

SOUTH KALAMAZOO COUNTY

FIRE AUTHORITY

Minutes of Regular Meeting Held September 21, 2016

The regular meeting of the South Kalamazoo County Fire Authority Board was held at 11318 N. Boulevard, Vicksburg, Michigan on September 21, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Randy Smith at 7:00 pm.

The following members of the Authority Board were present for all or part of the meeting: Bill Adams, Todd Carlin, Jason Gatlin, Randy Smith, and Mike Tomlinson. Absent: Don Ulsh.

Guests in attendance for all or part of the meeting: Chief Tracy McMillan, Administrator Tracy Locey.

Approval of the Agenda

Tomlinson moved, seconded by Adams to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Approval of Consent Agenda

Smith inquired on the SCEMS report regarding dispatching errors. The caller was the cause for wrong address dispatch. Carlin stated he was frustrated that information regarding the advisory panel was not included in the packet last month. It was noted there wasn't anything to insert into the packet. Adams moved, seconded by Smith to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Motion carried 5-0.**

List of Bills

The list of bills was presented. The invoice for Emergency Vehicle Products was for the regular preventative maintenance of two vehicles and the related repairs. Tomlinson moved, seconded by Gatlin to approve the list of bills as presented. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Communications – None.

Citizen's Time

Ron Ferrucci – Ferrucci stated he is frustrated with the articles he is reading the newspaper and they indicated the HR Panel is running the fire department; yet the Chief is still running operations. He is not hearing good things about the management of the department. Ferrucci welcomes Rick Nason to help create distance between the board and staff. Board should only concern its self with the budget. Firefighters are here to serve the public and would like appreciation.

Smith responded the HR Committee is working with Chief McMillan as he continues to oversee the day to day operations.

Denny Olsen - Olsen stated he is running for office because he doesn't like the actions of the board. He defends the Chief and welcomes Rick Nason.

Alicia Crandall – Crandall welcomed Rick Nason. She stated the board doesn't understand the sacrifices the firefighters and their families make to serve the community. There is animosity with the staff members. She feels the board doesn't listen and promote a positive look to the community.

Regular Reports

Chief's Report

Chief McMillan reviewed the written report. The following points were highlighted:

- The Firehouse software is up and running. After 30 days a group will meet to recommend minor tweaks to the program.
- The Confined Space policy is being reviewed.
- Active 911 continues to benefit the department. McMillan is working with Vicksburg Police Department and South County EMS to assist them in setting up their accounts.
- McMillan presented a Retention & Recruitment Plan. He would like the board to consider.
- The Chief's Association is exploring a countywide grant for radio equipment to augment the new consolidated dispatch center.

Administrator's Report

The accounts for Mercantile Bank are being set up. Following the meeting, signatures will be obtained from the board officers.

Smith moved, seconded by Gatlin to approve the following budget amendments. **Motion carried 5-0:**

- 336340 Vehicle Repairs \$6,500
- General Fund \$(6,500)
 - To cover costs of Engine 3 repair.
- 336850 Communications \$9,500
- General Fund \$(9,500)
 - To cover costs with setup of FireHouse Software

Committee Reports

Apparatus Committee – None.

Human Resources

Proposed Fire Commissioner Position – The Panel drafted a Fire Commissioner job description and provided it to the HR Committee. The HR Committee approved the job description and presented it for Board adoption. The position is non-paid and advisory in nature. Adams moved, seconded by Smith to adopt the Fire Commissioner job description as presented. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Adams moved, seconded by Smith to appoint Rick Nason as the Fire Commissioner. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Planning Committee – None.

New Business

Appointment of Gatlin to HR Committee – Smith moved, seconded by Adams to appoint Jason Gatlin to the HR Committee to fill the open position created by Deming's resignation. **Motion carried 5-0.**

Old Business

MABAS Update – Tabled.

Members Time

Smith stated the Consolidated 911 Dispatch is researching sites to install a line of site radio tower. The addition of this tower will greatly increase communication reliability. The Kalamazoo County Commissioners will be considering the plan and may propose the surcharge ballot question to be considered in May by the electors.

Gatlin would like the Chief to assess the doors at the stations and present quotes.

Carlin stated he supports keeping Chief McMillan in the chief's position.

Nason stated his goal is to create the vision for the department to succeed.

McMillan stated he supports the action of creating the HR Panel and Fire Commissioner position and thanked those that have stepped up to help.

Adams stated the goal is to create a team the community and staff can be proud to call its own.

With there being no further business, Smith adjourned the meeting at 7:44m.

Todd Carlin, Secretary

Recorded and typed by Tracy Locey.