

Blendon Township  
Emergency Services Board Meeting Minutes  
September 30, 2021

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 10:00 am by Chairman Glenn Overweg.
2. **Roll Call: PRESENT:** Glenn Overweg, Chairman  
Dave Postma  
Greg Golembiewski, Board Liaison
3. **Also Attending:**
  - a. Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief
4. **Motion to approve the agenda** was made by Greg Golembiewski, support by Dave Postma.  
Motion Carried
5. **Meeting Minutes from September 14, 2020**
  - Since it has been one year since the last meeting the Board approved the minutes as 'received for information'.
  - No motion was given
6. **New Business:**
  - a. **New Fire Truck:**
    - Chief Gernaat expressed overall satisfaction with the new truck.
    - There were a few minor items, but they have all been remedied.
    - All the lettering is done.
    - The following items still need to take place:
      - Waiting on fittings
      - Hoses have been shipped
      - Training and Driving instruction
    - The new pumper-tanker should be in service within the next few weeks.
  - b. **Review of the YTD Budget**
    - Overall, expenditures currently on track as budgeted
      - Fuel is running a bit high
      - Vehicle Repairs appear high for the following reason:
        - All the DOT inspections have already been done.
  - c. **Personnel:**
    - Discussion on current pay rates and potential changes
      - Increase the training wage
      - Go to a single wage
      - Funds from Cares Act
    - Station Personnel
      - Station 1, Tyler Street, staff is currently full
      - Station 2, Borculo, could use four more fire fighters
        - Difficulties finding volunteers for the following reasons:
          - ✓ The proximity to Olive Township Fire Department
          - ✓ Volunteering, overall, is down with the current generation compared to generations of the past.

d. **Millage Renewal Discussion:**

- Current Millage is expiring
- Discussion on items needed
  - A new fire truck will be needed for Station 2 within the next 5 years.
    - Will need to be ordered within 3 years
- Newsletter
  - Is the time and money worth sending a newsletter out for the millage.
  - Township is looking at avenues of mass distribution for less cost than US Mail.
  - Discussed again in the future
- ***Motion to recommend to the township board the renewal of the fire department millage of 1.8 mils for 8 years to be placed on the ballot with the school elections was made by Glenn Overweg, support by Dave Postma.***

Motion Carried

7. **Old Business:**

- None

8. **Opportunity for Public Comment:**

- None

9. **Round Table Discussion:**

- Postma – Thanked Kurt and the Fire Department for their hard work and stated that he feels that the ESS is a necessary board.
- Golembiewski – Congratulated the Chief on the new fire truck and recommended that they take the prepaid option on the next truck to save some money.
- Chief Gernaat – Thanked the Board for their support for the new truck and their continued support of him and the department.

10. **Correspondence:**

- a. None

11. **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

- a. Early December
  - Date to be determined

12. ***Motion to adjourn at 11:21 am was made by Dave Postma, support by Glenn Overweg.***

Motion Carried

Recorded by Tina Vander Schuur  
Submitted by Glenn Overweg, Chairman