

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 22, 2004**

A regular meeting of the Saugatuck Township Fire District was held on Monday, November 22, 2004 at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Raebel at 7:31 p.m.

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

Also Present: Chief John Blok.

Absent: None.

In consideration of audience member Dave Mauger, **Motion by Kaye/Bekken to revise the meeting agenda and hold the audience portion of the meeting first.** Carried unanimously.

AUDIENCE

Dave Mauger stated he represented the Saugatuck/Douglas Police Committee and expressed an interest in acquiring the Fire District property fronting Blue Star Highway on the South side of the Fire Barn for the purpose of constructing a new police department building. Open discussion of the possible transaction took place with the Board agreeing to consider the arrangement, acknowledging there were many details that would need to be addressed.

MINUTES

Pertaining to the minutes of 10/11/04, Kaye suggested under *Chief Blok's Report, Item A.* to move the last sentence up after the first for clarification purposes. **Motion by Kaye/Bekken to accept as amended.** Carried unanimously. Pertaining to the minutes of 10/25/04, **Motion by Kaye/Bekken to accept as presented.** Carried unanimously. Pertaining to the minutes of 11/14/04, Kaye corrected the title of Scott Phelps from "Officer" to "Assistant Chief". **Motion by Kaye/Asbel to accept as amended.** Carried unanimously.

BILLS & FINANCIAL REVIEW

- A. Discussion and approval of bills. Blok explained the Keppel's Lock & Safe bill was a lock upgrade that will allow the building locks to be re-keyed. **Motion by Kaye/Bekken to approve bills in the amount of \$27,901.09 and payroll in the amount of \$29,579.15.** Motion to pay bills carried unanimously.
- B. Financial Review. Board reviewed the quarterly detail and noted the budget vs. actual report shows expenditures remain in line.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Kaye reminded the Board of a previous decision to have attorney Mark Kinnaman review the new agreement with Standard Security covering the retirement plan for departmental members. He stated Kinnaman suggested comparing the new agreement with the original. Blok reported Kinnaman had the original agreement and Kaye stated he would meet again and get a determination.
- B. Asbel asked if the Chief had received a list of hydrants with 4 ½" adapters from KLSWA yet. He stated he did and would get a copy of the list to members.
- C. Bekken asked about the status of an insurance claim for the 3 wheeler that was stolen. Blok reported the 3 wheeler was not listed separately with a serial number due to it being a donated vehicle and a claim was unlikely.

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- D. Asbel asked about the status of an insurance claim for replacing the station's radio antenna due to a lightning strike. Blok stated he has not received a final statement from the insurance agent, but the agent feels it should be covered.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Raebel asked members about potential replacements for the open "at-large" appointment. Discussion took place and it was agreed to recruit more potential members and try to fill the vacancy after the first of the year.

CHIEF BLOK'S REPORT

- A. Current refuse service provider, Sunset Waste, is asking for a 5 year contract commitment. Bekken asked if the Chief checked with other services. Blok stated Chef Container was higher. Board agreed to the 5 year contract with Sunset Waste.
- B. The fire boat has been pulled and winterized.
- C. Auditor submitted a detailed list of assets that needed to be updated. The result is a decrease in assets as many items on the list have been retired.
- D. The office experienced some computer problems which were fixed through Eagle Computer. They have recommended a backup system for \$535. General discussion as to backup options took place. Board agreed a system should be put in place and data stored off site.
- E. Chief stated he will probably start drawing from his MERS retirement account as of the 1st of the year, but added he does not plan on physically retiring. Blok added the current retirement program does not include benefit E, which allows for a 2% COLA. General discussion as to the cost of benefit E and other COLA programs offered by MERS took place. Blok noted that the current health insurance program through Priority Health would allow him to maintain an active status, but if the group switched to a MERS based health insurance plan, he would not be able to remain an active member of the health insurance group.
- F. Chief stated Fire Inspector Tony Schippa has left the department. He added the department will need to fill the role not only as Fire Inspector, but also as one of the day-time response positions.

There being no further business, **motion by Kaye/Bekken to adjourn at 8:43 p.m.** Carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, rec. sec.