

A regular meeting of the Rural Urban Fire Board was held at the Alma Municipal Building. The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Alma City Manager Aeris Ripley. A quorum of the Board was present.

Roll Call

Board members present: Kevin Beeson, Tish Mallory, Greg Mapes, Doug Merchant, and Aeris Ripley.
Board members absent: Ron Hunt (arrived after roll call) and Daniel Wernick.
Others present: Curtis Dancer, Harold House, and Mark Williams.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Mallory, to approve minutes of the September 19, 2022 meeting, as presented. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Hunt and Wernick.

Monthly Reports

Public Safety Director Mark Williams explained a correction in reports related to assists. Ripley and Finance Director Curtis Dancer reviewed reports and answered questions.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to receive the following reports: Alma District Fire Department 3rd Quarter 2022 Report, Alma District Rescue Department 3rd Quarter Report, Fire Budget Actual Ending September 2022, Rescue Budget Actual Ending September 2022, Fire Board Check Disbursement Report September 2022, and Rescue Check Disbursement Report September 2022. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Hunt and Wernick.

Unfinished Business

Ripley presented a final draft of the amendments to the Interlocal Agreement. He noted the mutual aid agreement with GESA finalized jurisdictional lines, so other changes included meeting dates and the funding formula, with added review in June of 2025, and automatic renewal for one subsequent term.

Ron Hunt arrived at 3:11 p.m.

Merchant expressed concern that his Board may not approve the agreement and said he feels the group should be working towards an Authority.

Beeson also expressed concerns about still having no say in the wages and benefits for employees, adding there was nothing to include cost containment in the new draft. Beeson said they could be missing opportunities for funding due to the current structure. Lengthy discussion followed.

Mapes indicated the City is willing to talk. Beeson said issues still need to be addressed. Merchant agreed the group needs to think outside the box.

Ripley will provide additional information regarding benefits and wages.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Merchant, to approve the final draft of the Alma District Fire Department Interlocal Agreement as presented. Motion carried.

**Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Wernick.**

Safety Director Williams provided an updated quote for the Air-Packs purchase, saying it was more than originally expected, and they had received information that 19 new packs would need to be purchased to meet MIOSHA requirements. Extra containers included with new packs will reduce costs somewhat, but it will still be a challenge to find the money to cover the costs. Williams said in addition to that, a problem had come up with Engine #3 that was expected to cost approximately \$13,000, and he now also has to replace report management software that will not be available after July of 2023. He has been looking into replacement options and is recommending EPR for new software. Williams indicated he could make concessions and find approximately \$49,000 in his budget to cover the costs.

Discussion followed about packs and tanks. Beeson suggested using ARPA funds to purchase twelve packs now and ask the foundation for additional funds.

Additional discussion followed about the report management software. Beeson suggested negotiating with EPR for a demo of the software prior to making a decision. Discussion followed.

Motion by Beeson, seconded by Hunt, to authorize Director Williams to engage in investigatory negotiations with EPR for an introductory trial of report management software, and authorize payment of up to \$1,000. Motion carried.

**Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Wernick.**

New Business

Ripley asked the group to consider ratifying the Engine #3 transmission rebuild. Discussion followed.

Motion by Mallory, seconded by Mapes, to ratify the Engine #3 transmission rebuild in an amount not to exceed \$13,000. Motion carried.

**Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Wernick.**

Ripley asked the group to ratify the automatic mutual aid agreement with the Saint Louis Fire Department.

Motion by Mapes, seconded by Beeson, to ratify the Automatic Mutual Aid Agreement with the Saint Louis Fire Department for all structure fires. Motion carried.

**Voting yes: Beeson, Hunt, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.
Voting no: none.
Absent: Wernick.**

Beeson asked if Williams could bring a final recommendation on the report management software proposal to the December meeting. Mallory asked about construction of a second fire hall. Members determined a meeting would be necessary in November and agreed to meet November 21, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Discussion returned to Mallory's question about a second fire hall, funding, ownership issues, and suggestions for specifications. Mallory noted she knew someone that could draw it up. Beeson asked if she could bring a square foot cost from JBS to the next meeting. Additional discussion followed.

Public Comment

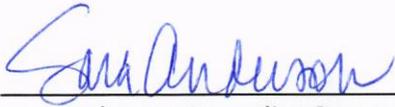
No other members of the public were present.

Motion by Mallory, seconded by Beeson, to adjourn the meeting at 4:33 p.m. Motion carried.

Voting yes: Beeson, Mallory, Mapes, Merchant, and Ripley.

Voting no: none.

Absent: Hunt, and Wernick.



Sara Anderson, Recording Secretary

Date of Approval: November 21, 2022