

February 25, 2010

Fire Committee Meeting Minutes

Members present: Rick Robbs, Heather Sturdevant, Pat Edington, Ron Oiler.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Rick Robbs at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was said.

Acceptance of Committee Minutes: Oiler moved, Sturdevant seconded the acceptance of the minutes with an addition to the 3rd paragraph from the end....."By previous agreement at a joint meeting with the Township and Villages in January, it was determined that the budget would *charged* at the rate of 55% to the Township, 39% to Westfield Center and 6% to Gloria Glens *based on assessed real estate valuation.*" Unanimous vote.

The Payment of Bills: The bills totaled \$13,069.49. Sturdevant moved, Oiler, seconded to pay the bills. Unanimous vote. However, 4 bills will be investigated by Mr. Robbs having to do with the charges for helmets, software, and a snow plow.

The Committee went into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing personal. Oiler, moved, Sturdevant, seconded. Unanimous vote.

Returning from Executive Session (Oiler moved, Sturdevant seconded) Unanimous vote. Edington moved, Oil seconded the appointment of Mr. Mark Williams as interim chief pending the hiring of a full-time chief within the next 90 to 120 days. Unanimous vote.

Interim Chief Williams spoke to the assembly stating that three objectives must maintained by the firefighters/EMTs': ethics, respectful speech and service to the community. He indicated that he does not intend to accept a salary because of his additional duties and requested that those monies be given to the "teachers" who will be designing of the training of our squad. He was pleased to announce that Ms. Sturdevant would be assisting with the administrative duties for this interim period. "Pulling together, we will succeed" stated Interim Chief Williams.

OLD BUSINESS

Westfield Fire Committee By-laws: Sturdevant moved, Edington seconded to accept the By-laws. Unanimous vote.

SOG'S : They will be reviewed by Ms. Sturdevant and be sent to Mr. Hutson and Mr. Thorne for their approval.

Hourly Rate Paid for Attending Mandatory Training: Oiler moved, Sturdevant seconded to approve a flat rate of \$9.00 per hour for mandatory training. Unanimous vote. This motion was based on the suggestion of the Fire Association membership.

State Certificate Test Reimbursement: Edington moved, Sturdevant seconded to approve reimbursement of costs incurred for state certification with a passing score. Unanimous vote.

Percentage Split for Mandatory Training: The membership is suggesting that a contract be required for tuition payment of those taking training. It should state that the trainees are obligated to 2 years of service to the Westfield Fire Department in order to have the training paid in full by the Department as is required by other local fire departments. This will be sent on to legal for their opinion.

2010 Fire Department Operation Budget: Mr. Oiler presented the budget passed by the township trustees totaling \$208,973.00. The line items of uniforms (\$7,500) and Repairs/Vehicles (\$11,000) was questioned requesting they be reduced. After discussion, it was determined that they should remain in place as is.

Fire Truck Update: Interim Chief Williams stated that the new fire truck was still in Nebraska. Our truck is at the head of the line for completion, but the manufacturer is out of compliance for delivery. The truck will not be delivered before April and the contract date is March 13. Ms. Sturdevant will look into requesting concessions from the manufacturer for his tardiness.

NEW BUSINESS

Determine Fire Chief Selection Process: Ten months ago the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association, headed by Keith Larson, was contacted for their assistance in choosing a full-time fire chief for Westfield. A job description had been started. The Association promised to put the candidates through technical and leadership skills testing. We are now able to go forward. Up to 6 candidates who meet the definition of a "working chief with the highest levels of certification" will be chosen and vetted by them at the cost of \$8100 to be shared by the Township and Village of Westfield Center. An ad shall be placed in Fire House.com for 30 day at a cost of \$525. Three candidates will be presented to a Fire Hiring Committee to include: 1 member from the Township; 1 member from the Village and 2 members from the Fire Association.

The next meeting of the Fire Committee will be March 25th at 7 p.m. at the Westfield Fire Station.

The meeting adjourned at 8:22 p.m.