

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE BOARD
WORKSHOP MEETING**

**Monday December 27, 2010, 6:30 p.m.
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE BARN
3342 BLUE STAR HWY, SAUGATUCK, MI 49453
MINUTES**

Chairman Kaye called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m.

Members present: Chairman and Saugatuck City Representative Bill Kaye, Douglas City Representative Jerry Bekken, Saugatuck Township Representative Eric Beckman, At-large Member Lance Winchester,

Also Present: Chief John Blok

Absent: At-large Member Scott Phelps

Public comment began at 6:31 p.m.-

Dawn Schreckengust "We heard Joe was fired and we are not sure why". "We (Officer Dane Schreckengust and Dawn) worked with Joe Ficile for 15 years and have never had any problems with Joe."

Dane made note of the fact that there was a group that didn't get along with Joe and they attended the last meeting and he was out of town and was unaware of the group's decision to attend the Board meeting.

Chairman Kaye commented; that there was a group that wanted to see Joe leave the department and they showed up for the Board meeting on December 13, 2010. "It's a huge lost for the Department, No question about it. There was no better Fire Fighter/First Responder than Joe"! "On the other hand there were a few incidents over the last few years that gave this Board no other option but to dismiss Joe. We have some giant shoes to fill".

Dawn Schreckengust- "I've been on a few calls without Joe and there is a lack of calm confidence that Joe brought, there was always a sense of organization and calmness."

Dane Schreckengust- "Patients were very confident with Joe around."

Douglas City Representative Jerry Bekken- "My wife was very upset to hear that Joe was let go." He has helped a few different occasions and has even call to apologize for moving her when she broke her shoulder.

Public comment ended 6:45 p.m.

Chiefs Statement regarding Joe's dismissal: The chief wanted to point out that the group of people that went to the meeting December 13, 2010 including an audience member Kyle Meyer, "does NOT represent the department in any way shape or form. Three of the people that attended the meeting on December 13, 2010, came to the Chief to see if they could get Joe's job the next day". "So what does that tell you about that group"? The Chief reiterated that he has lost all respect for every one of these individuals, and the department could do just as good without them as it could with Joe.

Chiefs Report:

- 1) **Maintenance-** Chief has hired Wayne Mokma (Certified Mechanic). Wayne has been hired to do PM's 2 hrs/day; major repairs will be handled by him and billed separately through his business, Fleet Services. For the hourly work Wayne will be paid as an employee (i.e. his pay will have normal withholdings).
- 2) **Unemployment:** There is an issue with 2 employment numbers that Jane and John filled out for Joe Fucile, as a result of this; we never paid into unemployment insurance. We will have to pay weekly. We would like Jane to explain our current unemployment liabilities and what our alternatives are going forward.
- 3) **State Trucks-** the two state trucks that were available were sold the next day and ...we did NOT get a chance to purchase either one of them. Note: Our contact at the State level, Dave Dunsmore is retired.
- 4) **Greg's Office-** Greg Janik's office was moved downstairs at the fire barn.
- 5) **Inspection process-** Inspections will be done according to the check-off sheet that follows the inspection computer program. The check-off sheet will be turned into Lori for data entry. Any Re-inspections will be done by John or someone else that John appoints. Inspections will be done in section by location for efficiency. With over 500+ business @ 7-8 a day. Private Residence Inspections will be done the same way.
 - a. **Saugatuck-** Private Residential Inspection will be done every 3 years. There will be an annual check-off list required for homeowners to submit. Currently there are 92.
 - b. **Douglas-** Private Residential Inspection will be done every year. This is the preferred method. The feedback on the inspections cost was "that it is very high" (\$ 75.00annual). We will review this.

- 6) **Service Award Program-** (incentive program) came in approximately \$ 10,400. This is close to what was budgeted.
- 7) **Advertising-** Full time Firefighter- John believes we will be fine for a while. Currently while Wayne (part of Graafschaap Fire Department) is here he can cover the Fire side of things but will not be expected to do medical calls. John believes part of the criteria for a replacement is that the person needs to:
 - a. Live in close proximity to the station. (We know response time will go up).
 - b. Inspector
 - c. Truck driver

Chairman Kaye: Recommends we start working on the criteria's required to replace Joe i.e. Maintenance man, Fire Fighter/ First responder and Inspector. It could take a while to find!

At 7:35 p.m. having no further business to come before the board they stood adjourned.

Eric Beckman, Recording Secretary

Date

Bill Kaye, Chairman

Date