

**Minutes of the Sparta Fire Board Meeting
February 21, 2019
Sparta Fire Station**

Present: Bergman (twp-chair), Van Patten (village), Whalen (Village), Fisk (village), Anderson (twp) & Goodfellow (twp)

Also, present: Chief Olney

Bergman called the meeting to order @7:00 pm.

Additions to Agenda: none

Approval of the Agenda:

Motion: Made by Whalen to approve the agenda.

Seconded: VanPatten

Motion Passed: 6-0

Public Comment: none

Approval of the Minutes:

Motion: Made by Van Patten to approve the January 17, 2019 minutes.

Seconded: Whalen

Motion Passed: 6-0

Approval of the bills:

Motion: Made by VanPatten to approve bills through February 19, 2019

Seconded: Whalen

Motion Passed: 6-0

Finance Board Update:

Bergman reviewed with the fire board the finance committee meetings through February 19, 2019. The finance committee meet twice and approved all bills. Any questions the finance committee had, Chief Olney supplied the answers. Through the first 10 1/2 months of the budget year the Operational Budget is being managed very well by the department and is currently at 76.1% expended for the budget year. There were some questions on the higher electric bill for the fire house. Anderson stated that the committee will review the past usage and costs for the fire house. Bergman will get with the village accounting as the finance committee didn't have any of payroll accounts for the month.

Old Business: Station Sign

Olney presented to the board a request to purchase a Fire Station sign in conjunction with the Village sign project. The proposed sign would be 6 ½' tall and 8 ½' long with masonry base & footings with illuminated acrylic fabricated letter sign. The total installed cost for sign would be \$17,427. All electric work associated with the sign would be completed by the fire department employees.

Goodfellow commented that he thought spending \$17,000 for a sign was not a good use of tax payer dollars. He also stated that he would think that village residents might be reluctant to agree that spending over \$100,000 for village signs and would not be best use for tax payer dollars. Bergman stated that the fire department could purchase 5 new sets of turn out gear for the price of one sign. Bergman stated that the township placed new signs for all the cemeteries at a cost of less than \$2000 each. VanPatten agreed that the costs were high for the signs, but village has approved the new signs and having a new sign for the Fire Station would make all the signs in the village the same and the Fire Station sign would be part of a package price. Whalen stated all the existing signs along the highway and the ones coming into town would be replaced as they old and beyond repair. Anderson asked if this is something that needs to be done now or would there be time to review the quote more and get more information on the costs etc. Whalen/VanPatten stated that village already has an agreement and are hoping the construction would start soon.

Olney suggested that the cost of the sign be funded from the operational budget which is currently under running. If the funding is from the operational budget, the invoice for the sign must be paid by March 31, 2019.

Motion: Made by Whalen to purchase new sign not to exceed \$17,427.00

Seconded: VanPatten

Motion Passed: 4-2 Goodfellow & Bergman dissenting.

Chief's Report: Chief Olney presented the Chief Report (see attachments). There were 22 calls in February and 126 calls YTD.

Siegfried Crandall had sent to the Department their annual Audit of Financial Statements for the 2018-2019 fiscal year contract.

Motion: Made by Whalen to have Olney sign the Audit contract with Siegfried Crandall not to exceed \$3700.00

Seconded: Fisk

Motion Passed: 6-0

It was the consensus of the fire board to have Goodfellow and Anderson assist Olney with the annual audit because of last years errors in accruals. In the past the fire board nor the finance board was informed of any audit adjustments being made. The in September of 2018 Fire Board requested the village accounting inform the department when the audit was taking place so a fire finance board member could be present to review any accruals being made.

Annual Report:

Chief Olney presented the Sparta Fire Department Annual Report. (attached)

Olney stated that it was a year of transition with many changes. The biggest obstacle the Chief stated is finding staffing for the department. It's not just a Sparta issue, it's a nationwide issue in finding good people to work on a volunteer fire department. Olney stated he does have (3) potential candidates for the department.

Public Comment: None

Next Regular Meeting Date:

March 21, 2019 at 7 pm at the Sparta Fire Station.

Motion: Made by Van Patten to adjourn at 7:58 PM

Seconded: Fisk

Motion Passed: 6-0

Finance meetings: March 5th & March 19th, 2019 at 4:00 PM Sparta Township Office
Minutes by W. Goodfellow 2-23-19