

Minutes of the Sparta Fire Board Meeting
June 20, 2019
Sparta Fire Station

Members Present: Dale Bergman, Chairman; Chad Fisk; Dave Cumings; Dean Anderson
Members Absent: Betty Van Patten; Bill Goodfellow
Also Present: Dan Olney, Chief

Bergman called the meeting to order at 7pm, and led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Additions to Agenda: Added as 13(a), Withholdings letter from insurance company.

Approval of Agenda: Motion from Cumings to approve the agenda as amended, seconded by Fisk, approved unanimously.

Public comment: None

Approval of the Minutes from May 16, 2019: Motion from Fisk to approve, seconded by Cumings, approved unanimously.

Approval of the bills: Motion to pay bills totaling $\$3,700.03 + \$4,585.80 = \$8,285.83$ made by Anderson, seconded by Fisk, approved unanimously.

Finance Committee Report: Anderson summarized the results of the two June Finance Committee meetings. The \$3,200 audit fee was mistakenly posted to last year's budget, and is being corrected. No known issues requiring follow-up.

Old Business: Olney informed the Board that the financial audit has been completed by Siegfried Crandall PC, but we are still waiting to receive the report.

Chief's Report: Chief Olney reviewed department activity reports for the month. There were 89 incidents, including 72 rescue & emergency medical events and 6 fires. The department will conduct a sign-up for free smoke detectors and CO alarms during Sparta Town & Country Days, and will also make side by side burn demonstrations to show how smoke alarms and residential sprinkler systems work. The department will incur a cost of \$150 to rent the burn cell trailer, and will need to purchase 16 sheets of drywall for this event. The Chief also informed the Board about two minor injuries to firefighters during a house fire on Alpine Ave.; injuries were promptly treated by medical staff.

Approval to Repair Damage to Platform #5: Chief Olney informed the Board about some damage that occurred to Platform #5 when it was being backed into the fire station bay. Also some minor damage to the bay door trim. The Board walked back

into the garage and viewed the damage. One estimate for repairs to the Platform has been received from B&B Fire Division for \$7,776.35. A second competitive repair estimate will be obtained. After considerable discussion, a motion was made by Cumings and seconded by Fisk to proceed with repairs at a cost not to exceed \$7,776.35; acknowledging that an insurance claim will be filed and will limit the department's out of pocket cost to the \$1,000 deductible. Motion was unanimously approved.

Request to Submit a Grant: Chief Olney requested permission to apply for a grant through Firehouse Subs to purchase 3 thermal imagers. The current cameras are about 10 years old and should be replaced. These are budgeted items in this year's CIP at \$18,000. Motion to approve made by Anderson, supported by Cumings. Unanimously approved.

Withholdings Letter From Insurance Company: The Chief reported he has recently received a letter from a homeowner's insurance company, offering to withhold a portion of the insurance claim proceeds from a settlement resulting from a house fire the Department attended. The funds would be held back until the dwelling site has been properly cleaned up. After discussion, it was determined the Chief should make inquiry with the insurance company, and neighboring fire departments, and village / township ordinances to fully understand the pros and cons of utilizing this practice before proceeding.

Next Meeting Date(s): Chairman Bergman set the next meeting date for August 15, 2019 (no meeting in July); and next Finance Committee meetings will be July 2nd and 16th.

Public Comment: None

There being no further business, a motion was made by Fisk and seconded by Cumings to adjourn the meeting, which was unanimously passed at 8:20 pm.

Minutes completed by Dean J. Anderson, Acting Secretary.