

SPECIAL FIRE BOARD MEETING

September 1, 2011 7PM

Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Hall

Minutes, 1st Copy

The meeting was called to order at 7 PM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Board members Dan Olmsted, Jerry Counterman, Jeff Foster, Nancy Shutes and Beverly Rossetto were all present.

Shutes made a motion to add reports by Chief Gary Yaklin and First Responders coordinator Anna Beach to the agenda. Rossetto seconded the motion. All in favor so the motion carried.

Yaklin reported that there was a brush fire in Surf Park. Four people responded. Six people attended the Hazardous Materials class. Yaklin attended the Presque Isle County Chiefs Association meeting. Norm Smith showed a 9/11 emergency response video. Smith is a good contact for emergency services.

Beach reported there were 12 calls. The auxiliary tank has been painted. The ambulance got an A+ inspection from the state. A Fire Fighter 1 & 2 class will be held starting on October 4 and ending in May. There will be no cost to participants due to a grant. A basic EMT class will be held from April - July. (This might change due to wanting to start after the Fire Fighter 1 & 2 class is over.) The cost is \$400 plus books.

By laws for the Auxiliary Fire Department were discussed. The Auxiliary needs a Fire Board Resolution to be established. The word Fire should not be used in the Resolution.

Glenn Lunceford wants to establish an Advisory Board for the Fire Department. The board would do research and make recommendation to the board. This would be volunteers. Yaklin thinks this will only add another layer and is not sure we need more layers. Olmsted thinks the Advisory Board would be an unbiased opinion. Deputy Chief Merchant says there are pros and cons for another layer. He agrees with Olmsted that the Advisory Board would be an unbiased opinion. Mike Daugal commented that the AB could do the leg work for the Department. Counterman thinks we should try having an Advisory Board for one year. Rossetto suggested we put an ad in

the paper for the Advisory Board positions. Olmsted made a motion that we do a one year trial Advisory Board with Chris Garst at the helm. Two other members will be those who respond to the ad in the paper. Shutes seconded the motion. All in favor so the motion carried.

Rita Lunceford submitted information on a camera security system for the Fire Hall. The system would allow the department to see who comes and goes. It appears that many people have the code to gain access to the hall. It is rumored that there are things missing from the hall. Members are allegedly doing auto repair, car washing and are coming and going at all hours. A neighbor complained that there were parties as late as 11 PM. Bearinger Township Supervisor, Ted Slawinski, thinks that these perks should be addressed. Chris Garst thinks that there should be limited personal use because the Fire Hall is a government building. Irene Seeyle stated that the slider windows were left unlocked. This was discovered when she and Mrs. Pehovic were washing windows on a volunteer basis. Counterman wants to know if the security cameras fit into the budget and what fund will pay for the cameras. Rossetto wants to know the cost to install the cameras. Shutes made a motion to allow Chris Garst to get bids on both professional and self installed security cameras. Rossetto seconded the motion. All in favor so the motion carried. The board will review the findings at the October 6th meeting.

The inventory list will be completed as soon as the make, model and serial numbers on the beepers have been added. Garst will make up a form so all items are listed. When someone quits the department Chief Yaklin can check off the items that are returned. This check list is necessary because of missing EMS equipment. A supply bag and oxygen tank appear to be missing. Stephanie Merchant claims that Sid Merchant paid for 90% of his equipment and the department paid 10%. Jill Merchant claims that Sid paid for 50% and Larry Foster paid for 50%. She's upset because her family has dedicated their lives to the Fire Department.

Liability issues were discussed. Glenn Lunceford stated there is no leadership at the top. He brought up the issue of the sewer line freezing in the winter. There are dry hydrants that have not been fixed. These have been known about for at least three years. Other concerns were people who are unlicensed, untrained and unqualified being sent out in the field. There is no security system in the building. Hazardous wastes are incorrectly stored. Gale Phelps is concerned about the Risk Management forms that were

signed off on. Larry Foster signed off on the first one and Jerry Counterman the second one. She thinks both township boards should see the Risk Management forms after they are signed off on. She thinks the Risk Management forms should be redone. Chief Yaklin took responsibility for not getting the information to both boards. Counterman wants three signatures on the forms. Ocqueoc board, Bearinger board and the Fire board.

Disciplinary procedures need to have a policy. Shutes presented the old policy. It appears that most disciplinary actions have been verbal and done "in house".

Grant writing was discussed. FEMA grants are based on an "as needed" basis. OBFD does not qualify because we have too much money. Yaklin has submitted yearly DNR grants and we are always rejected. Shutes made a motion to allow Glenn Lunceford to research grants. Rossetto seconded the motion. All in favor so the motion carried.

Recruiting procedures were discussed. The ads to recruit have not been put in the papers. Rossetto will put ads in the Advance, Outlook and Cheboygan Tribune. Lunceford thinks it would be best if people went door to door to get recruits. Mike Daugul thinks the atmosphere is not conducive for people who want to join. Those who have expressed an interest do not feel welcome. More needs to be done to change the atmosphere. He thinks an escrow account for individuals should be set up. If they are paying for part of the training they will have an investment and be more likely to continue training instead of dropping out. Everyone is welcome to attend Fire Department meetings. They are held the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Rossetto thinks the department should pay \$300 and individuals pay \$100 for training. The trainees should have to sign a one year commitment. Olmsted made a motion to table payment for training until the October 6th meeting. Shutes seconded the motion. All in favor so the motion carried.

The bid for resealing the parking lot was reviewed. Foster made a motion to accept the bid for \$1,975. Rossetto seconded the motion. All in favor so the motion carried.

The meeting was open for Public Comments. Counterman wants to know where we stand on the sewer line repairs. They will be done on September 16 @ 1PM. The cost is \$200. Gale Phelps thanked Anna Beach for all her hard work on the roster. Chris Garst was thanked for his inventory work.

This is the first meeting where it appears that we are moving forward. We'll have a better department which is what both townships want. Chuck Hilger is concerned about Charles Merchant's beard. The beard prevents Merchant from being able to seal his face mask. Ken Pehovic stated that the townships will be liable if Merchant gets hurt and the family sues. It would be Merchant's choice if he goes into a fire. Merchant says he will quit if he is forced to shave his beard. Anna Beach commented that all calls have been answered.

Olmsted made a motion to accept Renee Brenner and Sheila Northrop as two new members to the Fire Department. Shutes seconded the motion. All in favor so the motion carried.

Olmsted made a motion to adjourn at 9:21 PM. Rossetto seconded the motion. All in favor so the motion carried.

The next regularly scheduled meeting is on October 6, 2011 @ 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted:

Nancy Shutes, Fireboard Secretary