

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
MARCH 8, 2004**

A regular meeting of the Saugatuck Township Fire District was held on Monday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Raebel at 7:37 p.m.

Present: Jerry Bekken, Morg Edgcomb, Cliff Asbel, Bill Kaye, and Marty Raebel.

Also Present: Chief John Blok.

Absent: None.

**MINUTES**

Pertaining to the minutes of 2/9/04, **Motion by Kaye/Asbel to accept as presented.** Carried unanimously. Pertaining to the minutes of 2/23/04, **Motion by Kaye/Bekken to accept as presented.** Carried unanimously.

**BILLS & FINANCIAL REVIEW**

- A. Discussion and approval of bills. Asbel asked for verification of PPD skin test. Blok stated it is a test for hepatitis. **Motion by Asbel/Edgcomb to accept bills in the amount of \$8,174.34, payroll of \$6,638.44.** Carried unanimously.
- B. Financial Review. Board discussed  $\frac{3}{4}$  of year progress and asked Wright to investigate investment opportunities. Kaye asked for the status of a grant for air paks. Blok stated Secretary Pat Smith and he will be attending a grant writing seminar next week but should hear the award results of a current grant in the next two weeks.
- C. Budget Timeline. Board discussed assignments to the finance committee and agreed to appoint Kaye and Bekken. Wright will e-mail the projected revenue to Kay who will set the workshop dates with Bekken.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Board discussed recent developments with the Hamilton Fire Department where a firefighter was released and brought a suit against the department. Blok responded with details, stating there are MIOSHA issues every department needs to address. Kaye asked how the Personnel Committee is doing, to which Blok responded with the fact the committee has not had to address any problems except for interviewing new candidates.

**CHIEF BLOK'S REPORT**

- A. Received another statement from Cummins. Board discussed the outstanding balance and agreed to withhold payment until a response is received from our communication.
- B. Blok handed out a comparison of area departments analyzing the cost per run for each department noting of the 12 departments listed, our budget and cost per run is slightly less than average. Board discussed costs and response times with 1<sup>st</sup> Responders vs. AMR noting the 1<sup>st</sup> Responders have quicker response time and AMR would cost \$342,354.76 annually to have them in house. Blok also stated breaking down direct costs would better represent a cost per run figure. Average direct cost of a medical run is

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\$137.00, average direct cost of a fire run is \$928.00. Blok then presented a handout of possible ways to charge for some services (i.e. charge to Consumers Energy for stand by support of downed power lines). Board discussion ensued and they agreed to further investigate the possibility to charge for certain services. Blok finished by submitting a list of other services the department performs (i.e. business fire inspections, fire prevention programs, non-medical assistance to residents, smoke alarm program, car seat program, and special event coverage). Board noted the value of these additional services.

**AUDIENCE**

None.

There being no further business, **motion by Bekken/Kaye to adjourn at 8:52 p.m.** Carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, rec. sec.