

MECOSTA AUSTIN FIRE BOARD MEETING

May 17, 2017

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. Pledge to the Flag.
- III. Roll Call: John Boyd, Michele Graham, Elizabeth G Carr, and Lori Quinlan. John Brockway and Greg Babbitt were absent.
- IV. Approval of the Agenda: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Mary Quinlan to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- V. Minutes: Moved by Mary Quinlan, supported by Michele Graham to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
- VI. Treasurer's Report: The Fire Department has a balance of \$71,975.23 and the First Responders have a balance of \$10,824.41. Report accepted subject to audit.
- VII. Approval of Bills: Moved by Michele Graham, supported by Elizabeth G Carr to pay the bills totaling \$9,926.68 for the Fire Department and \$1,842.84 for the First Responders.
Elizabeth G Carr-yes Mary Quinlan-yes
Michele Graham-yes John Boyd-yes
- VIII. New Business:
 1. Fire Chief's Report: There were 14 incidents which included vehicle, grass, woodlands, and a structure fire, plus the personal injury accident yesterday. It is not on the report yet. We were able to order the turn-out boots at a discount. We got four boots for the price we paid for three in the past. The cost was \$285.00. We have received the boots and have already used them. We are very pleased with how they have functioned. The Fire Department has hire a new Firefighter and First Responder, Jeff Harvell. He came to us fully trained. The turn-out gear washer has been installed and plumbed, and the electric has been run for it and the dryers when they arrive. The invoice for the electric was \$336.22. We are just waiting for the washing machine to be programmed for the weight of our gear. That should happen next week. We were able to get the dryers locally from West Shore. They will be delivered by West Shore. The new drop cords are installed.
 2. Training: Emergency Pipeline training was completed. We will be doing High Ropes training from July 17th-21st. The new tanker was used in a forest fire and performed excellently. Because of the training, the next Fire Board Meeting will be moved to July 13th at 7 pm at the Fire Hall on 8 Mile Road.
 3. Maintenance: Grass Rig #2 is out of service. It needs a new transmission. The DNR did find several new transmissions that were boxed up. The paperwork for us to receive one of them is slowly making its way through the proper channels at the DNR. Grass Rig #1 needed battery repair and a new alternator. We borrowed the alternator from Grass Rig #2 for right now. Tender #2 is having light issues and a burned-out switch. It also needs new batteries. The cost will be around \$400.00.
 4. MFR Report: There were 26 runs since the last meeting with 6 in the last 2 days. We are waiting to see if the Career Center is going to conduct another MFR class this summer.
 5. Lighting: New lights are needed in the bay area. New contractor strips are \$84.00. We will see if Consumers Power has a grant program to help change to LED lights throughout the building. Ron will price new LED lights for the fluorescent lights.

- IX. Public Comment: Elizabeth G Carr, Austin Township Board Member. Austin Township conducted its own salary review and, although the newly raised salaries of the Fire Chief, Asst Chief, and Captains, are within current ranges, we feel that the wages should have been raised in a step-up process to make sure that we can keep within the budget. Austin Township is not in favor of raising the budget. There is extra money in the budget this year. If there isn't any money to roll over at the end of this fiscal year, the budget will be really tight next year when half of the Budget is going to salaries. We do not begrudge our officers fair wages, they are good and hard-working men, but we believe the jump in wages was very high and should have been conducted in a two-step process.
- X. Adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Elizabeth G Carr

Mecosta Austin Fire Board Secretary