

Blendon Township
Emergency Services Board Meeting Minutes
November 8, 2023

1. **The meeting was called to order** at 3:00 pm by Dave Postma, Vice Chair.
2. **Roll Call:** Present:
 - Dave Postma
 - Nick Englesma
 - Trisha Henderson, Board LiasonAbsent with Notice:
 - Paul Blaukamp
 - Glenn Overweg, Chairman
3. **Also Attending:**
 - a. Kurt Gernaat, Fire Chief
 - b. Sean Miller, Deputy Chief
 - c. Greg Golembiewski, Manager
4. **Motion to approve the agenda** was made by Trisha, support by Nick. Motion carried.
5. **Motion to approve the minutes** of the July 11, 2023 Emergency Safety Services Meeting was made by Nick, support by Trisha. Motion carried.
6. **Old Business**
 - a. None.
7. **New Business**
 - a. **October 12, 2023 incident at the fire station update**
 - Chief Gernaat outlined the event that took place and what damages was sustained to the fire building and equipment. Working with the insurance company to finish the claim, but is on track for completion.
 - b. **Front garage door replacement**
 - Due to the damage of one garage door, Chief Gernaat requested funds to replace the other two garage doors for a consistent look. The Board had a discussion about whether funds are available and if the request is necessary.
Motion made by Dave, support by Trisha to approve the purchase of 2 overhead garage doors for the front of the fire station. Motion carried.
 - c. **Firefighter benefits**
 - Township Manager Golembiewski gave an update on the additional 24/7 insurance and higher life insurance benefit the Township is pursuing to offer to firefighters. This will be included in and brought to the Township Board for the 2024 budget process.
 - d. **Training**
 - Deputy Chief Miller gave an update on trainings. Trainings are on track and are covering more topics per the new training requirements. The December trainings will include firefighter reviews and CPR.
 - e. **Budget review**
 - Township Manager Golembiewski highlighted the current budget status and discussed any amendments. Budget is on track for the remainder of this budget year even with the additional cost for the garage doors.
 - f. **Status of 2122 replacement**
 - The new Toyne fire truck has been ordered and Chief Gernaat has met with the manufacturer a few times to go over certain specs and modifications. The order is on track for completion.

g. Staffing report

- Chief Gernaat updated the board on firefighter positions. Tyler Street Station has adequate staffing and are interviewing two new potential firefighters for that station. Borculo Station is short a few firefighters, so continuing to look for people for that station or may move some from the Tyler Street station to fill in.

8. Opportunity for Public Comment

- a. None

9. Round Table Discussion

a. Capital Improvement Plan

- Both Chief Gernaat and Township Manager Golembiewski shared with the board that the Township Board has been presented with a Capital Improvement Plan draft. Included in the draft are remodels and potential additions to the fire stations. Discussion occurred about what the changes and remodels to the stations could entail. EMS board will wait for the Township Board to approve the Capital Improvement Plan.

10. Correspondence

a. Township Newsletter

- The Township will be sending out a bi-annual newsletter with tax bills. Chief asked for ideas for what to include from the EMS board. Postma suggested a count for fire calls, medicals, and other calls. Deputy Chief Miller suggested a reminder to residents about having address numbers on mailboxes and making sure driveways are cleared overhead in order to access structures.

11. Next Scheduled Meeting

- a. January 10, 2024

12. Motion to adjourn was made by Trisha, support by Dave. Meeting adjourned at 4:23 pm.

Submitted by Trisha Henderson, Board Liaison
Recorded by Trisha Henderson, Secretary