

**OF MEETING
BRACKEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Notice is hereby given that on the 16th day of March 2009 the Board of Directors of the Bracken Volunteer Fire Department will hold a Meeting at 7:00 PM at the Central Fire Station located at 23600 FM 3009, San Antonio, Texas.

The subjects to be discussed are listed on the agenda, which is a part of this notice. If, during the course of the meeting covered by this notice, the Board of Directors should determine that a closed meeting or session of the Board is required, then such closed meeting or session as authorized by the Texas Open Meetings Act will be held by the Board at the date, hour and place given in the notice or as soon after the commencement of the meeting covered by this notice as the Board may conveniently meet in such closed meeting concerning any and all purposes permitted by the Act.

Should any final action, final decision, or final vote be required in the opinion of the Board with regard to any matter considered in such closed meeting, then the final action, decision or vote shall be in open session.

Peggy Campbell

Signature

Secretary

Title

AGENDA

Regular Board Meeting - Call to Order by Board President (Mark Schroeder)

1. Approve minutes of the February 2, 2009 Special Meeting and February 23, 2009 Board Meeting
2. Report of the Treasurer (Marsha Kern)

Unfinished Business and General Orders

1. Fire Chief Report (Donald Zipp)
2. Fire Marshal Report (Bill Anz)
3. Emergency Rescue Report (Craig Ackerman)
4. ESD Update (Bob Fleming)
5. Firefighters' Festival Status (Firefighter Roger Sassman)

New Business

1. BVFD 5-10 Plan to include Communications Equipment Issue/Decision (Fred Moos/Donald Zipp)

Adjourn

Next Meeting is April 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM.

**Minutes - Board Meeting of the Bracken VFD
Monday, March 16, 2009**

Board Members Present

Mark Schroeder, President	Fred Moos, Member
Buddy Boone, Vice President	Tom Potter, Member
Marsha Kern, Treasurer	Roy Gay, Member
Peggy Campbell, Secretary	E. J. Fiedler, Member
Tim Fey, Member	

Board Members Absent

None

Regular Board and Member Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Mark Schroeder at 7:00 p.m. He opened the meeting with a prayer.

As the first order of business, Mark asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes of the February 23, 2009, board meeting. EJ Fiedler asked for the minutes to be read and the Secretary read them. Peggy explained that she had not mailed EJ the minutes and therefore he had not had a chance to read them. The minutes were then approved as written.

Treasurer's Report - Treasurer Marsha Kern provided a budget recap (as of 2/28/09) reporting that through 17% of the year, expenses were at 16.6% of budget and income was at 22.4% of budget. Also, Marsha stated that cash on hand as of 3/16/09 was \$174,389.30. The Treasurer's Report with full details is attached (Attachment A).

There was discussion about whether the financial details should be available with the board meeting minutes through the BVFD website. It was agreed that they will not. They are available through the Secretary's filed reports.

Unfinished Business and General Orders

Fire Chief Report - Chief Zipp reported that the 24-hour coverage is working well. He also stated that the burn ban is off, which is not a good thing. Canyon Lake FD has been making many fire calls. Lastly, Chief Zipp reported that the department is continuing to work with the folks from Comal ISD on the site plans for the new elementary school regarding fire safety considerations.

Fire Marshal Report - Fire Marshal Bill Anz reported that there were a total of 34 total calls for February 2009, with 10 being fire calls. A list of the fire and rescue calls is available through the Secretary.

Emergency Rescue Report - Craig Ackerman reported that there were 24 rescue related calls for February 2009.

Emergency Services District (ESD) Update - Bob Fleming stated that the new ESD #6 maps had been received. He pointed out that the new one for BVFD was displayed on

the wall. He also reported that the County Commissioners requested all ESDs to make a report to them Thursday, 3/19/2009.

Firefighters' Festival - Roger Sassman stated that there were no changes to the schedule; it is firm. However, based on stringent state requirements, we will not have bingo. Sammy Sikes will expand the music venue to fill the bingo gap. Roger reported that he has reserved a Jump Castle and Slide for the kids' playground area. There will be two firefighters assigned to cover this area.

