

BOARD OF FIRE ENGINEERS
MONTHLY MEETING
2/10/15 @ 4:00PM

Present: Chief Peter Shemeth, Senior Captain Charlie Smith, Retired Deputy Chief Larry Thomas, EMS Rep Kara Shemeth, Assistant Chief Andrew Kelly, Retired Capt. Richard Kelly, Captain Geoff Freeman and Anita Billings.

Meeting commenced at 4:00pm

Review and approved minutes from January meeting
Review budget balances

Last month there was discussion about the whole Board having to sign off on the bills.

- ***A motion was made that two (2) Chiefs should sign off on all bills and payroll. Motion was seconded and approved by all members present.***

Old Business:

Budget:

- Chief Shemeth met with FinCom about articles for special town meeting. We have two articles: 1 for \$12,995.64 for Paramedic Klimek's injury pay reimbursement and 1 for \$5,000 for deductible reimbursement for damaged stretcher.
- The Chief also discussed replacement of the furnace. Initial estimate was for \$75,000. After further discussion on the best system to use, the Chief got a quote from Alan Fortes to replace the boiler for \$19,000. We will need another \$1,000 for wiring. Although FinCom is low on funding, they agreed to the \$20,000.
- We still have to get 3 verbal or written estimates and once approved, we will move forward immediately.

Personnel:

- Capt. Robert Brown had turned in a letter of resignation back in October and then retracted it. After speaking with Dr. Zack, the Chief spoke with Capt. Brown this past weekend and he has again decided to retire from the department. ***A motion was made to accept Capt. Brown's retirement. Motion was seconded and approved by all members present.***
- A question was asked as to whether the Chief will be using his personal vehicle or a town vehicle once he goes full time. Chief Shemeth has spoken to Chief Bettencourt and they have a vehicle which can be turned over for the Chief's use. The money the Chief receives for mileage reimbursement can be put back into the regular budget.
- Medical exams – several members did not get physicals. Once we get the updated list, Dr. Zack is willing to do them in his office. He said nobody failed, but there were a few people that he is going to follow up on. Chief Shemeth asked if they should be done every year or every 2 years. Dr. Zack felt it was more beneficial to the younger guys on the department where he could influence good choices regarding alcohol; exercise etc. to continue the physicals every year. A question was asked about having the EMT's get physicals. Chief Shemeth said it might be best to bring that up at a squad meeting to see how everyone feels.
- Storm Coverage – we had extra personnel on here at the station and did have several calls. Thanks to the Highway Dept. for driving in front of the ambulance on a couple calls.

Training:

- First Responder Course – we did not have as good a showing as hoped. We will probably have to offer it again in the spring for those who didn't make it. If we have enough in the budget, we should be able to pay the firefighters who took the class as well as the instructors.
- We need to put our heads together and figure out a way to motivate the guys on Chappy. Asst. Chief Kelly suggested bringing a truck over and doing training on it. We need to determine what their capabilities are so we know what training needs to be done.
- A question was asked about the Marine Response Unit and if we are training people on it. 4 or 5 members went out and trained on it, and there seems to be enthusiasm about it. Deputy Chief Schaeffer doesn't think anything will change with the Unit when Chief Bettencourt retires.

Retired Capt. Kelly has been hearing talk about replacing the chairs in the meeting room. If we get new chairs that fit under table in the office, then perhaps we could move those chairs to meeting room. We will see what we have for funding near the end of year.

Meeting adjourned 4:45pm

