

Arbon Community Meeting Minutes – Feb. 2, 2013

Di Jones from The Power County EMS, Delane Anderson Power County Commissioner, and several members of the Arbon Community were in attendance.

Topics of the discussion: The creation of a Fire district and/or Community Center.

A few concern's regarding the community center were brought up from past experiences with a library and bake sales. The concern with a library and a mini store has been being able to staff such an area and turn a profit. Also the cost of utilities and maintenance are of concern. There are several grants available to build the facility, but the hesitations are the operating costs after such a building would be built. Some more details and options for a small-scale building may be an option and there are people who would be able to give estimates of building and operational costs. As for now, this area will be on hold.

Many people are in favor of creating a new fire district. There are grants and funds available to build a fire hall. Di Jones mentioned there are many companies and other fire districts that are more than happy to donate fire trucks, equipment and supplies to help rural areas start. Doing so would **not** increase the property tax to build it. A quote was given for a 50x75x19 building at \$36. —Per sq. foot equaling \$137,000. The location was suggested next to the County Road Department where the old store burned down. As for the utilities and maintenance there would be a structure tax imposed. Kenny Estep has done some research and run some figures for this area. If you were to include the cost of building the structure... it would increase the taxes \$48.50 per 100,000 of taxable property. Given that grants and other funds will build the facility, that cost will be lower. He was quoted that having a readily available fire district will lower the cost of property insurance up to 33%. It is estimated that the increase in tax would almost balance with the decrease in insurance.

The decision was made to create a committee to put together plans and costs to start a fire district. Details will be put together and then another meeting will be held to present the materials and have a vote. Those in attendance would like to see younger generation individuals involved in this area. As for starting a committee... Jeff Stewart, Ryan Weston, Shawn Ward, Kade Lusk, and Kenny Estep volunteered to be on the committee. Other people volunteered to be on the fire crew and help fight fires once this is in place.

We would like to express our thanks to all who participated in this meeting and also for the input of everyone in the valley. Thank you for your time!