

Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Board Meeting
14127 Town Hall Highway
Regular Meeting
July 7, 2011

Corrected and Approved October 6, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Dan Olmsted at 7:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Fire Board members present were Dan Olmsted, Jeff Foster, Jerry Counterman and Beverly Rossetto. Nancy Shutes was absent.

Also present were Fire Chief Gary Yaklin and fifteen (15) citizens of Ocqueoc and Bearinger Township.

Beverly Rossetto announced that she would be taking minutes for this meeting and that it will be tape recorded to assure accuracy of written minutes.

B. Rossetto read the minutes of April 7, 2011 regular meeting and suggested that we make a motion to correct the spelling of Bevy to Bev and Shuts to Shutes. Dan Olmsted asked if there were any other corrections. Charlie Merchant requested that the wording that he is not happy with the decision to buy the air compressor be changed to he disagrees with the decision. Ken Pehovic stated that it was the Fire Hall sewer line that was broken, not the water line. Jeff Foster made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, Dan Olmsted seconded the motion. Four yes votes, the motion carried.

Chairman Olmsted asked Fire Chief Yaklin to give his report. Chief Yaklin reported there was one fire run in the last three months that was a false alarm. Our department was called off before arriving at the scene because it was out of our district. Although we have had a low number of call this tends to lead to complacency and lack of interest. The low wild land fire danger has been down due to all the rain we have had. There have been three calls that First Responders have responded to.

Chief Yaklin stated that he has received a few calls over the last few months regarding emergency calls that no First responder was available or had showed up after the ambulance had arrived. At this time we have four First responders, Sid Merchant, Anna Beach, Mike Curtis and Stephanie Merchant, in the summer months we also have Mike Daugul. Not having a First Responder available is a great concern of the people, especially if the person calling is the one that is having the emergency. There are several reasons why a First Responders is not available, people work, people have function to attend, people get sick, some may be away visiting family down state or some may have a few drinks with their evening meal and would not be allowed to go on a run while under the influence. Pat Augustine asked: "Why don't the First Responders cover for each other when they are not available?" The Chief explained that the few First Responders that we have in the department are volunteers and they are not tied to this job. They have other employment and obligations that may keep them out of our district for the majority of each day; the only real solution to this problem is to get a larger number of First Responders.

It takes a lot of class time and training to become a First Responder or Firefighter. Because we live in a community that has a lot of retirees it is difficult to recruit volunteers.

The Chief explained that three people have submitted letters for the First Responders Coordinators position, two for Coordinator and one for Coordinator Assistant. This is an important position that is needed in our Fire Department.

Chief Yaklin reported that almost a year ago, we had two MIOSHA inspections and were issued sixteen citations. It has taken a lot of time and effort but at this time we have a letter stating that all sixteen citations have been abated by the state. It will take monthly and bi-monthly meetings to maintain the proper MIOSHA status.

HAZ-MAT Class & Refresher – it has been arranged that an Instructor, Brian Anderson, from MSU will conduct a HAZ-MAT class, four (4) hours per night, at the Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Hall, August 17th & 18th, 2011 at 6:00 pm. We need sixteen people for this free class; anyone interested should call the Fire Chief. Charlie Merchant explained that this is not a National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) requirement, but getting the HAZ-MAT awareness education is going a little bit beyond what is called for. MIOSHA on the other hand does require a yearly upgrade test.

Firefighters Bi-monthly meetings – We are making headway, it has taken a lot of time and effort, thirty of the 40 issues, about 75%, have been taken care of. The Brush Rig 702 was taken to the dealer for repairs, it is still under warranty, savings us about \$3,000.00. Rig 702 did cost \$115.25 to wire the battery that starts the pump. The Recue Rig was taken to the dealer, front brake pads, rotors, seal and calipers were replaced for a total of \$983.45.

The Chief reported that Hughes Network was not working properly, after several telephone calls and Ken Pehovic making two trips to the Hall to let the technician in, it seems to be OK now. In the office the new (used) solid oak computer desk was purchased from Anna Beach for \$200.00. A laser printer has been ordered and will be delivered mid-July. The office computer is outdated and needs to be replaced. Chief Yaklin thanked Pat Augustine for the many hours she volunteered to clean-up and reorganize the files.

