

Fire Committee Meeting Minutes

Special Meeting: May 6, 2009 7:00am

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 7:00am with fire committee members Jim Likely, Greg Oakes, Rick Robbs and Heather Sturdevant in attendance.

The May 5th fire levy for Westfield Township failed 104 to 156. The next logical step is to begin soft billing the residents for the fire and EMS services.

It was determined that almost \$5000.00 was paid for fire gloves in the last two months. It was decided that before any purchases go out, the interim chief will make a request for purchase to the fire committee. This policy will apply for any purchases over \$500.00.

The Village had their meeting and voted to increase the interim chief's salary. The vote passed. The trustees will vote on that same issue this evening. The split on the fire chief's pay is 65% township and 35% village as far as we are all aware. Rick and Greg will clarify this with Martha.

The prior chief's cell phone service will be cancelled. We are currently under the assumption that Jack Snoddy has decided to quit the department. The key code at the town hall has been changed by Jim Likely.

It was agreed that the village would look into getting the interim chief a cell phone that will be handed over to the new chief when one is hired. If Mike Carson wants to use his personal phone, we will reimburse fire department calls quarterly.

The Fire Committee discussed whether we should look for a full or part time chief. It was decided that it is the recommendation of this committee that we pursue a full time chief. We feel that the position will be filled from outside our department but we will open up the application process to our members and see if a natural leader emerges. It was decided that whoever is hired will need to have managerial courage to tackle the issues in our fire department. It was also decided that any potential candidate for the chief's position will need to be fire and EMS trained due to the nature of our department. We discussed the possibility of having fire chief's outside the immediate area come in to help with the process. We will be using our current job description. The Village and Township will have to trust in each other that we can all work out the financial piece of this as we go. Jim will take the full time recommendation to the trustees meeting this week. Jim and Heather will work with Martha to understand exactly how the finances work.

We will need to determine whether or not to have testing both written and practical as part of our hiring process. The full time chief will remain an employee of the township unless it is decided otherwise at a later date. We will try to get information from Life Force to anticipate costs per run and per type of run. We discussed the possibility of putting gin writing that training will be paid for by the department , but that they have to remain at the department for a certain length of time or else pay back a percentage of those fees.

Rick Robbs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15am. Jim Likely seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.