

New Richmond Fire & Rescue Service
 106 South Arch Avenue
 New Richmond, Wisconsin 54017

FIRE ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
 Un-Official Meeting Minutes of
May 30, 2019: Special Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

ROLL CALL:

PRESENT		PRESENT	
X	Tom Weinmeyer New Richmond - City Council (District 3)	X	Rita Keating Village of Star Prairie - President
X	Ron Volkert New Richmond - City Council (District 5)		Gary Knutson Town of Richmond - Chairman
	Jim Zajkowski New Richmond - City Council (District 6)	X	Dave Stephens Town of Richmond - Supervisor
X	Jim Vander Wyst New Richmond Fire & Rescue - Chief	X	Tom Heintz Town of Star Prairie - Chairman
X	Robin Haffner New Richmond Fire & Rescue		John VanDyk Town of Erin Prairie – Chairman
X	Roger Lindloff New Richmond Fire & Rescue	X	Dick Hesselink Town of Stanton – Chairman
X	Doug Frandsen New Richmond Fire & Rescue		Keith Karpenski Town of Alden – Chairman
X	Mike Darrow, Administrator City of New Richmond	X	Rae Ann Ailts City of New Richmond

OLD BUSINESS:

1. None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Alden Township Contract Cancellation

(Rae Ann Ailts) We were informed that Alden is cancelling their contract effective June 1, 2019. So we have the billing from January through May, which came to \$25,166. The annual contract for this year would have been \$60,400, approximately in revenue. The shortfall from the revenue perspective would be \$35,233. The respective jurisdictions are associated with that, based on a share for this year. Essentially, from the City of New Richmond’s standpoint, we will have a budget deficit. Not sure how each jurisdiction is handling that – whether the money coming in from Alden was included in your budget. We just wanted to make you aware that if you did budget that as revenue, there is going to be a shortfall. We are working on going through the budget to see if any of that can be absorbed on the operational side. Some of the difficulty in doing that is that it essentially shifts some needs to the next year and compounds the issue. We will keep you informed as we progress into the budget to see if there are other ways we can shoulder that deficit for the balance of this year. Any questions.

Chief was asked if any other contact was made with Alden or Allied Fire. No. Chief will try to contact them tomorrow and see if they have different thoughts. *(On 5/31 the Chief spoke to Keith Karpenski and he said they are ready to go and ready to be switched over at dispatch on Saturday night.)* They sent us a letter that they would be opting out in 30 days. Received in the beginning of May. If we get paged, we are going to respond.

2. 2020-2025 Township Contract Renewals

Everyone should have a draft of the contract. (Mike D) Due to the significant impact Alden's withdrawal has on our budget, we felt it was wise to address our contract language. We are proposing the following termination language: "Any City, Village or Town terminating their contract with Fire & Rescue, for any reason, shall be responsible for their financial obligations to Fire & Rescue for the entire fiscal year (January – December). Written termination notices shall be submitted to Fire & Rescue on or before June 1 of any year." It basically says, if you are proposing to make a change, be sure that this is part of your budget process. This change will need to be reviewed by township boards and the City Council.

When will this change take effect? It should go into effect immediately. If Council approves at the June 10 meeting, we would like the towns and village to do the same at their June meetings. This is a five year contract. Alden will probably say that they gave you notice that they were building a station and going on their own for a couple of years. We don't want something to happen like this again.

A question was asked, if anyone leaves would they have to be obligated for the entire fiscal year? That is correct. This incident was a reminder to review the contract. It was a red flag. Everyone would need to resign the contract and check with their attorneys. We would like to have a motion tonight to have this approved before the next Fire Advisory Board Meeting in June. This contract would take us through the end of the year and we would sign a new contract January 1.

An electronic copy of the contract language will be sent to everyone.

(Jim Zajkowski) If there are no other questions, I'll make a motion to approve the change in the termination language. (Dave Stephens) I'll second the motion. Is there any other discussion? If not, all those in favor say Aye. Opposed? Motion is carried.

ADDITIONS:

(Chief) NRF&R is writing a mutual aid contract with Allied Fire. Instead of the normal language that we each take care of our own finances, they are going to pay us for our time. That has to be reviewed by the City Council and Allied Fire and their Council, as well. We pretty much had a verbal agreement between Fire Chiefs. We just need to get it on paper and get it signed. That will be on the next Council Meeting's agenda. This agreement is with Allied Fire, not Alden. Allied is Dresser, Osceola, Garfield and now Alden. It will be for all of the Alden area that Allied covers. We have never charged for truck use. Maybe after six months, we can reevaluate. We average approximately 10 runs a year to that area.

If the Fire Advisory Board as a whole has concerns in the future, we would have to explain that we have to cover those costs and the reasons why.

The question was asked, do we have mutual aid agreements with other communities? Yes. We have one with St. Croix County Fire Departments. Are those formal and do we charge others? They are formal agreements, and no, there are no mutual aid charges. The current mutual aid agreements cover emergency response. We need to communicate to Allied Fire that this is a different situation.

Also notes, some fire departments in Polk County are looking into joining MABAS, and we will more than likely be doing MABAS and there are no charges for MABAS events. I do agree because we are losing financially with Alden that they should be paying something. We will still do mutual aid with them for at least the southern part of the area.

(Mike D) We will figure that out in the next month. Bottom line, if there is a call, we will respond. Now we have to understand that we have a \$60,000 deficit. That is significant.

Chief said he will meet with them and report back at the next meeting.

MOTION TO ADJOURN:

1st Dave Stephens 2nd Tom Heinz Meeting is adjourned.