



# SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

Proudly serving : Douglas | Saugatuck | Saugatuck Township



3342 Blue Star Highway  
Saugatuck, MI 49453  
269 857-3000 / Fax: 269 857-1228  
E-mail: [info@saugatuckfire.org](mailto:info@saugatuckfire.org)

## FIRE DISTRICT BOARD MEETING

4:00pm – November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### APPROVED MINUTES

1. Call to Order: **Meeting called to order by J. Verplank at 4:01pm**
2. Pledge of Allegiance (*Stand if you are able*):
3. Roll Call:  
**PRESENT: E. Beckman, D. Fox, J. Verplank, S. Phelps, T. Pullen, C. North**  
**ABSENT: S. Aldrich**  
**Also Present: Chief Greg Janik, D.C. Mantels**
4. Reminder: It is requested the board silences cell phones and put them away for the duration of the meeting.
5. Approval of Agenda (*additions / deletions*):  
**Motion by Beckman, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Fox to approve the agenda as presented. No discussion. Motion passes by unanimous by voice vote.**
6. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. **October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**Motion by Phelps, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Beckman to approve the minutes of the 10/16/2023 regular meeting as presented. No discussion. Motion passes by unanimous by voice vote.**
7. Public Comment on Agenda Items Only (Limit 3 minutes):
  - A. **None.**
8. Request for Payment:
  - A. **Account Payables (*Roll Call Vote*)**  
**Motion by Phelps, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pullen to pay the invoices in the amount of \$177,337.89. No discussion.**  
**YAYS: Phelps, Pullen, Beckman, Fox, Verplank, North**  
**NAYS: None**  
**ABSENT: Aldrich**  
**Motion passes: 6:0.**
  - B. **Financial Report**
    - i. **None**
9. Fire Chief Comments:
  - A. **Incident Reports / EMS Report / Calls to Date / Overlapping Calls**
    1. **825– runs year to date for 2023**
    2. **Average response time – 5:55 year to date for 2023**
  - B. **Community Risk Reduction**
    1. **Department of Fire Prevention – Monthly Report**
    2. **Michigan Fire Inspectors Society - Fatal Fire Statistics**
  - C. **Electric Vehicle Training**
    1. **More of these trainings are coming in the future to handle the ever-changing EV fires.**
    2. **Will be working to obtain some additional equipment via grant funding.**
    3. **Discussion ensued about the new challenges regarding EV fires.**
  - D. **Hiring Process Update – Agility, Written, and Pump Testing is scheduled for 12/2/2023.**
    1. **This will be to fill the 3 new positions created in FY 2023-24.**



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**E. Anonymous Donation Received - \$15,000 to host EMS Classes for STFD Personnel.**

1. A thank you letter has already been mailed to the generous donor.

**10. Unfinished Business:**

**A. None**

**11. New Business:**

**A. Mutual aid to Schools with no public safety communication systems.**

1. Discovered in 2019 that the radios do not work in the schools.
2. Began drafting a House Bill to have radio coverage in schools but it has not gained any traction in Lansing.
3. The local schools were tested as part of the construction projects and Douglas Elementary installed a BDA. Saugatuck Middle/High School will be tested as part of the bond projects.
4. Obtained pricing to test all schools in Allegan County and obtained funding for all AESIA Schools.
5. One of the mutual aid schools has deficiencies in their radio coverage and has refused to get the school tested, raising concerns about putting firefighters into the schools without mission critical communications.
6. The Fire District, mutual aid fire department, along with the county will continue to try and persuade the school board to reconsider their position.
7. Fox suggested that the State or County assemble an educational video that can be shared on the internet and with parent teacher organizations across the state.

**12. Correspondence:**

**A. None**

**13. Public Comments: (Limit 3 minutes):**

**A. None**

**14. Fire Board Comments:**

**Aldrich – Absent**

**Beckman – Would like to update the chairs in the training room.**

**Fox – STR Task Force has concluded their work so it will become an annual inspection and fee structures will be updated to include. Asked if the Bekken donation lettering had been completed and it was.**

**Verplank – None**

**Phelps – None**

**Pullen – Thank you to Chief for all the work he is doing.**

**North – Had to leave for Douglas City Council meeting at 4:50pm.**

**15. Adjournment:**

**A. Meeting adjourned at 5:09pm.**

**NOTICE**

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.