

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT  
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING  
MAY 12, 2004**

A special meeting of the Saugatuck Township Fire District was held on Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the fire barn. The meeting was called to order by Representative Bill Kaye at 7:38 p.m.

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

Also Present: Chief John Blok.

Audience: Saugatuck Township board members Jane Wright and Hank Gudith, Village of Douglas President Michelle VanStedum, City of Saugatuck council members Mark Bekken and Barry Johnson. Also present in the audience were fire district employees Joe Fucile, Tony Schippa and Pat Smith.

Kaye presented the recommended 2004/2005 budget of \$486,500 which is an increase of \$1,450 from 2003/2004 stating the following:

Revenue rate of 1.4531 mills remains the same as last year with no increase for our taxpayers.

Miscellaneous income of \$5,000 is anticipated by selling the old ladder truck.

Payroll to be increased 3% for full-time staff and 5% for part-time staff. Benefits have an overall reduction of \$9,400 due to decreased retirement expenses.

Incentive program costs were reduced due to fewer firefighters being eligible for program.

Operating expenses are to be reduced \$2,300 to total \$92,100. The contingency amount of \$10,000 will remain the same to allow for any unknown expenses that may occur.

Other expenses are to be increased \$3,500 to total \$39,300. This is due to insurance costs estimated to increase 10%.

Capital projects are to be increased \$5,000 to total \$45,700 to cover the 20% match amount on a grant submitted for new air paks and turnout gear. Total amount of the grant submitted is \$84,480. If the grant is not approved, these funds will be set aside to purchase this equipment in the future.

Joe Fucile presented a demonstration of the current Scott Air Paks, stating the majority of air pak equipment is 30 years old and no parts are available for repairs. He added, every year 2 to 3 units do not pass annual inspection. Fucile also demonstrated a newer 2.2 air pak that is lighter, has more visibility, an integrated PASS to alert for a downed officer, and buddy breathing with an 8' hose to assist a downed firefighter. STFD would like to purchase 22 new 2.2 model Air Paks so all firefighters would have the same equipment, safety level, and training.

Open discussion of the budget took place:

- Positive comments that the millage is staying the same.
- Wright stated that the Township is OK with the budget and will approve it.
- VanStedum said she would take the proposed budget to the Village for a vote on 5/17.
- Lift is to be donated by Tower Marine for the sea doos so they can be at the fire dock.
- Blok noted ISO rating of 5 demonstrates our equipment is used for the right cause and makes a huge difference for the township. Bekken said water and mutual aid are the biggest factors.
- Asbel acknowledged issues important in different ways for each municipality.
- Blok said staffing needs are difficult to fill due to not enough local jobs in the area. 13 of our volunteer personnel live outside the district boundary. Mutual aid is a huge help, as well as automatic aid if we are called out.
- Bekken stated the City has approved 100% of needed hydrant adaptors recommended by Blok.

Tentative budget hearing is scheduled for Monday, June 28. There being no further business, meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Smith