

Draft – not approved

Date: 6/9/23

Present: Chairman Sean McHale; Commissioners Bill Blunden, Norman Barkley Jr., Tyler Clemons, and Michael Clouch; Secretary/Treasurer Jessica Putney, Head Fire Driver/Chief Brian Draper; Assistant Chiefs Matt Draper and Cole Pacella.

Absent: N/A

Chairman Sean McHale opened the meeting at 5:15PM.

Special Meeting held to discuss the recent fire on 4902 Toth Road and the issues with the Natural Bridge Fire Department personnel. There was a suicide on Rogers Crossing Road that was dispatched to Carthage Fire Department in error. Carthage Fire Department responded with Carthage ambulance. Natural Bridge FD heard of the call and self-dispatched to the scene. Cole Pacella let Natural Bridge FD know that they were all set and didn't need further assistance due to it being a crime scene with no police present. Natural Bridge FD accused Cole Pacella of threatening when stating don't come unless you have PD. County coordinators reviewed the call and agreed that this was not the case. Carthage FD heard of the fire this morning and listened to dispatch waiting to be called to assist. All the surrounding departments were dispatched. Carthage was dispatched last for a fill site, 18 minutes after the first dispatch was called. The public should be made aware that the department can't respond if they aren't called to a scene. The residents dialed 911 and were told that assistance were on the way. Homeowners are upset with Carthage because they didn't respond. The homeowners said that their insurance policy states they are covered by Carthage FD. This is incorrect. Since Natural Bridge was already dispatched we were unable to respond. Bill Blunden – upset that personal issues kept us from saving the homeowners property. Natural Bridge chose to send us to a fill site instead of assisting with the fire. This could result in death or bodily harm in the future. Pride and vendettas getting between public service. Bill Blunden would like to send a letter to the Natural Bridge Department or Commissioners. Brian Draper thinks that the residents need to be the ones to reach out to Natural Bridge FD. However, we need to make a statement to the public making them aware of what jurisdiction we have. Cole Pacella– Natural Bridge knew from the second they were dispatched what type of call they were going to and made the decision to screw Carthage over. Staffed department was readily available at Carthage. Our station is 6 mins from the incident – 10 mins quicker than the closest department. We're ready to deploy immediately while Natural Bridge FD has a lag time to respond. Natural Bridge FD was dispatched at 5:48AM arrived at the scene at 6:12AM. A statement will be drafted and signed by the Board of Commissioners to release to the public if needed. Bill Blunden – fighting between districts only hurts the tax payers/residents. Michael Clouch – due to public safety and the length of time it takes to get from Natural Bridge to the scene, we should petition to provide service to the territory.

- Motion made by Bill Blunden, seconded by Norman Barkley, to meet with Joe Plummer, Neil, and Jason O'Meara to work out a solution to prevent future incidents. No opposed, motion carried.
- Motion made by Bill Blunden, seconded by Tyler Clemons, to draft a public statement and allow Tyler Clemons to look it over, in case this is needed in the future. No opposed, motion carried.
- Motion made to adjourn by Norman Barkley, seconded by Bill Blunden at 6:06PM. No opposed, motion carried.

Jessica Putney, Secretary/Treasurer
Carthage/Wilna Fire District