Roger stated that the meal prices have not been determined because the prices are set based on product costs, and those costs are unknown at this time. It was suggested by Linda Ackerman that the food serving should end at 7:30 pm versus 8 pm.

Roger announced that the top raffle item will be a LG 47" LCD HDTV. He said we have a commitment for the TV plus six prizes. Buddy stated that the correct wording for the raffle sheet is: "I wish to participate but not donate at this time."

Tom mentioned that he was working on getting two fishing trips for the auction. Also, he might have a one-day hunting trip in the Stonewall area.

Roger stated that the only assignment without a lead was "cleanup." Tim volunteered.

Also, it was agreed to do the membership drive as a part of the Spring Newsletter and not do it in the fall. This should save the department money in the long run.

New Business

BVFD 5-10 Year Plan to include Communications Equipment Issue/Decision (Fred Moos/Donald Zipp) - Donald distributed copies of the Plan, which contained the needs in priority order, rationale, time frames, costs, and funding options. (The BVFD 5-10 Year Plan is available through the Secretary.)

Fred explained that the Plan being presented was prepared by the Planning Committee, which consists of himself, Marsha, Donald, and Buddy. He stated that the Committee had approved the Plan and was recommending it to the Board. Fred then asked Donald to review the details of the Plan.

The items in the Plan were:

1. Upgrade communication system to digital technology (2009-2011).
2. Add additional part-time personnel (2010).
3. Upgrade 8 self-contained breathing apparatus (2010-2014).
4. Replace 1984 unit 821 with new 5-man cab with equipment (2009-2019).

Donald explained that the priority 1 item to upgrade BVFD's communications to digital technology is a mandate by Homeland Security to have this done by January 1, 2013. Donald stated that BVFD doesn't have to upgrade all at one time; we can do a phased approach by buying some equipment spread out over the next 3 years. There was much discussion. The main discussion points are listed below.

- There was no funding with the mandate.

- BVFD and the other fire departments in the county submitted for grant money to help with the funding. It was denied.
- There is no direction or assistance from Homeland Security, state or county levels. Everyone is left to figure it out for themselves.
- Because there is no coordinated effort, departments are implementing different solutions and creating a worse environment than currently exists.
- The Comal County Sheriff's Office will be converting to VHF-Digital in June 2009. Based on their direction, BVFD, Bulverde, and Spring Branch are working together to go in the same direction.
- Donald stated that Motorola agreed to \$400 per radio savings if purchased in March. Donald went back to Motorola and asked for more; they agreed to \$200 more off for a total of \$600 savings per radio if purchased in March.
- There was a question regarding the urgency of purchasing radio equipment at this time since the federal proposed deadline is 2013. It was mentioned that possibly we should have a wait-and-see attitude to let others pave the way. If we have until 2013, what is the urgency to do something now that might have us going in the wrong direction?

Donald explained that he has not purchased any radios for the past 3 years knowing that this upgrade was coming. Some radios will have to be purchased because some of the old ones need to be replaced. He also explained that the radios from Motorola have the capability for current technology and future technology.

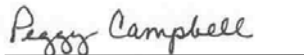
After much discussion, Fred made a motion to purchase 10 portable radios, one 6-unit charger, and one vehicular charger now for approximately \$32,000. Buddy seconded the motion. Peggy asked where the money would come from to pay for these items. Marsha stated that the Firefighting/Rescue budget contains a line item for radio maintenance/upgrade. Marsha said that \$10,000 would come from there, and \$20,000 would come from the Capital Expenditure Fund. A vote was called for and the motion passed.

Adjourn

Board member Roy Gay stated that he was submitting his resignation from BVFD Board of Directors effective immediately; he is moving to Denton, TX.

E.J. Fiedler made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned, which was seconded by Fred Moos. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Peggy Campbell
Secretary

Attachment A: Treasurer's Report