

Unapproved Minutes
Morton Township Board of Trustees
Special Meeting to Discuss Fire Department Staffing and Equipment
Tuesday, August 31, 2021 @ 9:00 am
290 West Main Street, Mecosta MI 49332

Call to Order at 9:00 am

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Mark Klumpp, Maureen Wolfe, Jeff Ratledge, Yo Bellingar and Stephanie McNeal were all present.

Fire Chief Allen Sutherby and Joe Lanz were also present.

Public Comment: None

Fire Department Staffing:

-Chief Sutherby commented on the advantages of having the Fire Chief available in a supervisory role full time during the week. Advantages: More accountability and direction for daily tasks, consistently working in a proactive manner rather than a reactive manner, more community engagement, more focus on recruitment and retention, more focus on grant writing, more consistent review of policies and procedures, and increasing administrative tasks for training and continuing education requirements for fire fighters.

-The full-time position would be designed so that the chief would work a day shift five days a week and have a second person on staff three days a week.

-Questions were asked of the fire chief by the township trustees.

-Fire Administrative Committee Chairperson Joe Lanz commented that he hopes to see additional hours added in the evenings covered with staffing at the fire station.

Fire Department Equipment:

-Waiting on replacement vehicle for Rescue Two to come in.

-Still looking for a truck to replace the grass rig.

-Lucas Machines: Cost for a new Lucas 3 is \$12,629.82 (county's cost). County is replacing all of the Lucas machines in the county that were purchased by the county in 2014. The county says we can keep the machine purchased for \$5000. Lucas 3 has more capabilities than the Lucas 2.

Motion to replace both Lucas 2 machines with Lucas 3 machines for the cost not to exceed \$14,000 by J. Ratledge, second by Y. Bellingar. Roll call vote: Ratledge, yes; Bellingar, yes; Klumpp, yes; McNeal, yes; Wolfe, yes. Motion Carried.

Other Business:

Valley Court Invoicing - When do we invoice?

Need to have tax roll for ready for Public Hearing Thursday evening.

Staff Hours – We lock the doors at 4:00, but is our policy for staff to leave at 4:00? Wolfe and McNeal both commented that they have allowed the staff to leave before 5:00 pm on occasion. Agenda item on COW meeting agenda to discuss office staffing.

Announcements: Zoning Admin and Supervisor are dealing with a property line dispute.

Correspondence: None.

Adjournment at 10:50 am.