

**MONROE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Tuesday, February 18th, 2020**

The Monroe Rural Fire District meeting was brought to order by Chair Tracy Signer at 6:40 p.m. at the Green County Justice Center.

Roll Call of town officers present:

Town of Clarno: Tracy Signer (Chair Rural Board)

Town of Monroe: Todd Hasse, Chad Spotts, Mike Lambert

Absent: Nate Hartwig, Jim Rutledge, Ron Brandt, Peggy Murphy

Also present: Ron Albright, Anna Anderson, Louis Armstrong (City of Monroe Mayor), Nick Bartels, Marilyn Bartelt, Dan Bartholf (City of Monroe Attorney), Fred Beckman, Margaret Beckman, Michael Boyce (City of Monroe Alder), Tom Burkhalter, Jason Campbell, Carman Campbell, Ken Clark, Mark Haug, Steve Isely (Juda Fire Chief), Ray Kneller, Kevin Komprood (Monticello Fire Chief), Jeff Lanz, Shane Luchsinger (Monticello Fire), Jim Moldenhauer & Curt Quinn (Green County Sheriff Office), Collin Nack, Jeff Skatrud (Green County Sheriff), Dan Smits (City of Monroe Fire), Richard Thoman (City of Monroe Alder), Dudley Timm, Phil Vosberg, Mike Witt (Town of Sylvester Supervisor),

Motion by Chad Spotts and seconded by Mike Lambert to approve the December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes that were handed out at this meeting.

Chair Tracy Signer stated to everyone that this meeting is being conducted for research purposes only and that the fire district is trying to gather facts and data as to potential costs that may be related to running a fire service. He then proceeded to read aloud the open meeting statement as provided by Attorney Mark Schroeder stating the following: At this time I am going to lay out the general rules for how we are going to proceed **tonight**.

This is a properly noticed meeting of the Monroe Rural Fire District. During the meeting the members of the district board will be involved in a discussion regarding options for future fire protection coverage for the areas served by the district.

No public hearing or public comment is provided for in the agenda. As a result, members of the public in attendance will only be permitted to speak when a member of the district board requests that they provide information to the board. No questions to the board or comments initiated by members of the public will be permitted in order that the meeting may be conducted in compliance with the agenda.

If anyone does not comply with the general rules for the conduct of the meeting, they will be reminded by the chair that the rules limit comment by members of the public. Should a member of the public continue to not comply with the rules for the conduct of the meeting by either initiating questions or otherwise providing comments not in response to a question of a member of the board, they may be asked to leave the meeting.

Todd Hasse handed out an Equipment Cost Sheet as was requested and was prepared by Marc Lindquest, of Jefferson Fire & Safety. This sheet contained all of the basic items needed to comply with NFPA 1901 to outfit a pumper, 2 tenders and a brush truck, gear for 20 firefighters, (6) self-contained breathing apparatus with (6) spare bottles and extrication equipment. The totals to outfit the 4 trucks was \$70,300 and to outfit 20 firefighters with brand new gear and extrication equipment was \$98,900 for a total of \$169,200. Hasse stated that these

prices reflected that all of this equipment would be brand new and that most of these items are already on the trucks that we currently own. Hasse also stated that there would also be the possibility to reach out to the neighboring fire departments to see if they would have any spare gear they would be willing to share and or the option to purchase some used items as well from vendors.

Monticello Fire Chief Kevin Komprood spoke next and he gave an explanation as to how the Monticello Fire Department operates and stated that they run on an annual budget of around \$89,000. They respond to roughly 150 calls per year which also includes first response calls. They provide fire protection to the Village of Monticello, the Towns of Washington & Mt. Pleasant and cover 4 sections of the Towns of Exeter and Sylvester consisting of approximately 100 square miles. He stated that the new fire station cost was around 1.2 million, but this also included the construction costs of the roadway built back to the fire station. Challenges that they face are budgets, keeping up with current requirements and having enough fire fighters to cover the day time fire calls. Currently they have 36 members on their department, their ISO rating is a 6 and they have training every Tuesday night. They pay the chiefs, captains, trustees, EMS coordinator and fire inspector a small salary and the firefighters are paid \$7.25 per hour. Billing for response is based upon the number of members who respond to a call and they do not bill a fee for the trucks or equipment used. Insurance coverage is provided by TRI Insurance Company.

Juda Fire Chief Steve Isely spoke next and he gave us an explanation as to how the Juda Fire Department operates and stated that they run on an annual budget of around \$83,000. He stated that they respond to roughly 100 calls per year and this also includes first response calls. They provide fire protection to the Towns of Jefferson, Sylvester, Spring Grove and Decatur and consist of approximately 97 square miles. Currently they have 35 members on their department, their ISO rating is an 8 or a 9 and they train twice a month. The firefighters are paid as a clothing allowance and are paid \$5.50 per hour. The Juda Fire Department does not bill for fire call response, but they do bill for car accidents. Any fees that they collect, goes into a separate account and is used to purchase new equipment in the future. Insurance coverage is provided by Rural Mutual Insurance.

Sheriff Jeff Skatrud along with officer Curt Quinn and lead dispatcher Jim Moldenhauer spoke next and explained that the county is in the process of installing a new radio system. Coverage for this system is expected to be roughly 95% of the county and that they would share with us if needed the vendor who the county has selected to provide them with the updated system and that it is out roughly 20 months before it will be completed. He said that a new radio for a police car runs roughly around \$3,000 and that portable radios run approximately \$2,300. Sheriff Skatrud said that if we were to form a new fire department, that they would have to create a new radio tone for paging and establish a unit ID's. Others things to consider would be establishing protocols as to how the sheriff's department would operate when a call would be received in the fire districts area. The computer software system that they use would also need to have some addition and changes made to establish the rural coverage area, addresses will need to be changed over and some items created for the software to work properly. This would all be done by the sheriff office employees and there would be no cost to the fire district for this work. All of these changes and or additions could possibly take up to 6 months to complete, but they are willing to complete this for us if needed.

Next the board spoke to Mike Witt who was in attendance for the Town of Sylvester. The board asked if the Town of Sylvester would be willing to join back into the district if a fire department would be formed and he stated that he is new to the board and that he would take the information from this meeting back to the town board to discuss things further. Ron Albright a Town of Sylvester resident stated that he has some concerns over the western residence for adequate coverage being too far away from the Juda Fire Department and he feels that coverage provided by a rural fire district would be a benefit to those residences. Chief Isely spoke up and said that he would agree and if this would be better for the people, that Juda Fire would support this as well.

The board then went around the table and asked if anyone had anything further they would like to share. Chief Isely said that the Juda Fire Department would be willing to help in any way they can and that they do have some spare gear and equipment if needed. Chief Komprood spoke and agreed with Chief Isely and said that the Monticello Fire Department would be willing to assist in any way and that they also have spare gear if needed. He also stated that there are a lot of fire grants available to apply for and that there is an equipment vendor of used equipment located in Beloit area that he could get us in touch with as well.

The board told everyone that they appreciated their attendance and willingness to help.

With no further business motion by Chad Spotts and second by Mike Lambert to adjourn at 7:25 p.m.

Todd Hasse, Town of Monroe, Chair (on behalf of Jim Rutledge)