



## **Prospect Rural Fire Protection District Minutes of the Board of Directors Regular Meeting, February 17, 2025**

Vice-President Clay Thomas called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Attending:** Clay Thomas, Bob Scott, Lon Stockebrand, and Joyce Dierking

**Also Attending:** Fire Chief Lyle Neville, Bob Jones (financial officer) and 21 other community members

Approval of November minutes. Lon made a motion to accept, Bob seconded. Clay voted yes, Lon voted yes, Bob Scott voted yes, Joyce voted yes.

Bob Jones gave his financial report. Bob Scott made a motion to accept, Lon seconded. Clay voted yes, Lon voted yes, Bob Scott voted yes, Joyce voted yes. Motion passed.

Bob gave a seismic project update. Clay made the motion to hold a special meeting of this board at the public library on March 3, 2024 to read and sign the resolution for the next phase of this project. Joyce seconded and motion passed. Clay voted yes, Lon voted yes, Bob Scott voted yes, Joyce voted yes.

Joyce made a motion, seconded by Bob Scott to approve Bob Jones as Prospect RFPD budget officer. Resolution was read aloud for the record. Clay voted yes, Lon voted yes, Bob Scott voted yes, Joyce voted yes. Motion passed.

The 2025 Budget Calendar approval was tabled until next month.

Lyle gave his Fire Department report. The Fire Chief also reminded the board of the necessity to have a contract in place.

Pam Lee, Mike Pearson, and Gunner Gibson submitted applications to fill the

board position vacated by Karen Wickman moving from the area. Pam and Mike's background checks had cleared by Gunner's had not due to the very short turn-around time before our regularly scheduled board meeting. The board proceeded to consider Pam and Mike for this position. Joyce nominated Pam but there was no second. Clay nominated Mike, seconded by Lon. Bob Scott abstained as he had not had a chance to read through the applications. However, after reading through the applications, he expressed his belief that Pam, because she has lived in Prospect for 23 years, would be the stronger candidate. Joyce nominated Pam again, seconded by Clay. Clay voted yes, Lon voted yes, Bob Scott voted yes, Joyce voted yes. Motion passed. Pam was sworn in as Board Director, position 3.

Melissa Taylor gave a report on the Levy committee's work. She summarized data from two community events and surveys where public input was asked for and received. She presented the top-ranked community priorities. 1) Sustain current levels of Fire and EMS Services, 2) Provide proper Personal Protective Equipment on a scheduled basis, 3) Increase number of trained/certified volunteers for rapid response AND offer on-call shifts, 4) Fund additional auditing requirements required by grant income, 5) Capital Improvement Fund of \$50,000 for water infrastructure, equipment, facilities, etc. 6) Salaried Chief Position @1/2 time.

Melissa explained the need to streamline and cut expenses as much as possible considering our low-income population. Through the hard work of Bob Jones the Levy submitted the recommendation of presenting to the community for vote on the May 20 ballot an increase of \$1.39 per thousand of assessed value of property, lowering the committee's previous recommendation of \$1.89 per thousand.

All board stated that we need to pass a local option levy for our fire department and to ensure rapid medical response for the citizens of Prospect. In a healthy discussion, each board member stated their concerns about the passage of the levy. Pam mentioned insurance costs escalating or being eliminated by insurance companies. Clay is concerned that voters will not approve the levy if it is too high. Bob also is concerned about its passage if the cost is too much. Lon is worried that there will not be enough positive

votes to pass the levy. Joyce reiterated that the \$1.39 rate per thousand is a compromise. The levy committee believes that \$1.89 was best for our fire department and community's safety. Many in our community are concerned about higher taxes. The board has tried to heard all and be flexible. The agreed-upon \$1.39 is \$.50 less than many people wanted; it is \$.40 more many people wanted.

Joyce made a motion to offer the public an opportunity to vote on a local option levy \$1.39 per thousand on the May 20 ballot. Pam seconded. Clay voted no, Bob Scott voted no, Joyce voted yes, Pam voted yes, Lon voted yes. Motion passed.

A resolution was read into the record to place the Local Option Levy on the May 20, 2025 ballot. Joyce made a motion to approve the resolution, seconded by Lon. Clay voted yes, Lon voted yes, Bob Scott voted yes, Pam voted yes, Joyce voted yes. Then it was signed.

Fire Chief's job description was tabled until next month.

Meeting was opened for public comment.

Joyce made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob. Clay voted yes, Lon voted yes, Bob Scott voted yes, Pam voted yes, Joyce voted yes. Adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Next Board of Directors meeting, March 17, 2025  
BOD agenda items due by February 28, 2025.

Minutes and a recording of this meeting available at [www.prospectrfpd.org](http://www.prospectrfpd.org)