

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE BOARD  
WORKSHOP MEETING**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2008, 7:30 p.m.  
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE BARN  
3342 BLUE STAR HWY, SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN 49453**

**MINUTES**

Chairman Kaye called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**Members present:** Chairman and Saugatuck City Representative Bill Kaye, Douglas City Representative Jerry Bekken and At-Large Member Lance Winchester.

**Also present:** Chief John Blok and Deputy Chief Greg Janik.

**Absent:** Saugatuck Township Representative Eric Beckman and At-large Member Cliff Asbel.

Public comment began at 7:30 p.m. No comments were received. Ended 7:30 p.m.

1. 2008 Fire Boat dock lease. The lease was approved and signed.
2. The Service Award Program for 2007 was discussed. The plan has as of 12/31/07 assets of \$154,543.10. Annual premium for 2007 is \$10,293.00 including a \$750.00 service fee.
3. Discussion on fire hydrants buried by snow and buried by snow removal contractors. The Chief asked Janik to take pictures of buried fire hydrants in the township that we were aware of or that were called in by a resident. Janik took pictures and brought them to the township. He was referred to Phil Quade. (See Attachment A). STFD was made aware of hydrants in the City of Saugatuck and in the City of Douglas that were also buried. They were promptly taken care of by the Public Works Department. The Chief stated and Board agreed that the responsibility for clearing buried fire hydrants is either the municipality or KLSWA.
4. The Chief was informed about a comment made by Tom Desmet of KLSWA at a Douglas workshop meeting regarding Felker's subdivision and Park Drive. (See Attachment B). There was discussion regarding Desmet's comments about the amount of water being carried on fire trucks being enough to put out a structure fire. The Chief stated that a structure fire can take as much as 150,000 gallons or more of water. It all depends on the size of the fire. Our pumpers carry anywhere from 500 to 1500 gallons of water. He also commented that if fire hydrants were not necessary they wouldn't be such a big factor in receiving a fire rating from the insurance industry.
5. The grant for the CAFS system was discussed and the system will be ordered and installed soon.
6. A used 1989 Ford Rescue Unit, 4 x 4, diesel, automatic ambulance with 3,640 miles has become available from the Federal Surplus/State of Michigan purchase program for the sum of \$13,500.00. Discussion followed on the use of the vehicle as a first responder unit to replace

either #1121 or #1122. It was also discussed that the majority of our calls involve our first responder unit. **It was moved by Kaye and seconded by Winchester to purchase this vehicle.** Motion carried unanimously.

At 8:40 p.m. having no further business to come before the board they stood adjourned.

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Lance Winchester, Recording Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Kaye, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

ATTACHMENT A

2/14/08 11:30 AM

Subject: Unusable Hydrants

Chief Blok recommended I take the photos and information regarding unusable hydrants at Maple Gate and Sambroek and bring it to the attention of Saugatuck Township. I asked the administration who they wanted me to talk to concerning the issues. I was told Phil Quade. When I explained the hydrants were buried in snow and unusable, and I had photographs and locations, Phil's response was "Why is it Saugatuck Township's responsibility to shovel the hydrants. If the STFD wants to use the hydrants then you shovel them out". Phil never got up out of his chair to look at the information.

Greg Janik  
Deputy Chief/Fire Inspector

ATTACHMENT B

2/11/08

Tom Desmet of KLSWA made the following comments at a workshop regarding Felker's subdivision and Park Drive. "Any fire chief will ask for fire hydrants to be provided for a development, but really the fire should be able to be put out with the water on the fire truck. If not it would burn down anyway."