

**Minutes of the Sparta Fire Board Meeting  
April 19, 2018  
Sparta Fire Station**

Present: Bergman (twp-chair), Momber(twp), VanPatten (village), Bradford (twp), Goodfellow (twp) & Whalen (village). The Village has appointed Bob Whalen to fill the vacancy created when Taylor (village) resigned.

Also present: Deputy Chief Olney

Absent: Dougan (village) & Chief Bolen

Bergman called the meeting to order @7:01 pm

**Approval of the Agenda:**

**Motion: Made by VanPatten** to approve the agenda.

**Seconded: Whalen**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

**Public Comment: none**

**Approval of the Minutes:**

**Motion: Made by Van Patten** to approve the March 15, 2018 minutes.

**Seconded: Momber**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

**Approval of the Bills:**

**Motion: Made by Bradford** to approve bills through April 16, 2018

**Seconded: Van Patten**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

**Chief's Report:** The Deputy Chief Olney reported that there have been 82 runs for the period and 278 runs YTD 2018. Several fires (2) brush and (3) mutual aid structure fires with Algoma & Tyrone Twp. and (2) serious auto accidents aid with Tyrone, (3) accidents and (4) down power lines. The Department has (4) new fighters taking their state testing. The Med3 call volume compared to last year is currently 10% less, approximately 33 dispatches.

**Cost Recovery:** Karel Excavating submitted an invoice to the SFD for there assistance requested by SFD on November 4, 2017 for house fire at 9560 Kenowa Ave. The normal process is for the contractor to submit the invoice direct to the insurance company for payment. In this case, the invoice to the insurance company was rejected because all the insurance funds were paid directly to the mortgage company. There was some confusion between the contractor, the insurance company and the SFD as to when the invoice was submitted and when the insurance company received the invoice. The consensus of the board was SFD need to inform any contractor that any invoices need to be submitted to the insurance company ASAP.

**Motion: Made Whalen** to pay Karel Excavating for their work and have the SFD invoice the property owner for the work Karel Excavating had done.

**Seconded: Goodfellow**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

**Add Deputy Chief Olney as representative for check signing.**

The Chief has the approval to sign SFD check but has been off work with an injury and his return date in unknown. The SFD needs another person who can sign the checks.

**Motion: Van Patten** to have Deputy Chief Olney added to the approved list of people who can sign checks.

**Seconded: Whalen**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

**Final Expenditures for 2017-2018 budget:** It was the consensus of the fire board that the SFD Finance Committee review all the expenditures, approve any expenditures including the payroll, have village accounting

provide Revenue and Expenditure reports (2) times monthly and have the village accounting provide the Clearing Fund report monthly. Fund 206 report.

The Finance Committee will give a budget update/status at each fire board meeting.

**Chief's Wages:** Chief Bolen is currently recovering from a very serious fall in the fire station which occurred the first part of March. Due the seriousness of his injuries the Chief has applied for Workers Comp. He's been on Workers Comp since March 10, 2018 with no definite date for return. The maximum amount Workers Comp pays is 80% of average weeks pay. However, Workers Comp reduces the payment by 5% for every year over 65 years old. In this case, after the age deduction, Workers Comp is only paying approximately 31% of his average weekly salary. (Whalen stated this was age discrimination). The board agreed but was not willing to challenge the State of Michigan for their current Workers Comp policy. It was the consensus of the board that the SFD should supplement the Chief salary as he shouldn't be penalized for being hurt on the job. The board reviewed the Chief's contract, his salary, runs and vehicle allowance for a basics weekly salary. The board made the decision that run's and vehicle allowance would be excluded. The difference between his Workers Comp payment and his normal salary excluding run's and vehicle allowance is \$220.08.

**Motion: Made by Van Patten** to approve the payment of \$220.08 per week, starting on March 10, 2018 ending when the Chief returns to duty or at the end of his current contract ending June 30, 2018, provided that the SFD payment will not have any effect on the current Workers Comp payment. (Dan Olney to contact Jim Garrigus at MML)

**Seconded: Momber**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

Attached below is the email for James Garrigus stating that the payments SFD is proposing to make will have no impact on his Workers Comp payments.

**Next Regular Meeting Date:**

May 17, 2018 at 7 pm at the Sparta Fire Station

**Public Comment:** Nancy Bolen updated the board members on the Chief's recovery. Still seeing specialist and the Chief's recovery is moving forward.

**Motion: Made by Van Patten** to adjourn at 8:23 PM

**Seconded: Bradford**

**Motion Passed: 6-0**

Finance meetings: May 1, 2018 & May 15 at 4:00 PM Sparta Township Office

James Garrigus <James.Garrigus@Meadowbrook.com>

Jim

The fire board voted tonight to pay Jerry \$220.08 per week to make his pay whole. The only condition is that will not affect his current workers comp pay. Can you let me know if this will have any change in Jerry's pay

Thanks

Daniel Olney

Dan

This will not affect his workers comp at all.

Jim Garrigus

Claims Adjuster

Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation Fund

800-752-7477 x 4116

James.Garrigus@Meadowbrook.com