



# SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

Proudly serving : Douglas | Saugatuck | Saugatuck Township



3342 Blue Star Highway  
Saugatuck, MI 49453  
Phone: 269 857-3000  
E-mail: [Office@saugatuckfire.org](mailto:Office@saugatuckfire.org)

## FIRE DISTRICT BOARD “SPECIAL” MEETING

4:00pm – July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order / Roll Call:  
**Present:** R. McIlwaine, E. Beckman, M. Starring, J. Verplank, S. Phelps, K. Mooradian, T. Christensen  
**Absent with notice:** None  
**Also present:** Chief Greg Janik, Jon Phillips, Steve Kushion
2. Approval of Agenda (*additions / deletions*):  
**Motion by Phelps, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beckman to approve the agenda as presented. All approve, motion carries unanimously.**
3. Approval of Minutes: **None**
4. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only (Limit 3 minutes): **None**  
Fire Chief Comments: **None**
5. Request for Payment: **None**
6. Unfinished Business:
  - A. Township of Saugatuck – Private Road Ordinance
    - i. S. Kushion stated that the Township’s private road rules were lacking, and needed revision regardless of what else is happening with the Township.
    - ii. S. Kushion stated they will be adding 16’ minimum width for any single-family home driveway to the private road rules tonight at the planning commission. These revisions are strengthening the Township’s private road rules.
    - iii. G. Janik stated the difference on the lakeshore from other geographic areas is 16’ driveways become 12’ or less during the winter and the inability to push snow back further.
    - iv. S. Kushion stated he will not split a driveway unless it meets the minimum split requirements.
    - v. Township is unique that more than 30% of it’s driveways exceed 150’ in length.
    - vi. Township is unique that it has a lack of water supply as well.
  - B. Township of Saugatuck - International Fire Code Modifications
    - i. S.Kushion agreed to change verbiage of 102.5 to subdivisions, land divisions, or lot splits of 5 or more.
    - ii. 105.1 we are in disagreement of where the fire department needs to review the sprinkler system, the fire alarm systems, fire hydrants,
    - iii. S. Kushion stated he will take a look at it.
    - iv. 106.1 removes inspection authority for the entire Township. Chief Janik objects to needing permission from the Township Building Official or Township Zoning Administrator to removes the right to perform the inspections.
    - v. 106.1 – S. Kushion is fine with taking out 106.1 and returning it to the fire department.
    - vi. Fee schedule to be approved by Township Board and S. Kushion and J. Phillips have no concern with the Fire District collecting fees through the Township.



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## C. Township of Saugatuck - Cost Recovery Ordinance Modifications

- i. In no other jurisdiction does the Chief need permission to invoice for cost recovery, and feels there is no equity in the zoning administrator being the sole reviewer of cost recovery.
- ii. The Fire District would prefer an independent Cost Recovery review board be established with participants from each municipality so all parties of the fire district are equally represented. Propose a 3-member board for cost recovery review.
- iii. S. Kushion suggested that we figure it out now and not kick the can down the road.
- iv. K. Harrier from the City of Saugatuck was asked to comment, and stated that he didn't want the Saugatuck City zoning administrator spending time to review cost recovery. He feels it should be the responsibility of the Fire Chief to administer cost recovery.
- v. J. Phillips attempted to explain cost recovery would be allowed to be put on the property taxes if the Township first approves the invoicing of cost recovery.
- vi. The importance of having all 3 cost recovery ordinances be fair, equal, and mirror one another.
- vii. K. Harrier proposed that Township Managers, and Zoning Administrators of all 3 municipalities get together and come up with a mutually agreeable plan for cost recovery.
- viii. R. McIlwaine asked where that leaves Cost Recovery.
- ix. E. Beckman said it would make sense to have all 3 ordinances the same since we are a District.
- x. Greg, Bill, Kirk, and Aaron will setup a meeting and have some consistency throughout the District.
- xi. S. Kushion said we are good on the private road ordinance to move forward, as long as 105.1 and 106.1 are removed from the amendments. Steve stated the Township will postpone cost recovery for a month while the three municipalities work out the differences.
- xii. G. Janik stated we will work this out.
- xiii. E. Beckman stated the Fire Board decided the fee schedule, and the Fire Chief is the administrator of the department, and we need to let him do his job.

## 7. New Business:

**None**

## 8. Correspondence:

- A. Letter from Chief Denbleyker received
- B. Letter from Chief Bushee received.
- C. Letter from Chief Haverdink received.
- D. Letter from Daniel Drive owner received.

## 9. Public Comments:

- A. C. Mantels stated that E. Beckman said it best that the Fire Board hired the Chief to do his job, and in some ways, it appears the Township is attempting to micro-manage him. He is hopeful that we can move forward and not continue to kick the can down the road as S. Kushion said.
- B. G. Janik stated he looks forward to working this out.

## 10. Fire Board Comments:

**None**

## 11. Adjournment:

**Meeting adjourned at 5:27pm**

### NOTICE

This facility is wheel chair accessible with accessible parking spaces available. Request for accommodations or interpretive services must be made 48 hours prior to this meeting. Please contact Saugatuck Township Fire District at 269-857-3000 for further information.