

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

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

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

Also Present: Chief John Blok.

Absent: None.

**MINUTES**

Pertaining to the minutes of 10/10/05, **Motion by Bekken/Winchester to accept as presented.**

Carried unanimously. Pertaining to the minutes of 10/26/05, **Motion by Asbel/Smith to accept as presented.** Carried unanimously.

**BILLS & FINANCIAL REVIEW**

- A. Discussion and Approval of Bills. **Motion by Bekken/Winchester to approve bills in the amount of \$10,270.15 and payroll in the amount of \$30,991.40.** Smith asked about the smokehouse rental from Wayland Fire Department, Blok stated the \$250 paid for its use during the open house is really a donation. Motion to pay bills carried unanimously.
- B. Review of Financial Statements. Kaye inquired as to medical supplies being about ½ of the annual budget for account #790. Asbel noted the calls year to date are up correspondently. Asbel also noted the annual insurance bills have not been received yet and there is a need to watch cash flow. Kaye requested to transfer maturing Macatawa CD to the class pool.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- A. Lakeshore Drive Fire Lane. Blok noted the township is facilitating a meeting with residents to investigate a potential private road to the north side of the washout.
- B. P/T Hours. Kaye inquired as to how the new secretary is working out with the current 25 hours per week. Blok stated there are more calls which require more time to maintain reports, but would like to continue evaluating the situation through the end of the calendar year. Board discussed ramifications of reaching full time status.
- C. Mt. Baldhead Incident. Kaye inquired as to the outcome of a scheduled meeting between the bystander who interfered and our First Responders who were giving medical aid to a runner. Blok stated it has been taken care of to his satisfaction and apologies have been made with a good understanding of what went wrong.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

**CHIEF'S REPORT**

- A. Received a small DNR grant for the wild fire land suits of \$2,688 and we have until May 2006 to purchase them. The plan was to get 16 suits, but would prefer to gear all 24 members. The decision does not need to be made tonight, but equipment should be in place by spring. Kaye noted looking at the payroll you can tell those who don't attend

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many events and if we approach them with new suits as a means of investing in them it may motivate them to attend more. **Motion by Kaye/Bekken to approved payment for 24 suits.** Asbel asked if the suits are not used on a regular basis could they be put in a bin and used by different members. Blok stated that would not be feasible due to the time necessary to grab the right size. Motion carried unanimously. Winchester noted additional donation money might still be forthcoming. Blok will wait until after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the year to purchase.

- B. There was an incident last week where a former department officer, currently working for AMR, stated during a medical call the department is in trouble with Holland Hospital due to used blood being on a back board. Blok noted the back boards come from AMR and the comment has created friction with members. Therefore AMR will reschedule the former member not to respond in this area.
- C. Blok asked if the board wanted to address the employee handbook tonight. Kaye requested each board member go through the handbook thoroughly and address each item at the next workshop meeting.
- D. Calls YTD are 497, same time last year was 439 so we are 58 calls ahead of last year. Board discussed call increases yet to come due to new developments in the area and the ramifications to the department. Blok noted the mutual aid benefit comes into play again and long term planning is essential.
- E. Fire boat was taken out of the water today.
- F. Got another statement of charges from the attorney firm of Scholten & Fant. Still waiting for a response to our dispute of those charges, so will not approve payment at this time.
- G. Received a certified letter from the United States Environmental Protection Agency stating underground disposal systems for oil injection wells are located at the fire barn. Blok called them and they verified we sent information about the floor drains emptying into a catch basin. Blok updated the EPA on current policy and that the department does not have an underground disposal system. Kaye verified the statement was followed up in writing.
- H. Blok presented the board with a fee schedule other departments are charging for services. Kaye felt we can justify charging Consumers Energy for babysitting downed power lines, but we don't want to charge residents. Asbel stated we could target certain justifiable instances with a written fee schedule for services. Blok stated Consumers has gotten the word and are responding in a timely manner.
- I. Blok displayed a picture of the Tampa Bay Port Authority Fire Boat which is a duck boat.
- J. The department is in dire need of a new computer for the office secretary. Have a bid from MYSystems for \$1,270. Board discussed the computer package offered. **Motion by Winchester/Bekken to purchase a new computer with 1 GB RAM and 120GB HD for a price not to exceed \$1,600.** Motion carried unanimously.

**AUDIENCE**

None.

There being no further business, **motion by Bekken/Kaye to adjourn at 8:40 p.m.** Carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, rec. sec.