

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT  
BOARD MEETING  
FEBRUARY 14, 2005**

A regular meeting of the Saugatuck Township Fire District was held on Monday, February 14, 2005 at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Raebel at 7:30 p.m.

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

Also Present: Assistant Chief Scott Phelps.

Absent: None.

**MINUTES**

Pertaining to the minutes of 1/10/05, **Motion by Kaye/Bekken to accept as presented.** Carried unanimously. Pertaining to the minutes of 1/24/05, Kaye requested to include "are some of" before "the questions that were asked" referring to the questions for Fire Board candidates.

**Motion by Kaye/Bekken to accept as amended.** Carried unanimously.

**BILLS & FINANCIAL REVIEW**

- A. Discussion and approval of bills. **Motion by Kaye/Bekken to approve bills in the amount of \$37,929.46 and payroll in the amount of \$23,231.51.** Motion to pay bills carried unanimously.
- B. Financial Review. Kaye noted the cash balance of the checking account was in excess of \$250,000 and suggested moving \$200,000 into an investment account. Wright will investigate rates and contact Kaye and Asbel for an investment decision.
- C. Review Annual Audit. Board requested auditor Joe Walls attend the next regular meeting to present an overview of the audit and answer questions. Wright will schedule.
- D. Review Proposed Budget Timeline. Wright presented a budget timeline, Board discussed and agreed to establish the budgetary committee at the next regular meeting in March, at which time Wright will present preliminary revenue figures.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. M.E.R.S. e-mail. Wright presented a written comment that clarified the conditions set by the I.R.S. for retiree re-employment stating in the future a retiree must establish a bona fide termination of employment in which the employer/employee relationship is completely severed. Kaye asked to have Wright clarify with M.E.R.S. if "complete severance" was just wages or if it included discontinuance of health insurance, etc.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Kaye discussed the concept of maintaining a fire lane to access Lakeshore Drive at the south side of the washout and asked to add the item as a regular agenda item. Board agreed the fire lane should be a priority and will continue investigating the process to establish it.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**ASSITANT CHIEF PHELP'S REPORT**

- A. 39 calls since the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, mostly medical but had a very recent cottage fire.
- B. New Fire Inspector, Greg Janik, is performing well.
- C. Board discussed the interviews for the open At-Large position, and brought forth strong points and reasons to appoint two different individuals. Kaye stated Lance Winchester would bring a great deal of knowledge regarding a majority of the structures in the area

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due to his work in the appraisal business. Asbel noted the wealth of experience with Reggie Smith due to his police and first responder background. Additional discussion took place. **Motion by Kaye/Bekken to nominate Lance Winchester to the Fire Board filling the At-Large position vacated by Morgan Edgcomb, and to submit the nomination to the three municipalities for their approval.** After additional consideration the motion passed unanimously.

**AUDIENCE**

None.

There being no further business, **motion by Bekken/Kaye to adjourn at 8:20 p.m.** Carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, rec. sec.