

Blendon Township
Emergency Services Board Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2020

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 9:00 am by Chairman Glenn Overweg.

2. **Roll Call: PRESENT:** Glenn Overweg, Chairman
Dave Postma
Stan Taylor
Greg Golembiewski, Board Liaison

Also Attending:

- a. Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief
- b. Sean Miller, Station 1 Captain

3. **Motion to approve the agenda** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Stan Taylor.
Motion Carried

4. **Fire Department Budget YTD – Chief Gernaat**

- a. Review of the 2019-2020 budget and expenditures
- b. Presentation of the 2020-2021 proposed budget:
 - Compared proposed budget to the current budget year.
 - Discussion was had by the board on the following items:
 - Station upgrades
 - Equipment needs
 - Gear needs
 - Captain Miller presented the need for a new obstacle course to be used at public events. He described the challenges with the current course and the advantages of a new course.
 - The cost would be shared – split with the Fire Fighters Association
 - The Fire Fighters Association has already approved the expenditure.
 - **Motion to approve the budget with the presented changes** was made by Stan Taylor, support by Dave Postma.

Motion Carried

5. **Fire Chief's Report**

- As submitted
- Discussion had on the different call types on the call report.

6. **Opportunity for Public Comment:**

- None

7. **Old Business:**

a. **Tanker Specs:**

- Officers staff feels that the spec is nailed down
- Visual spec is being drawn up
- Chief Gernaat presented the details of the spec
 - There will be a significant discount if the truck is paid for at the time of ordering.

- **Motion to move forward and send the spec for the fire truck out for bids** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Dave Postma.

b. **Millage Renewal:**

- Funds the operating costs
- Current millage expires December 2021
 - Currently 8 years at 1.8 mils
- Looking to renew at the current term and rate
- Discussion was had by the board on when was the best time to put the millage renewal on the ballot:
 - Spring 2021 with the school election
 - With a general election
 - Board felt that a spring ballot placement would be most beneficial because it would coincide with the pancake breakfast where the millage renewal would be able to be promoted.

8. **New Business:**

a. **Tentcraft Tent:**

- Discussed earlier under the budget discussion
- **Motion to approve the purchase of the Tentcraft Tent** was made by Dave Postma, support by Greg Golembiewski.

Motion Carried

b. **Gear Order:**

- Chief Gernaat asking to purchase 10 new sets of gear.
 - (5) sets in the 2019-20 budget year
 - (5) sets in the 2020-21 budget year
- Purchasing through Phoenix Fire
 - Phoenix will fix and repair the turnout gear.
- **Motion to approve the purchase of the (10) sets of new gear** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Stan Taylor.

Motion Carried

c. **Fan:**

- **Motion to approve the purchase of the fan discussed at an earlier meeting** was made by Dave Postma, support by Stan Taylor.

Motion Carried

d. **AED:**

- **Motion to approve the purchase of the new AED gear** was made by Stan Taylor, support by Dave Postma.

Motion Carried

e. **Liesel DeJong:**

- Firefighter applicant
- Currently married to firefighter, Jordan DeJong
- Fully trained
- Officers currently working on a nepotism policy
- Board did not have any issues with a husband-wife being in the same department.
- **Motion to hire Liesel DeJong** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Stan Taylor.

Motion Carried

f. **New Safety Services Member:**

- Looking for a quality person
 - History and fire department background important
- Board felt it was important not to be in a rush.
- Board felt it was important to consult the Officer Staff more often for their input.

g. **Pay Increase:**

- Chief Gernaat proposed a 6% pay increase for the firefighter staff.
- Already figured into the 2020-21 budget
- It has been many years since they have received any type of increase
- Would like to work on giving cost of living increases in regular reviews.
- ***Motion to approve the 6% pay increase for the firefighter staff was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Stan Taylor.***

Motion Carried

h. **Knoxbox:**

- Discussion had during the budget portion of the meeting
- ***Motion to approve the purchase of Knoxbox was made by Dave Postma, support by Stan Taylor.***

Motion Carried

9. Round Table Discussion:

- Discussion on where the funds were coming from for the purchase of the new tanker truck.
 - \$295,000 currently in savings
 - \$225,000 will be rolled into the fire equipment fund from the operating fund at the end of the fiscal year.
- Board offered its thanks and praise to both Fire Chief Kurt Gernaat and Captain Sean Miller for their hard work and support.

10. Correspondence:

- a. None

11. Next Scheduled Meeting:

- a. None at this time

12. *Motion to adjourn at 10:58 am was made by Dave Postma, support by Stan Taylor.*

Motion Carried

Recorded by Tina Vander Schuur
Submitted by Glenn Overweg, Chairman