

Westfield Fire Committee
Meeting Minutes
11-18-08

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. with Chief Snoddy, Greg Oakes, Rick Robb, Jack Poe, Kevin Rych and Jim Likley present. Also present were Mayor Horwedel, Trustee Tim Kratzer, Westfield Twp. Fiscal Officer Martha Evans, Mark Williams, Dan Grabowski, Russ Zupanic, Anita Weaver and Ron Oiler.

Jim Likley opened with the reason for this special meeting was to review the direction of the Department, Township and Village in the possible purchase of a new or used fire truck, or to put additional money into truck 164. This discussion was as a result of the failure of the 1.5 mill levy renewal and increase of 1 mill to a total of 2.5mill. The present 1.5 mill levy generates approximately \$79,000.00 a year to the Township for department operations.

Chief Snoddy stated that truck 161 repairs were approximately \$8,000.00 and that truck 164 was taken to WW Williams on Thursday and that an extensive list of repairs had been communicated to him. No estimate of cost at this time. Truck 161 all necessary repairs were completed. Recommendations from both Fire Association members and Chief Snoddy were to not put additional money into truck 164. Because of it's unsafe design for department members and other design problems.

Captain Mark Williams stated that he was confident that the truck committee could locate a new truck at State bid price that would meet the department's long term needs and that would fit in our present fire station. Price range between \$375-\$400,000.00. This vehicle would be the departments "first assault or front line" truck used for MVA and structural fires. Some modification might be necessary to meet department needs. The department's first priority would be to replace truck 164.

Greg Oakes reiterated that the Village had committed \$250,000.00 in their 2009 budget for the purchase of a new truck.

Jim Likley asked Fiscal Officer Martha Evans what funds were available in the Township Fire Capital Improvement fund, her response was \$100,000.00. It was estimated that the Village of Gloria Glens had accumulated approximately \$40,000.00 in their Fire Fund and have offered this in the past. This accumulated money was generated from their fire levy and must be spent on fire protection purposes. Mrs. Evans was to contact Gloria Glens Fiscal Officer to confirm this amount. The Townships commitment of \$100,000.00 for the purchase would have to be approved at a regular Trustees meeting. Mayor Horwedel stated that the Village would commit the \$250,000.00 with an agreement that the Township would repay \$75,000.00 to meet our 50/50 split of equipment expenses. This agreement would be crafted by both entities legal counsel. With this preliminary agreement Greg Oakes made a motion; that the truck committee continues its search for a new fire truck with a budget not to exceed \$390,000.00. Seconded by Jim Likley, Fire Committee members unanimous in favor.

It was discussed that the Township would probably place the Fire Levy back on the ballot in May. A greater effort must be made to inform our residents of the need for this increase. There was a request to place Fire Committee meeting minutes on the Township website, Jim Likley said he would take care of that.

Mayor Horwedel spoke to committee regarding the special meeting that the Village held on Fire Department funding and future plans of the department.

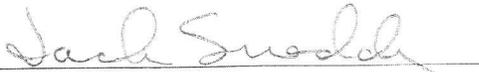
His points of interest were:

1. The Village expressed interest in purchasing the Townships interest in the present fire station.
2. That they were not willing to put any additional money into the present fire station for expansion.
3. That an evaluation be made for the best location of a future fire station.
4. That discussion would be needed between Village and Township as to the percentage of operating expenses split between each entity.

A copy of Village meeting minutes presented and will be on file.

Greg Oakes made a motion to go into executive session for the purpose Chief Snoddy's contract review. Seconded by Jim Likley, unanimous. 8:15 p.m.
Committee came out of executive session at 8:55, no decision was made.
Meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Jim Likley

Approved: Chief Snoddy 

Approved: Committee member 