

MECOSTA AUSTIN FIRE BOARD MEETING

November 16, 2016

- I. Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.
- II. Pledge to the Flag.
- III. Roll Call: Michele Graham, Elizabeth G Carr, Susan Sikkema, and John Brockway. Absent were: John Boyd and Greg Babbitt.
- IV. Moved by John Brockway, supported by Susan Sikkema to approve the agenda. Motion carried.
- V. Treasurer's Report: The Fire Department had \$6,388.20 in bills. The First Responders had \$4,249.88 in bills. There was \$1,847.33 spent in payroll. The total spent was \$12,485.41. The First Responder account total is \$5,293.30. The Fire Department has \$36,654.97 in the General Fund. There is \$12,291.97 in their Money Market account. The Firemen's Fund has \$1,014.42 (included in the checking account) and \$400.00 in donations (included in the checking account). The total is \$54,240.24.
- VI. Payment of the Bills: Moved by John Brockway, supported by Elizabeth G Carr to pay the Fire Department bills totaling \$4,249.88, First Responder bills totaling \$6,388.20, and Payroll totaling \$1,847.33. Payroll includes the First Responders and the Fire Chief. The total of bills to be paid is \$12,485.41. Susan Sikkema-yes, Elizabeth G Carr-yes, John Brockway-yes, and Michele Graham-yes.
- VII. Minutes: Moved by Susan Sikkema, supported by John Brockway to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.
- VIII. New Business:
 1. Fire Chief's Report: The number of incidents is way down. There were 5, with only 4 being counted. The Fire South tower did not solve the problem with the radios. It was not placed in the same area as the testing. They have decided not to write the 800mhz grant. Eventually 1st Net.gov is coming. It is a program that will patch all the cell phones together for calls and incidents. It is probably about 10 years out. Sweatshirts and polo shirts were purchased with the Fireman's Account Fund. Time Emergency will do the embroidery on them. The new rescue engine is in service. The old truck is in the Mecosta Township garage. Three new radio batteries were purchased at \$100/pc, and two new hand lights. Training for the Dragon Trail will require specific rope. The five miles of trail in Mecosta Township are the most technical parts on the trail. We will bring in an auditor to evaluate exactly what is needed. Ice Mountain is expanding. This will require the moving of a fire hydrant. Tom O'Neil retired effective 11-02-16. He has spent over 50 years as a firefighter. We are grateful for his service!
 2. Safety and Training Report: The hose testing is complete. Pump and drive training on the new truck will be starting. The Department plans on using

the new truck exclusively on the expressway if possible. There have been close calls because of passer-by's not recognizing the Rescue vehicle. They are hoping the bigger truck will be noticed more and provide better protection.

3. **Maintenance:** We are ordering a pressure relief valve rebuild kit for the 2003 GMC pumper.
 4. **MFR Report:** There were 31 runs for this last period. The number continues to climb, but we are still at only 10% of calls as the calls are up everywhere. The county has decided to draw funds against the millage as allowed, but are not allocating any towards Rescue. Funding was held up this summer, but was brought up at the last meeting and a motion was made to include the per run money and county support money in one check.
 5. **Payment of the Bills:** Moved by Susan Sikkema, supported by John Brockway for the Treasurer to be able to pay the bills up to \$500.00 that are approved by the Chief, Assistant Chief, Fire Board Chair, or Fire Board Co-Chair and/or are preapproved by the Fire Board at the Fire Board Meeting. Motion carried.
- IX. **Christmas Party:** The Christmas Party will be held on December 14th at the Corner Café if Mecosta Township can move their monthly board meeting to the 13th. Ron will update the townships.
- X. **Adjourned at 8:07 p.m.**

Elizabeth G Carr

Mecosta Austin Fire Board Secretary