

Village, rural board working toward new fire hall

Written by Deb Egenberger

Thursday, 17 March 2011 13:41 -

NEW TRUSTEE

Long-time Brady resident Lynn Herrick was appointed and sworn in on March 9 as the newest member of the board of trustees. Herrick replaces Justin Mann, who stepped down from the board last month when he was hired as the village utilities superintendent. In appointing Herrick, board chairman Jack Mann said while the village does not have district representation for board members, he felt it important to appoint someone who lives on the south side of town. Herrick lives at 283 S. Main.

The Brady Rural Fire District has stockpiled a chunk of money for several years with intentions of building a new fire hall for the Brady Volunteer Fire Department.

But that money has been sitting too long, Ray Bledé told the village board, and something needs to be done relatively soon or the district is in danger of losing future funds.

Bledé, the rural district's secretary, spoke to village board members during their regular monthly meeting on March 9.

He told trustees the rural board has been planning for a new fire hall for several years.

"We want to get something going soon," he said.

The current fire hall is packed tight and overflowing with equipment, leaving no room for firemen to meet, conduct training or even maintain equipment.

The building belongs to the rural fire district and the land on which it sits is owned by the village.

Bledé said the rural fire board would like the same arrangement for a new building, asking trustees to make a move on some property.

"I'm sure the last land agreement was done on a handshake," he said, explaining that no records of the property transaction have been located.

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Trustees have considered a few pieces of available land, most of which are on the south side of town and would require new water, sewer and utility connections.

Village board chairman Jack Mann said he looked at several pieces of land, including property that is owned by Patty Egenberger adjacent to the present fire hall.

“That would be the ideal location,” Mann said.

Blede agreed, saying the current building could then be used for overflow storage.

Mann said an appraisal will be necessary before the village can make a decision.

The issue will be discussed again at the April board meeting.

In other business, trustees discussed where the village should purchase fuel for vehicles and equipment.

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