

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 10, 2005**

A regular meeting of the Saugatuck Township Fire District was held on Monday, October 10, 2005 at the Township Hall. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kaye at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Lance Winchester, Jerry Bekken, Reggie Smith, Bill Kaye and Cliff Asbel.

Also Present: Chief John Blok.

Absent: None.

MINUTES

Pertaining to the minutes of 9/12/05, **Motion by Smith/Winchester to accept as presented.**

Carried unanimously. Pertaining to the minutes of 9/26/05, **Motion by Bekken/Asbel to accept as presented.** Carried unanimously.

BILLS & FINANCIAL REVIEW

- A. Discussion and Approval of Bills. **Motion by Asbel/Bekken to approve bills in the amount of \$13,151.68 and payroll in the amount of \$13,320.65.** Carried unanimously.
- B. Review of Financial Statements. Kaye noted we are ¼ of the way through the fiscal year and requested to reclassify the hose truck refitting expense to the contingency account. Bekken noted significant uniform expense was due to the need to outfit new members.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- A. Lakeshore Drive Fire Lane. Smith stated he is waiting to hear from the engineer in Kalamazoo. Kaye noted the evolution of the idea to gain quick access to the south side of the washout and questioned the advantage of the expressway off-ramp. Board discussed a timed simulation to ensure the cost is justified. Blok stated it takes about 12 to 14 minutes at 60 miles/hr. to go all the way around and back to the wash out. Kaye reminded Board the original desire was to gain an easement past the wash out. Blok will talk with some of the residents.

NEW BUSINESS

- A. Participating Employees for Dental Program. Kaye stated Joe Fucile needed dental work and an investigation into past minutes revealed the dental reimbursement program was to have been available to him from the beginning. Board noted all 3 full time employees should have the same benefit package. **Motion by Asbel/Bekken to recognize the Board is now aware that Joe Fucile incurred dental bills that would have been reimbursed had he known of the benefit and Board agrees to honor those expenses from 2002–2005 upon presentation of paid bills.** Motion carried unanimously. Board discussed outlining benefits and policies in a handbook. Smith will meet with Blok to initiate a rough draft and return for Board review.

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CHIEF'S REPORT

- A. 456 Calls YTD, 390 same time last year.
- B. Hired Lori Nash as a new part time office person. She has grant writing experience.
- C. Submitted a new FEMA grant for fire prevention in the amount of \$99,120 which could be used for a smokehouse, smoke detectors, and school/church handout materials. This is a non-matching grant and it will be 6-7 months before we know if we will be awarded.
- D. The grant for the thermal imaging camera and wild land suits should be awarded soon.
- E. Blok asked Board to consider adding 5 hours per week to the part time office person's schedule stating the extra time is needed to complete the work. He noted the position would go from 25 hours per week to 30.
- F. Blok stated during the Mt. Baldhead Challenge Run there was an incident that needs to be addressed by the Board. The department automatically positions First Responder members along the route and this year there was a man that had a full arrest heart attack at the finish line. 2 members that were present at the finish line began treating the man, and a local resident interfered with the treatment. Board discussed ramifications of the resident's interference and suggested Chief write a letter requesting a meeting with him and the First Responders who were involved.
- G. The fire prevention open house was Sunday. Approximately 670 dinners were served plus hot dogs for the kids. Received good reports from parents about the children's games and prizes. Total cost was \$2,269.64, donations received totaled \$1,449.00. Kaye noted the open house is a true community event. Blok noted fire prevention week will continue with Officers spending 2 days at the elementary school talking with the kids. A special thanks to Tom Harrington who helped cook the chicken.
- H. Chief presented Board with a copy of the letter sent to Saugatuck City council members regarding the allowed width for Park Street and its noncompliance to current fire codes. Board agreed it notifies the council that the department will not be held liable for emergency access issues.
- I. The first Scholten and Fant attorney bill was received for \$455, but just got another one with an additional \$78 due. Attorney Sullivan was to return Chief's phone call and has not. Kaye requested the Chief write a letter stating the department did not retain their services and do not pay the bills. Board agreed.

AUDIENCE

None.

There being no further business, **motion by Bekken/Asbel to adjourn at 8:27 p.m.** Carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, rec. sec.