

RAFD Fire Board Minutes – 9/12/2024

Meeting called to order by Chair, D. Langshaw at 7:04pm

Roll Call: In Attendance: Mike Waldorf, Valerie Silkworth, Diana Langshaw, Amanda Wiersma – Fire Dept. Representatives, Doug Bogema, Rob Leatherman, Jake Leatherman, Brandon Shirley. Two additional firemen in attendance in audience. Andy Ackley, Absent With Notice.

Agenda: Chair Langshaw requested to change the order of the agenda items. **(Approved, All Ayes, 0 Opposed)**

Approval of May 8, 2024 meeting Minutes – Moved by A. Wiersma, Seconded by V. Silkworth **(Approved, All Ayes, 0 Opposed)**

Treasurer's Report: 23/24 Expenses and Revenue, YTD expenses, Money Market, and Checking Account current balances, 2025 proposed revenue reviewed. Invoices for CSI, \$10,700 approved by board and paid. D. Bogema reported 2 additional trucks need to be serviced, costing approximately \$1000. \$6200 in additional expenses for pump testing/service work on 421 still needs to be done. Consumers Energy sit time to be captured for billing per current township recovery ordinance. Additional medical facility within township utilizing fire department resources extensively to possibly be billed per our current ordinance, research on best practice by other local townships to be done first. Modifications being made county wide to reduce EMS calls per R. Leatherman. Additional medical facility within township to possibly be billed per our current ordinance, pending additional research - on hold for now. Modification to be made to Fire Dept Budget form to include all categories included in Township accounts payable for more accurate budget reporting. Moved by V. Silkworth, Seconded by A. Wiersma **(Approved, All Ayes, 0 Opposed)**

- Approval of two additional expenses for truck servicing and pump testing/service work – Moved by M. Waldorf, Seconded by V. Silkworth **(Approved, All Ayes, 0 Opposed)**
- Consumers Energy hold time to be captured for billing per current township recovery ordinance. Personnel, Vehicles, and time on scene to be reported to A. Wiersma for billing purposes. Moved by M. Waldorf, Seconded by V. Silkworth **(Approved, All Ayes, 0 Opposed)**

Evaluation Discussion & Follow up: Evaluation to be modified to better garner accurate, more thorough, and applicable responses. Online survey recommended for better participation/confidentiality. The most widely mentioned issue noted at the time of evaluations is associated with the use of sirens and lights. All three evaluation updates held 9/11/24. Annual Evaluations recommended per Interlocal Agreement. Annual Evaluations agreed upon by Fire Board.

- **Running vehicles with Lights and Sirens used consecutively is currently the law. If lights are on, sirens are on. Let it clearly be stated that the Board edict is to follow the rule of the law regarding the use of lights and sirens by the fire department staff. The Board's availability to receive resident complaints/feedback about light and siren use was made clear to all present.**

Chain of Command restated- Firemen to Fire Department Command Staff, Fire Department Command Staff to Fire Board, Fire Board to Township and Village. B. Shirley, Captain is now reachable via new Township Email address.

Job Descriptions: Need to be updated/revised in SOPs/SOGs. R. Leatherman chair forming committee to update/revise as needed.

Training Updates: Monthly Operations report provided by J. Leatherman. Personnel call percentages of first two quarters reported. Training percentage data not currently available. Low response percentages discussed. Fire personnel evaluations recommended by Fire Board to be completed by command staff by the end of the year. October 2025 Firefighters to be recertified and minimum credit requirements to be met. Applications for new recruits posted online, at the township hall, and openings for firefighters shared at community events. Regionally, applicants are down, and few, if any, applications are being submitted. All applications should be turned into to the Township where personnel files are located.

Lieutenant Position/Full-Time Fire Chief/Salaries: Lieutenant position currently open. Application process to be started to fill position and mandatory officer training class availability within 2-year timeline investigated.

Salary study/comparison needed from comparable regional municipalities for possible salary adjustments – and undetermined Lieutenant salary. Incentivize night shift premium, probationary FF's.

Grants: DNR Grant for \$5000 sought. Potential additional grant funds in conjunction with Hickory Corners/Delton sought.

OLD BUSINESS

Breathing Gear: Breathing apparatus (SCBAs) set to expire 10/24 (3 units), 11/25 (3 more units), 5/26 (3 more units). 2027 several more set to expire. Estimated bottle filling station purchase pricing July 2024 is \$50,000. 22 air bottles out of service by 2027. Joint grant funding may cover this expense. Township and Village in agreement that this expense is a priority. Pending grant funding status.

Public Comment: M. King, firefighter, stated he saved \$6000 by repairing hose couplings vs. replacing with new hoses. His opinion is that we do need a new fire truck due to the age and condition of our current truck in Augusta. Used siren system, battery replaced, wires broken, unreliable pump.

Fire Truck: Committee formed to bring options to Fire Board for new truck acquisition. Brandon Shirley agreed to Chair.

NEW BUSINESS:

Five Year Plan: Revenue/Expense projections. Chair D. Langshaw recommended 3rd party to compose a 5- year plan to review with Fire Board and Fire Department Command Staff.

Reflective Boat Lettering: \$375.00 – J. Leatherman proposed expenditure - approved by Board

Chiefs Report: Maintenance budget will need adjustment. Currently borrowing Comstock's ladder. \$1800 for a new one. Pump test and service \$10,700 (spent). Still need Air Brake and Seal testing on 421 another \$6200 (discussed, approved above). Air pack testing also another expected expense. Fire Board updated on the Township's emergency weather sirens. Township also updated.

Next meeting: **November 14th at 6:00pm**

Adjourn 8:55pm - Moved by V. Silkworth, Seconded by D. Langshaw. **(Approved, All Ayes, 0 Opposed)**