



Spanish Fort Fire - Rescue

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Station 1

7580 Spanish Fort Blvd
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Station 2

10628 U.S. Hwy 31
Spanish Fort, AL 36527

Roger R. Few
Fire Chief

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

August 13, 2012

Board Members:

Byron Hales	-Present	Ken Coale	-Present
George Brown	-Present	Donna Hughes	-Present
John Barks, Jr.	-Present	Bobby Soles	-Present
Paul Wohn	-Present	Mike McMillan	-Absent
Troy Dyess	-Present	Dan Wilson	-Absent
Roger Few	-Present		

President Hayles called the meeting to order at 6:03 P.M. with a roll call.

The minutes from the July 09, 2012 board meeting were read silently. A motion to approve the minutes was made by John Barks, Jr. Bobby Soles seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Troy Dyess read the treasurer's report for the period of July 1, 2012 through July 31, 2012 and asked for approval of Compass checks #5735 – 5749, Regions checks #3209 – 3226, Auxiliary Fund #1108 and 2011 AFG Account Checks. After brief discussion of the Treasurer's Report a motion was made by Paul Wohn to accept the Treasurer's Report as read. Bobby Soles seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

President's Report

President Hayles stated that a third Integration Committee meeting with the City of Spanish Fort was held at the fire station and asked Chief Few to give an update. Chief Few stated the third meeting consisted of a question and answer session between the Fire Department, City of Spanish Fort, City Attorney and the League of Municipalities. We seem to be stumbling over the same issues at each meeting. The City had generated a list of questions to be posed to the League of Municipalities. The fire department leadership was not presented with the questions prior to the meeting and thus had no time to prepare or research responses. As questions were presented, best possible responses were given to the committee and the League of Municipalities. The City and the League of Municipalities are having a difficult time understanding the concept of what is being proposed. Members of the City Council complimented the fire department leadership on the professional presentation given to the City Council. The meeting ended with a

feeling that everything was accomplishable as long as the appropriate contracts were set in place to cover both entities. Ken Coale commented on the fact that there seems to be little advantage to being under the City umbrella. The department seems to be moving forward with abilities to provide appropriate benefits and have very capable leadership through the Board of Directors, Chiefs and Officers of the organization. Chief Few commented that the Department really needs a solid funding source and is currently working with the League of Municipalities to seek various insurance for the department and its members. Outside of funding, the department could function well as it always has in the past. President Hayles reminded the board of the last paragraph in the letter of intent that was sent to the city. That paragraph states that if either party does not feel comfortable with the findings of the Integration Committee, there would be nothing binding at that point and both parties could continue business as usual. The next meeting will be held on September 4th at City Hall at 4:00 PM.

President Hayles advised the board it was time to renew the contract with the City of Spanish Fort. The current contract provides for \$177,500 to be paid to the fire department in quarterly payments. President Hayles asked for input from the board on a dollar amount needed to fund the department adequately. Troy Dyess gave a handout to the board of directors and reviewed with them where the cash position of the department would be at the end of FY2013 if the contract was renewed for \$250,000. The handout also included a synopsis of where the department's cash position would be at the end of FY 2014. After brief discussion, John Barks, Jr. made a motion to renew the contract with the City of Spanish Fort in the amount of \$250,000. George Brown seconded the motion. The motion was defeated by vote with four members voting yes and 5 members voting no. Motion closed. Paul Wohn made a motion to renew the contract with the City of Spanish Fort in the amount of \$275,000. Ken Coale seconded the motion. The motion carried with 6 members voting yes and 3 members voting no. Motion carried. The Fire Chief and President will draft a contract renewal and send it to the City of Spanish Fort.

Chief's Report

Chief Few stated the department responded to 43 calls for the month of June. There were several lightning strikes during the month of July. Chief Few stated that Troy Dyess had completed 12 preplans in July, a total of 315 preplans are completed.

Chief Few gave a status update on the annual fund drive. The second mailer has been sent and a strong response has been received. Year to date, the department has received \$55,075. This represents 100.1% of budgeted dollars with 25.8% of residents and 22.7% of businesses responding. Chief Few stated on average, the department could expect to see around \$60,000 from the 2012 fund drive.

