

***Town of New Richmond***  
***Monthly Meeting Minutes***

September 17, 2024

6:00 pm

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll call for Public Hearing for 2025 CCFD CONTRACT**

Sarah Farmer-Forbes, Clerk-Treasurer. Linda Forbes, Board President. Rachelle Cowherd, Board Member. Jeb Lind, Board Member. Rob Reimondo, Attorney.

Sarah Farmer-Forbes started the meeting the present Fire Board. Chief and Township members to speak about their contract.

Kevin McCord (Advisory Board for the Township) spoke of how the CCFD is over \$7000 in the deficit. He stated If it had not been for an accident on one of their vehicles and the insurance check, they would be further in debt than that. He spoke of how 8 of the 34 volunteer firefighters are professional and that is an exceptional thing. He mentioned several different trucks the Township has purchased. The topic was brought up that they do own the building in Wingate, whereas they do not here. He asked Chief how much it costs to outfit a fireperson and the answer was \$3500 and they try to purchase 3 of these suits yearly for CCFD. McCord also stated that the building was built intentionally and specifically for a fire house in which Rob Reimondo corrected him in saying for both.

Linda Forbes asked how many member are actually going on run to which Chief answered 6-8 per call.

Linda Forbes addressed the comment from McCord that past Boards and Treasurers had said derogatory comments about the CCFD. She stated that she had been on the board then and had never once hear a negative comment.

Jeb Lin asked who is supposed to be providing the funds for new gear, trucks, services, etc. He noted that certain funds have to pay for certain things, so who specifically should be paying for their gear?

Chief left the meeting at this point stating he had another meeting to attend and he wouldn't sit here and listen to how his "men's lives were worth more than the \$1500 we are arguing over."

Rob Reimondo asked a clearer version of Jeb's question of Service funding versus Product/Material funding. The remaining two fire members didn't have the knowledge/information to answer this.

Jeb Lind suggested we look at a different type of tax system further down the line.

Linda Forbes said she would like to see where we can pull money from but that they need to also go back to the Trustee to evaluate can be done there.

At this time, we opened up for final board comments and public comments.

McCord reiterated previous points and how we are fortunate to have professional firefighters and thanked the board for their time.

Jeb Lin thanked the remaining members for their time.

Rachelle Cowherd stated it is ridiculous that these people risk their lives and haven't had a damn raise in 30+ years.

Linda Forbes stated her loyalty is first to the oath she took and all the people of New Richmond and thanked the remaining members for attending.

Kelly Martin in the audience asked these points

- Is there anyone actively pursuing grants for the township and FD?

-How much do they have invested currently?


-She thanked the remaining members as she has been a beneficiary of their services.

-She stated Wingate has a higher tax rate; we support the FD with a building and paying maintenance.

Jeb Lind made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Linda Forbes seconded. Meeting adjourned.



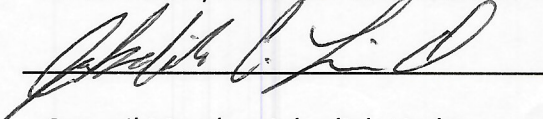
President Linda Forbes



Council Member Rachelle Cowherd



Attest: Clerk/Treasurer Sarah Farmer-Forbes



Council Member Jebadiah Lind