

MECOSTA AUSTIN FIRE BOARD MEETING

MARCH 16, 2016

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.**

- II. Roll Call: John Boyd, Michele Graham, Susan Sikkema, Elizabeth G Carr, John Brockway, and Greg Babbitt.**

- III. Addition to the Agenda: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Greg Babbitt to add Turn-Out Gear to #9 New Business. Motion carried.**

- IV. Minutes: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Greg Babbitt to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.**

- V. Treasurer's Report: The Fire Department has spent 97.91% of their budget for a total of \$1,481.75 left in their account for FY 2015-2016. The First Responders have spent 51.31% of their budget for a total of \$17,406.58 left in their account for FY 2015-2016. Moved by Greg Babbitt, supported by Michele Graham to accept the Treasurer's Report as given subject to audit.**

- VI. Approval of the Bills: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Greg Babbitt to pay the Fire Department bills of \$14,547.57 and the First Responder bills of \$2,057.51 for a total of \$16,605.08.**

John Brockway-yes

Gregg Babbitt-yes

Elizabeth G Carr-yes

Susan Sikkema-yes

Michele Graham-yes

John Boyd-yes

- VII. Public Comment: Ken Lind-Insurance-Everything remains the same with the insurance. Next year we will need to redo the value of the trucks due to depreciation. The insurance payment increased by \$28.00 this year.**

VIII. Old Business:

- 1. Joint Township Meeting: The Townships agreed to the purchase and installation of a washer and two dryers for the turn-out gear if the total bill is under \$20,000.00. Ron Palmer, Fire Chief, continues to get estimates. Currently he is trying to work out a deal for the sale of the old generator and**

the purchase and installation of a new natural gas generator with slab for no more than \$9,000.00. The washer is right around \$9,000.00 and the two dryers would be around a \$1,000.00. Russ Eckhart has offered to frame the wall at cost, which would be around \$350.00. The Budget for the new year remains at \$60,000.00. Ron has been checking into replacement value on some of the trucks. Unfortunately, the depreciation rate is very high. He will continue to research the values.

IX. New Business:

- 1. Amending Budget: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Greg Babbitt to move 200-000-955 Fire Fund to 208-334-989 Contingency and to allow the Fire Board Treasurer to adjust the budget line items to keep the budget balanced and to present the line item adjustment changes at each Fire Board Meeting for approval.**

Gregg Babbitt-yes	John Brockway-yes
Elizabeth G Carr-yes	Susan Sikkema-yes
Michele Graham-yes	John Boyd-yes

- 2. 2016-2017 Budget: Moved by Greg Babbitt, supported by John Brockway to accept the Fire Department Budget of \$60,000.00 and the First Responder Budget of \$30,000.00. Motion carried.**

Moved by John Boyd, supported by Greg Babbitt to make the Fire Board Meetings the third Wednesday of the alternate months starting with January, and to make the Budget Meeting the last Wednesday of March hereafter instead of the third Wednesday. Motion carried.

Fire Department:

208-000-702 Wages	16,500.00
208-000-715 Clerical	800.00
208-000-725 Medicare Match	3,000.00
208-000-726 Soc Sec Match	2,000.00
208-000-727 Office Supplies	500.00
208-000-728 Shipping & Freight	100.00
208-000-731 Truck Repair	3,000.00
208-000-734 Fuel	2,000.00
208-000-735 Firefighter’s Expense	1,000.00
208-000-807 Audit	1,000.00
208-000-810 Training	900.00
208-000-818 Contracted Services	1,400.00
208-000-910 Insurance	14,500.00
208-000-920 Utilities	3,500.00
208-000-930 Equipment Repair	3,000.00
208-000-940 Hall Expense	1,500.00

208-000-950 PR and Prom	200.00
208-000-955 Firemen Fund Expenses	000.00
208-000-981 New Equipment	2,000.00
208-000-989 Contingency	3,100.00

First Responders:

206-334-702 Wages	6,500.00
206-334-706 MI W/holding	100.00
206-334-715 Clerical	000.00
206-334-725 Medicare Match	100.00
206-334-726 Social Sec Match	100.00
206-334-727 Office Supplies	300.00
206-334-728 Postage & Freight	75.00
206-334-729 Medical Restocking	2,000.00
206-334-731 Truck Repair	400.00
206-334-734 Fuel	1,000.00
206-334-807 Audit	500.00
206-334-810 Training	1,500.00
206-334-818 Contracted Services	175.00
206-334-930 Equipment Repair	500.00
206-334-940 Hall Repair	150.00
206-334-950 Pr & Prom	100.00
206-334-955 Firemen Fund Exp	100.00
206-334-981 New Equipment	9,000.00
206-334-989 Contingency	6,400.00

3. **Garage Doors: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by John Brockway to approve \$600.00 for adjustments, lube, and maintenance of the garage doors by Holton Garage Doors.**

Greg Babbitt-yes	John Brockway-yes
Elizabeth G Carr-yes	Susan Sikkema-yes
Michele Graham-yes	John Boyd-yes

4. **Fire Chief's Report: Russ Eckert can do the sidewalk for \$3,200.00.**

5. **Safety and Training Report: We did Water Rescue Training at the Buffalo Park pond and also Grass Rig Pump Training. On Saturday we did six hours of training with Big Prairie, Croton, and Big Rapids Townships with a burned house on 16th and Cypress. We provided water**

for the event. It was valuable training for our firefighters with heat, hose, pump, and tender training, especially for our newer firefighters. Goodwell/Big Rapids want our help with their ISO test. We would provide Tender and water source. There will be no test pole for signal for the 800 MHz radios. The county has abandoned the project. There continues to be a radio template problem with the radios. Currently we are unable to communicate with Montcalm or Newaygo Counties until this issue is fixed. The County is preparing to write a matching grant for the Fire Programs. The match would be shared among all the departments.

6. Maintenance Report: Everything is currently working.

7. MFR Report: There were a total of 45 + tonight's run for the year. Run reimbursement was \$26.11 for this quarter. The Townships need to put pressure on the County to designate more funds for Rescue. Kyle Vredenburg and Natacsha Warrington are in MFR training. Active 911 allows us to notify dispatch once all our members have responded that they are not available.

X. Public Comment: Ken Lind-Insurance suggested that we consider a \$25,000.00 Bond on the Treasurer. We will discuss it further at our next meeting.

XI. Announcement: Jack Benson has retired from the Fire Department. Retirement party plans will be announced later.

XII. Adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Mecosta Austin Fire Board Secretary