Chief Few stated that the department had submitted a grant request for a SAFER grant. This would be to add additional full time staff to the department. The grant would pay for two years of payroll with no match required from the department. There is also no commitment required at the end of the performance period. The department should know the results of the grant award by the end of September, 2013.

Chief Few stated that all of the departments involved in the 2011 AFG grant for improved radio equipment had received all of their equipment. The last pieces were being installed in apparatus at Spanish Fort Fire Department. Due to this project being completed, the 2011 AFG Grant account will be closed and no further activity will be reported for that account.

Chief Few asked Employee Chairman, Ken Coale to review results of new options with the Retirement Systems of Alabama. Ken Coale presented to the board the ability to participate in the State of Alabama retirement system. If the department decides to move forward with the state retirement, all full-time employees will participate and any part-time employee working at least half-time will participate. Handouts were given to the board outlining the options and giving a comparison between the state retirement plan and the current ADP retirement plan. All of the handouts are included and become a part of these minutes. At the end of the comparison, the difference between the state retirement plan and the current ADP plan is less than \$200 more annually. The department will need to terminate the current 401-K plan with ADP. ADP will charge the department \$1,500 to terminate the plan. All members will be given until the end of 2012 to transfer their funds to another qualified plan or liquidate the funds. This will be to remove any liability or reporting responsibility from the department. After some discussion of the two plans Ken Coale made a motion to move forward with participation in the Retirement Systems of Alabama plan, not electing to adopt act 2011-676, approve the tax sheltering of contributions and terminate the current ADP 401-K. Paul Wohn seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Fire Chief, President and Secretary will prepare, sign and submit the necessary documents to complete the transaction. The last contribution to ADP will be in the last pay period in September and the department will begin contributing to Retirement Systems of Alabama in the first pay period in October.

President Hayles read a letter of resignation from Mike McMillan. Mike has no opposition in the election for Mayor of the City of Spanish Fort. Mike is choosing to resign from his position on the board of directors due to his new duties as Mayor. President Hayles has discussed filling the vacancy of Mike McMillan's current term with Bobby Fortenberry. Mr. Fortenberry expressed interest and would like to be an active member of the board. Bobby currently serves on the City Council just as Mike McMillan had during his tenure with the department. There were no concerns expressed by the board members present. President Hayles appointed Bobby Fortenberry to fill the vacancy effective immediately.

Chief Few gave the members of the board a status update on the Engine 4 project. The project bids were received and opened. All of the bids were higher than anticipated and one of the three bids was rejected due to not meeting requirements of the specifications. The two outstanding bids were from E-One and KME. The department had a demo KME apparatus for two days. Chief Few discussed the differences between the two apparatus. The main reason the department has purchased E-One in the past is due to the construction method giving the body and cab of the apparatus much more integrity in the event of a crash. The board and department management has always felt very strongly that the safety of department responders must always be the number one priority. Chief Few displayed a PowerPoint presentation to the board of various accidents involving fire department apparatus around the country. The presentation first showed apparatus with non-extruded construction and the second half showed apparatus designed with the extruded construction. The board saw very obvious safety differences between the two types of

construction. Differences if the construction materials were presented to the board. Chief Few proposed the board accept the E-One bid and proceed with negotiations with E-One to bring the cost of the apparatus closer to the budget amount of \$395,000. Any additional cost for the apparatus is only about \$1,000 per year over the life of the apparatus and is certainly worth the effort of possibly saving a responder's life. John Barks, Jr. made a motion to accept the E-One bid and negotiate the pricing of the project up to 10% of the total original bid. Bobby Soles seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business

Land Committee:

The Land Committee did not meet and has no report. Zac Weber has just handed some information to Paul Wohn and the committee will meet after the monthly meeting. A report of the committee meeting will be reported at the September meeting.

Employee Committee:

No report.

New Business:

Next Integration Committee meeting will be September 4, 2012, City Hall at 4:00 PM.

Next Board of Directors meeting – September 10, 2012 at 6:00 P.M., Station 1.

There being no further business, President Hayles adjourned the meeting at 8:10 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Hughes