Chief Yaklin announced that this is the Thirty year anniversary of the Ocqueoc/Bearinger Fire Department. He spoke of the Huron Beach Association garage sale, 10 am – 3 pm, Saturday, July 9, 2011. This is a very successful social event, bring people together from all over and raising money for the Fire Hall. This event also gets our Hall a good cleaning once a year. Everyone comes in and works hard to make us look better than the year before.

At the last Firefighters meeting large equipment purchased over the years was discussed. We went over what priority equipment needs to be purchased. Chief Yaklin is waiting for quotes on the K-12 saw. He wants to find one that operates on propane and explained the problems of a saw that operates on flammable gas.

The Air Compressor was the next priority for purchase; Chief Yaklin has quotes coming from four different firms on new and/or used compressors and fill station. He handed out literature

and stated that we can have something ordered by our next meeting. He stated that we are looking at around \$20,000.00 or less.

Another Fire Department member's priority purchase is the Emergency off Road Vehicle (EORV). Charlie Merchant is looking for quotes from different firms; his preference is a diesel operated vehicle. He has a quote for John Deere and will seek two other quotes for the EORV.

Jeff Foster asked about FEMA grants to purchase equipment. The chief stated that FEMA is for communities that are in dire need of funding. This doesn't qualify us for any grants and in the last few years we have been turned down by the DNR for grants.

Doris Parker said that over \$1,000.00 has been made in donations to purchase the EORV.

Jerry Counterman has heard rumors, and had observed at the last meeting, that the Fire Department personnel does not agree on what "priority purchases" should be. There seems to be a lot of squabbling among the members. Jerry wants to know if this problem has been resolved. He feels the members should put their heads together and come up with a definition for "priority equipment", then bring that to the Fire Board. Everyone has to work together as a team to make the department successful.

Chief Yaklin, Ken Pehovic and Charlie Merchant had statements about how the department should work together as a team to decide what and how equipment is purchased and what guide lines are to be used on what mandates priority equipment. The Chief wants this to be talked about and resolved at the Department meetings. Charlie Merchant stated that the department may disagree about purchasing equipment, but when they are called upon for emergencies they work together as a team when working as a fire department.

Chief Yaklin concluded his report with brief statements about:

Recruiting, it is everyone's job to recruit new members. Expense for advertising may be required and this is a job that will need the department and board working together.

Firefighter I & Firefighter II classes will be in Millersburg in October.

Sign – the sign is back up after almost a year.

Pay for Firefighters for working at the hall on other things that are not related to being a Fire Fighter.

Permitted Fireworks – was performed safely without any trouble.

Glen Lunceford questioned if it would be beneficial for the department to have an auxiliary team to help do some of the jobs around the fire hall. Mr. Lunceford volunteered to organize and recruit people.

J. Foster motioned to let Mr. Lunceford form a team to see how many citizens will be willing to volunteer. D. Olmsted seconded the motion. Four yes votes, motion carried. C. Merchant thinks that a recruiting campaign should target the older and younger people at public events.

Charlie Merchants will work with Mr. Lunceford preparing recruiting poster for Firefighters, First Responders and Auxiliary team members to be displayed at the Huron Beach Civic Associations Garage Sale, July 9, 2011. It was suggested that a "Meet and Greet" event be held at the Fire Hall for all property owners, both year round and seasonal owners.

The Board members will meet with the Department members, August 3, 2011 to discuss the recruiting process. J. Counterman made a motion that if we need to have a special board meeting with the volunteers, we should also volunteer our time. J. Foster seconded the motion. Four yes votes, the motion carried.

Public Comment:

Pam Schaedig reported that she had checked with the Insurance Company, the Fire Department members are covered by the Ocqueoc/Bearinger insurance policy when working at the Hall.

Pat Augustine presented a large box of offices supplies that Joan Scheel has donated to the department.

C. Merchant reported that Duracell Battery Co. has donated approximately \$50.00 to \$100.00 worth of batteries to the department.

