

## MECOSTA AUSTIN FIRE BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.
- II. Roll Call: John Boyd, Michele Graham, Elizabeth G Carr, Susan Sikkema, and John Brockway. Greg Babbitt was absent.
- III. Additions to the Agenda: Add Insurance Billing as #5 under New Business
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Michele Graham to approve the Agenda with addition. Motion carried.
- V. Approval of the Minutes: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by John Brockway to approve the minutes as given. Motion carried.
- VI. Treasurer's Report: Accepted as given subject to audit.
- VII. Approval of the Bills: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Elizabeth G Carr, to approve for payment Fire Department bills totaling \$6,050.93 and First Responder bills totaling \$1,583.64. Susan Sikkema-yes, Michele Graham-yes, John Brockway-yes, Elizabeth G Carr-yes, and John Boyd-yes.
- VIII. Public Comment: None
- IX. Old Business:
  1. Radios: Have received radios and they are working fine.
- X. New Business:
  1. Fire Chief's Report: They were routine calls this month: one assist, a down power line, a controlled burn, etc. The Narcan has been installed. There are a lot of check points that have to be met before we are allowed to use it. Some of these check points are time and distance before an ambulance get there. We are very centrally located in proximity to ambulance stations so they would administer the drug when they arrived. Our neighboring counties are all on the 800MHZ band radios, so we will be able to communicate with them if called for mutual aid. We have two new firefighters: Rachel Peacock and Bill Harris. The annual Fire Program Software renewal is \$600.00. We would like to add the Rescue Module to it. The total cost would be \$1,380.00. We would receive a credit for the \$600.00 the Fire Department has already paid. Rescue would pay for their half of the \$1,380.00. There would be a small amount of approximately \$90.00 for the Fire Department to pay. The Fire

Program has its own secure servers. All information would be stored and backed up on their servers providing additional security in case of our system crashing or meeting with some other extraordinary event that would compromise our information. The program would be accessible from anywhere through a mobile device allowing information to be recorded on scene. Individual log-ins are required through pass codes. This provides an additional level of security should there ever be a need for an investigation. The eventual goal is to purchase two iPads and have them mounted in the trucks, one for Fire and one for Rescue similarly as the police officers do to allow critical information to be uploaded immediately. MFR will be receiving an extra \$450.00-500.00 from a tax overage through the county. They would like to use this reimbursement toward the purchase of their iPad. They would plan for the purchase of the iPad for the Fire Department out of next year's budget. Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Elizabeth G Carr for the First Responders to spend up to \$1,700.00 for the Rescue Module and the purchase of an iPad. Susan Sikkema-yes, Michele Graham-yes, John Brockway-yes, Elizabeth G Carr-yes, and John Boyd-yes. The price on air packs has gone way up. We may have to stagger the purchase. Will have prices for the January meetings. We have two years left before they expire.

2. **Safety and Training:** Great Lakes Energy came and did a demonstration. Pump training is completed. Three people were unable to make the Wednesday night training but they will be making the training up on Sunday and will be paid for their make-up session. We are considering beginning training on a new firefighting program called "Slices". The Slices program teaches how to control the flow path of the fire. This enhances firefighter safety while fighting the fire.
3. **Maintenance:** There was an exhaust leak on the Tender. It was taken to Denny's Muffler shop. They welded it and did not charge us anything. The Mecosta Austin Fire Department greatly appreciates their generosity. A Thank You card has been sent. A toggle switch on the emergency lights was fixed.
4. **MFR Report:** There were 35 total runs. Run reimbursement will be \$1,072.67. This comes out to \$26.16 per run. The County is considering a millage and would like the Townships and Departments to support it, however they are unwilling to commit to how much would be designated to the Rescue departments. For this reason the First Responders would like to suggest caution until they get a commitment from the County.
5. **Insurance Billing:** The Fire Department and First Responders will be billed around March 20<sup>th</sup> with the invoice to be paid the first week of April in the new fiscal year. The Accident Fund insurance was split between the Fire Department-\$2,724.00 and the First Responders-\$551.00.
6. **FYI:** The Christmas Banquet will be December 8, 2015 at 7 p.m. Next year the banquet will try to be scheduled the first or third week to try to avoid this conflict with the Township Board Meetings.

**Adjournment at 9:10 p.m.**

**Elizabeth G Carr**

**Mecosta Austin Board Secretary**

