$540.94,
Jefferson Fire & Safety \$863.02, L&S Truck Service \$940.32, MacQueen \$114.40,
Penflex \$1,314.00, Piggly Wiggly \$117.00, Reliant Fire Apparatus \$324.06
Scheidegger, Robert \$221.64, Scheidegger \$568.15, City of Brodhead - Sewer \$243.08,
Speich \$138.64

April credits paid after April 4, 2023 Meeting:

Tom Peterson-Cash Donation \$150.00, Brodhead Area EMS \$821.61

Motion to approve Payment of Bills by P. Naramore

Seconded by A. Schneider

Motion passed

8. Closed Session

a.) Per WI State Statutes Section 19.85(1)(c) considering employment, promotion,
compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the
governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility: **Lieutenant Position**

*Motion by P. Naramore to enter closed session at 11:50 AM

Seconded by A. Schneider

Roll Call Vote Hazeltine, Simpson, Jones, Schneider, Naramore, Faessler

Motion passed in closed session

*Motion by T. Simpson to reconvene from closed session:

*Returned from closed session at 12:00 PM

Seconded by A. Schneider

Motion Passed

*Possible Action from closed session:

Motion by T. Simpson to promote Firefighter Derrick Pinnow to Lieutenant of the Brodhead
Fire District.

Seconded by A. Schneider

Motion Passed

Motion by A. Schneider to promote Firefighter Brandon Riese to Lieutenant of the Brodhead
Fire District.

Seconded by P. Faessler

Motion Passed

Letters will be sent to notify applicants of decisions from the Brodhead Fire District.

Ceremony for new Lieutenants on June 7, 2023 @ 7:30 PM

Lieutenants positions are active immediately following receipt of letter.

Post for possible quorum June 7, 2023 Ceremony.

9. Commission Comments or Questions:

This is the Commissions opportunity to speak about anything that is not a specific agenda item.

C. Jones has gone to the legislature to speak about financial difficulties in small rural communities.

C. Jones mentioned a \$300 million Innovation Grant for consolidations that save money. Innovation Fund Grant available for 3 years to encourage combining local services. (ex. Public safety, fire, and EMS) Innovation Fund includes a mechanism for placing a value on the work of volunteers.

C. Jones mentioned **Local Government Fund** includes several programs including NEW Innovation Planning Grants - \$3 Million, Increased Emergency Medical Service Aids - (current annual \$2.2 million GPR increased to \$15 Million)

Maintenance of Effort:For Fire Protective and Emergency Medical Service-Would need to Certify two of four items annually, Annual Certification of law enforcement and Fire/EMS effort to DOR.

EMS provision: The bill makes several revisions to EMS licensing regulations that have the general effect of reducing regulatory burdens/costs for EMS Services.In addition, local governments would not be able to prohibit police, fire or EMS employees from being employed by or volunteering for another jurisdiction at the same time.

10. Discussion/Possible Action on future agenda items and next meeting date and time:

Next Meeting: **Friday, June 2, 2023 at 10:00 AM Brodhead Fire Station**

11. Motion to adjourn.

Motion to adjourn at 12:20 PM by C. Jones

Seconded by P. Naramore

Meeting adjourned

Heather Osborne

Brodhead Fire District Admin. Asst.