

**Hartsville/Trousdale County Government
FIRST RESPONSE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Meeting Date: March 24, 2025, 5:30 p.m., Trousdale County Courthouse

Present: Amber Russell, Chris Gregory, David Nollner, Judy Kerr, Steve Whittaker, Linda Sue Bruce

Others Present: Lonnie Giese, Dusty Cato, Fire Chief Mark Beeler, Amy Thomas, Matt Batey, Cliff Sallee, Gina Duncan, Rosalie Myhan, County Mayor Jack McCall

Chairman Amber Russell called the meeting to order.

Minutes of the February 24, 2025 meeting were reviewed. **Motion to approve by Bruce, second by Gregory. Motion approved.**

Motion to set agenda by Gregory, second by Whittaker. Motion approved.

EMS Director Matt Batey presented his department's report. Main request is for a new ambulance. Batey said oldest one has had transmission replaced, about \$20,000 of work done, over 200,000 miles. Batey presented quotes for new (roughly \$293,000 plus add-ons) and remount (around \$176,000); either would have 12-15 months turnaround once ordered. Batey prefers F-350 at \$176,000 quote if remount chosen). Gregory asked if add-ons for remount were included in quote; they are. Nollner asked about current ambulance, it is Chevy. Gregory asked if this was urgent need or could be in 2025-26 budget, Batey said 2025-26 and believed could be paid out of Ambulance fund balance.

Batey discussed working with Commissioner Bruce to identify ways to remedy flooding on Rocky Creek Loop. Batey hopes to apply for FEMA hazardous mitigation grant to conduct flood study; FEMA not taking applications now but grant process can take 1-2 years. Bruce said she was checking with county to see about adding a culvert in the Rocky Creek area, might have been one years ago.

Deputy Dusty Cato presented report on behalf of Sheriff's Department. TCSD seeking to participate in new Hazardous Duty Retirement Supplement approved by state legislature. Plan adds 0.375 percent of salary multiplied by years of service, runs from age 60 until begin receiving Social Security or death, whichever comes first. First step is actuary study, estimated cost of \$400 can come of sheriff's budget. Gregory noted plan requires pension to be 70 percent fully funded, asked if Trousdale qualifies. Amy Thomas did not have answer to that question.

Motion by Gregory to authorize TCSD to conduct study, second by Nollner. Motion approved.

Lonnie Giese presented Rescue Squad report. Department has added two members, now at 17. Department seeking two vehicles donated from sheriff's department. Few calls to Rescue lately. Rescue trying to find swiftwater training course, having difficulty doing so. Also may not be enough in Rescue budget for all members to take that training. May need to move money in budget toward uniforms.

Rescue has talked to TDOT about flooding issues at Rescue building, TDOT recommends digging ditch behind building to drain toward EMS and toward roadway. Water line is believed to be only 4-10 inches deep which may cause complication. Gregory asked about electrical issues discussed at February meeting, they have been fixed.

Public Works Director Cliff Sallee presented previous work orders at Rescue building, noted they are fixed, many the same day, after PW being notified of need. Some issues have not been filed with maintenance. Mold issues have been addressed twice previously, until flooding is fixed this will remain ongoing issue. One heater had apparently been removed from bathroom. PW seeking mold-resistant plywood to help address issues. Heater is Rescue service bay had to be fixed by Trousdale Comfort.

Giese and Sallee agreed new HVAC system might be best for building. One heater had no pilot light and could have kept running constantly. AC is currently old window unit. Rescue would have to get cost on HVAC. Giese also asked about new sign for Rescue.

Russell asked if new generator had been acquired yet, it has not.

Fire Chief Mark Beeler presented his department's report. 20 staff, 1 applicant processing. Old brush truck still at Blankenship Collision. 33 calls responded from Dec. 1, 2024 thru March 13, 2025. Currently three hours at least monthly training, last focus on scene size-up and vehicle placement on scene. Members also do preventive maintenance checklist on vehicles monthly. Members getting registered for Vector Solutions online training. Fire applying for \$11,800 Enbridge grant for radio upgrades, gas detection meters, gated hydrant valves. No update from architect on proposed second building for vehicles.

Russell asked about prior report on combining Fire and Rescue, what happened with findings. County Mayor Jack McCall said report has been presented to state, can get summary to committee next month. Official who conducted report now works for state, has been too busy to present report himself

Next meeting scheduled for Monday, April 28 at 6 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by Nollner, second by Gregory. Motion approved.

Minutes presented by Chris Gregory.