

Hamlin Township Fire & Rescue

Fire Board Meeting

11/04/2013

Call to order by board chair: Christine Mergener @ 7:01 P.M.

Fire Board members present, C. Mergener (chair), M. Gleason, J. Rienke, S. Black

Township board members present: P. Bombreys,

Fire Department Officers present: Chief Blackmer, Asst. Chief Smith and recorder Simpson

Fire Chief report:

1. Current Department budget: Expenses for September/October were presented and reviewed. Overall budget frozen.
2. Fleet Equipment Update. Tail gate on 1318 damaged on a run with the light trailer last weekend. While pulling the trailer the hitch came off and damaged the tail gate. Tail gate must be replaced. Price will be around \$700 to &800. Following the incident Asst. Chief Smith reviewed with the Firefighters the correct hook-up for the light trailer to a truck at the station. Also a leaking wheel bearing seal on 1312 was repaired at Spartan Motors last week. The cost for repair is not known at this time. Also Smith stated that she and the Twp. Supervisor reviewed the contract with the ECSD for the light trailer and stated that Hamlin Twp. can bill the ECSD for all maint., fuel and repair. This will be investigated and reviewed with the ECSD. Chief Blackmer stated that 1313 is back in service as a Rescue pumper. 1313 will be without ladders because the 24 foot ladder failed the ladder testing this year. There also was an overweight problem that has been resolved by removing the air bottles and the framework that held them. This will allow 4 FF's to respond in the truck. 1313 can't be the first truck out on a structure fire because of having no ladders.
3. Revised training schedule: Discussed changing the training next year to every other month on a Sunday for 5 to 6 hours. This will allow all Firefighters to participate without missing work during the week. Also both Chief Blackmer and Asst. Chief Smith are not available during the morning training because of work. Asst. Chief Smith is the only state certified instructor on our department so a change in the training schedule is necessary.
4. Day Room: Chief Blackmer discussed changing the upstairs meeting room into a day room for the firefighters. The FF's Association would look into purchasing a flat screen TV and several recliners for the room. The Fire board discussed having rules for behavior and who could use the room. More to follow.
5. Truck bids: Supervisor Bombreys stated that of 16 proposals sent out for refurbishment of the wrecked truck purchased by the Township only 2 responded by the closing date. Therefore Telephone calls were made and most of the companies chose not to respond because they did not do complete refurbishment

on fire trucks. There will be several more companies responding in the next 3 weeks. The Fire Board set a meeting on November 25 @ 19:00 hrs. to review the bids.

6. Christmas Party: Asst. Chief Smith invited the fire board and their families to the Christmas party scheduled for December 8, 2013 @ 13:00 hrs. Smith said the 4 new firefighters will do all of the shopping and wrap all the presents. This will be a great help for Asst. Chief Smith for she has done this for the last 10 years and is ready for some help. The party will be a dish to pass party and the turkey and hams will be provided by the Chief and Asst. Chief. Smith also stated that all firefighters will donate \$25 and officers will donate \$30 towards a family to be chosen for Christmas this year. The fire board stated that they would also donate towards the sponsoring of a Christmas family this year.

Asst. Fire Chief report:

1. Required Testing: Asst. Chief reported that all 4 of our probationary Firefighters passed all written and practical exams at Roscommon this past September and are now full members of our fire department.
2. New Firefighter testing: Smith stated that she has 1 probationary firefighter, John McGlaufan, that is currently working on his FF 1 & 2. She also stated that we have vacancies for 2 or 3 more firefighters in the wake of resignations
3. Fire prevention open house: The open house was well attended even with the Urban Air and an MSU home game going on at the same time. She stated that there were about 350 visitors.

EMS coordinator:

1. Paul stated that there will be a half day EMS training this Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013 at the station. He stated that the EAEMS coordinator Dan Sowles and Medic Art Resist will be presenting the training. Paul also stated that there will be 3 EMS trainings in 2014 to allow all MFR, EMT and Medics to acquire continuing Education credits as so to renew their Medical licenses through the Tri-Counts Medical Authority.
2. Also Paul said that we passed the State inspection for our renewal of our MFR response for Hamlin Twp. Fire/EMS.
3. He also stated that all Medical FF's are current with their medical licenses.

New Business:

1. Township Supervisor Bombreys reported that the Twp. board was reviewing firefighters pay and they felt that the last raise of \$.50 per run was inadequate. Phil said that the board will offer another raise after the first of the year. The board thought that would be more appropriate. The board is also reviewing all pay positions.
2. Freeman Road Bridge: Supervisor Bombreys stated that the Freeman road bridge will be repaired by the end of this year. Also that the county has no weight restrictions on the bridge so our fire department can use the bridge with all our trucks.
3. Chief Blackmer stated that our present NFPA guidelines books are from 1992. (21 years old) He said that a review with Asst. Chief Smith it was decided that it is past time for replacement. The cost will be at around \$ 1,200. He stated that we will move forward for replacement.

Old Business:

Supervisor Bombreys announced that the Township board has reviewed the charges from the fire department and have revised the charges. He stated that township residents that pay taxes and fire

millage should not be charged for a fire run. Currently \$500. And a burn ordinance violation should be only \$100. He will provide a list of the new charges to the fire department as soon as possible.

Department Report summary: Recorder Simpson presented a review of incidents. 2013 Sept through Oct was 25 runs and year to date was 140. Last year 2012 Sept through Oct. was 25 and year to date for last year was 178. We are currently under budget for runs since we are 38 runs behind last year. But, last year was a very busy year for our Fire department.

The next regular fire board will be February 3, 2013.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned @ 21:40

Submitted by recorder P. Simpson