

**SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE BOARD
REGULAR MEETING**

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2009, 7:30 p.m.
SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP HALL
3461 BLUE STAR HWY, SAUGATUCK, MICHIGAN 49453**

MINUTES

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

Members present: Saugatuck City Representative Bill Kaye, Douglas City Representative Gerald Bekken, Saugatuck Township Representative Eric Beckman, At-Large Member Lance Winchester, and At-Large Member Scott Phelps.

Also present: Chief John Blok.

Absent: None.

Kaye offered to receive public comment. Receiving none, that portion of the meeting was closed at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: **Motion by Bekken, seconded by Phelps to approve the minutes of November 9, 2009, Fire Board regular meeting as presented.** Motion carried unanimously. **Motion by Phelps, seconded by Winchester to approve the minutes of November 30, 2009 Fire Board workshop meeting as presented.** Motion carried unanimously.

Bills and Financial Review:

- A. Discussion and Approval of Bills & Payroll. Kaye presented bills in the amount of \$52,386.56. **Motion by Beckman, seconded by Bekken to approve paying the bills as presented.** Kaye noted a large amount of the total bills was the first of five payments on the new pumper truck. Motion to pay bills carried unanimously. Kaye presented payroll in the amount of \$24,079.08. **Motion by Bekken, seconded by Phelps to approve the payroll as presented.** Motion to approve payroll carried unanimously.
- B. Review of Financial Statements. Kaye asked about the donation from SABA. Blok stated they send a truck to the SABA event at Coughlin park and give rides to the kids. Beckman asked why the phone line item is so much higher this year over same time last year. Board requested a detailed printout of #751 for the next meeting to audit the account.

Correspondence:

- A. MERS, refund of supplemental valuation fee. Wright explained not only is MERS now charging a fee for calculating the supplemental valuation to enable adopting a cost of living adjustment for retirement benefits, but they changed the way the account is valued for allowing a cost of living adjustment. She stated prior to July 2009, MERS would consider just a division of a municipality when requiring an 80% funding level, which the Fire Division has. Now they are only considering the municipality as a whole and the Township's division is extremely underfunded, therefore the Fire Division would be unable to adopt a cost of living adjustment. Board discussion took place as to what steps would be necessary to create a separate MERS account, independent of the township.

Motion by Kaye, seconded by Bekken to take the steps necessary to make STFD independent in regards to MERS and to do so as expeditiously as possible. Motion carried unanimously.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

- A. Review draft of audited year end financial statements. Board approved the draft as submitted.
- B. Kaye stated he has accepted a new employment position that will move him to 2nd shift after the first of the year. As such, he will not be able to attend evening meetings and will either have to resign his position or the meetings would have to change time. Board discussion took place and it was agreed to change the meeting times to 9:00 a.m.

Chief Blok's Report:

- A. Year to date runs are 543, same time last year is 505. Blok added we are currently at 556.
- B. Have received the insurance check that pays for a firefighter's hearing aid that was lost during a recent fire response, less the \$250 deductible. Board agreed the \$250 should not be an out-of-pocket expense for the firefighter and it is the right thing to do to pay the \$250.
- C. Ted Swoboda has given a price of \$125 for a group photo and individual ID photos for department members. Board agreed Swoboda would be the photographer.

There being no further business it was **Moved by Bekken, seconded by Winchester to adjourn at 8:10 p.m.** Carried unanimously.

Jane Wright, CMC, Township Clerk

Date

Bill Kaye, Chairman

Date