



SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT BOARD

3342 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck, MI 49453 • Phone: 269 857-3000 • E-mail: Office@saugatuckfire.org

October 27, 2018

Editor, Holland Sentinel:

A letter recently published in the Holland Sentinel included a good deal of misinformation. The Saugatuck Township Fire District Board—made up of representatives appointed by Saugatuck, Douglas, and Saugatuck Township—would like to correct the record.

Assertion: Prospective Saugatuck Township property owners are required to construct and maintain a \$10,000-20,000 fire-service pond for a single-family home on their property, and to pay the fire department to inspect such ponds periodically.

Fact: No such ponds are, or have ever been, required for individual residences, only for developments of five or more dwellings. The fire department has never charged for any inspection or certification of such ponds.

Assertion: Nearby townships don't require fire-service ponds for single-family homes.

Fact: As stated above, the STFD also has no such policy. In addition, regarding the referenced townships, none of them currently enjoys an ISO risk rating as favorable as Saugatuck Township's. These ratings can reduce the cost of homeowner's insurance.

Assertion: Taxpayers have already paid for state-of-the-art STFD tanker trucks.

Fact: The STFD maintains two such trucks, both more than 15 years old. Only one of these has a pump, but it is capable of only 400 gallons-per-minute (gpm), well below the 1,000 gpm required for a residential fire. The District retains these trucks because a new \$400-500,000 tanker is not in the budget.

Assertion: The Township is under-represented on the STFD Board.

Fact: The make-up of the Board is established in accordance with the provisions of Public Act No. 33, 1951, as amended. It includes seven members, two from each of the three jurisdictions, and one at-large member. The current at-large member is a Township resident.

Assertion: Inadequate water pressure at hydrants can be an issue in the Township.

Fact: Water pressure at hydrants is a KLSWA responsibility, not the Fire District's.

Finally, the STFD Board takes its responsibilities seriously. We welcome the public at our meetings, and our agendas are published in advance. We do not, however, condone misinformation, rumor mongering, or political gamesmanship when it comes to the Fire District's important work.

By majority vote, this letter was adopted by the STFD Board in open meeting as a public statement on October 27, 2018, and authorized for publication.