B. Rossetto will send thank you letters to Joan Scheel and Duracell.

K. Pehovic thinks we should have dealers input for future equipment purchases.

G. Lunceford asked the Chief about the K-12 saw being purchased. Chief Yaklin explained that the K-12 saw is for structures. Saw for cars are different and now with the electric cars another type of saw will be needed.

Pat Augustine reported that the inventory list is still being worked on, but the member roster and certifications that G. Phelps had requested is complete and can be viewed at the Hall.

First Responders Coordinator candidates:

Sid Merchant, Anna Beach and Stephanie Merchant have submitted letters requesting to be appointed as First Responders Coordinator. Each candidate talked briefly about their qualifications and reasons to be appointed to the position.

Dan Olmsted announced that the Board will hold an executive meeting at the end of this meeting to appoint a First Responders Coordinator.

Pam Schaedig requested approval to submit the financial books to the auditor for year ended March 31, 2011. D. Olmsted informed the Board that only one Accounting Firm, J.W. Kieliszewski, CPA, had submitted a bid for the audit. B. Rossetto made a motion that the books be given to the auditor that submitted the bid, J. Foster seconded the motion. Four yes votes, the motion carried.

Pam Schaedig has paper work regarding the First Responders Coordinators License that must be signed by the First Responders Coordinator; this license must be renewed each year at the end of September.

Treasurer report – B. Rossetto presented the financial report and payable bills to the Board. She explained that April payments from each Township have been deposited in a saving account until needed. Bev stated there is only one saving account, within this account there are three sub funds (General Account Fund, Huron Beach Civic Association Fund and Emergency Off Road Vehicle Fund). Beginning Checking Balance April 1, 2011 was \$52,700.90, total disbursements \$8,236.34, leaving a checking account balance of \$44, 464.56.

Beginning Saving Account balance \$1,470.23 (HBCA fund), deposits General fund \$26,581.32, Emergency Off Road Vehicle Fund \$1,070.00. Total Saving account \$27,661.32.

Total of all funds \$73,596.11. She explained that the financial report does not balance with the bank statement or budget report; she may have transposed a number. She will work on this problem and give an updated report at the next meeting. D. Olmsted made a motion to accept the financial report and payment of bills, J. Counterman seconded the motion. Four yes votes, motion carried.

B. Rossetto reported that she and Mrs. Pilaczynski had sent out thirty-two thank you notes for the memorial donations in memory of their husbands, the donations are designated for the purchase of the EORV. Bev said that any future donation to the Fire Department should be sent notes of appreciation and she is requesting that the Fire Board cover the cost of postage. J. Counterman made a motion that future thank you notes postage be paid for by the Fire Board Fund, J. Foster seconded the motion. Four yes votes, motion carried.

B. Rossetto reported that she and seven other Ocqueoc and Bearinger Township property owners (Doris & Larry Hall, Stephanie Merchant, Chuck Hilger, Larry Beach, Pat Augustine and Gene Hoban) had attended and completed the training classes for the Community Emergency Response Team (C.E.R.T.).

Dan Olmsted excused the property owners and Fire Department personnel from the meeting and called the Fire Board Executive Meeting to order to fill the position of First Responder Coordinator. D. Olmsted asked Chief Yaklin to join the Fire Board for this meeting. After a review of the three letters and a lengthy discussion of each applicant requesting the position, Chief Yaklin stated that all three were qualified and were capable of filling the position. Jerry Counterman made a motion that Anna Beach be appointed as the First Responder Coordinator, Jeff Foster seconded the motion. B. Rossetto motioned that the coordinator be appointed on a six month probation period, D. Olmsted seconded the motion. Roll call vote: J. Counterman – yes, J. Foster – yes, D. Olmsted – yes and B. Rossetto – yes. Motion carried. Anna Beach will be appointed the First Responders Coordinator with a probation period ending, December 2011.

Motion made by D. Olmsted and seconded by J. Foster that this meeting be adjourned. Four yes votes, meeting adjourned at 9:35 pm.

Next regular Fire Board meeting to be held, October 6, 2011.

Minutes taken and respectfully submitted by,
Beverly Rossetto, Fire Board Treasurer