

PROPOSED MINUTES

GRAAFSCHAP FIRE BOARD
4534 60TH STREET
HOLLAND, MI 49423
(616) 335-3050

SERVING LAKETOWN AND FILLMORE TOWNSHIPS

April 14, 2016

ARTICLE I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bob Yonker called the meeting to order at 5:30pm and Tim Hofman opened with prayer.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Den Bleyker, Bob Yonker, Tim Hofman
Jim Lorence, Brett Grams, Dan Martinez, Ed Stielstra
MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Dewey
STAFF PRESENT: Al Meshkin – Township Manager
Diane Ybarra – Recording Secretary

ARTICLE II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes of the January 14, 2016 meeting. **A motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Hofman to approve the minutes as submitted. Chair Yonker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

ARTICLE III. UPDATE FROM CHIEF

Chief Doug Den Bleyker reported on several items:

1. The students in the Fire Academy are doing well and will finish in late May.
2. The hose we received from the hose grant arrived and we are in the process of outfitting the trucks.
3. Estimated fire losses for 2015 were \$60,000 which was low compared to other years.
4. In February we held an extrication demonstration inside the station on a Saturday morning. The outside temperature that day was 10 degrees. We are thankful for a large station where we can train inside when the weather outside is less than desirable.

Lorence asked what the plan is for the old fire engine. Chief Den Bleyker said some of the equipment will be removed to be used and then it will be put up for sale with its worth being approximately \$1500. Stielstra questioned what would it be used for and Den Bleyker said sometimes farmers or construction companies will use them.

Stielstra asked how long hose lasts and Den Bleyker responded that it should be replaced about every 10 years but that is not always feasible due to cost. It is tested annually (\$2500 fee) and if it passes, it does not get replaced but there is risk of failure when it is used longer than 10 years. Grams said the inspection standards are changing so it would be beneficial to replace the hose in a timely manner before a leak or coupler failure occurs. The hose is tested at 250 or 300psi for 5 minutes. Stielstra asked if there is a requirement for storing. Den Bleyker responded that it must be hung, folded and refolded periodically.

ARTICLE IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. NEW ENGINE UPDATE

Den Bleyker provided a spreadsheet with the estimated costs for the new engine and its required equipment along with justification for the proposed expenditure on overall equipment upgrades. The estimated total for the engine and upgraded equipment is \$448,003 which would include \$4,629 for two new AED's.

B. 800 MgHz RADIO SYSTEM

Den Bleyker reported he has been researching the different systems and basically the RFP's are back and two vendors are interested. Stockholder meetings will be held to review the proposals. The 800 MgHz radio system is the proposed new Allegan County 911 radio system which is estimated to cost \$18 million. Stielstra asked how much of the county will be served. Den Bleyker responded it would serve all fire, police, EMT, ambulances, etc. Den Bleyker added that he and a few staff members have tested the radios in various locations in the township, such as the dunes and other hard to reach areas and it has worked well. The commissioners will vote on it in June and the goal is to make it a statewide system. Ottawa County is going to move to it; Van Buren County has it but has had some issues due to the lack of installing the recommended antennas for the system. Meshkin said the current system has been in place since 2001, a standalone system with many problems, particularly along the lakeshore, over the dunes the radios are not effective. Yonker asked how it would be paid for and Meshkin responded that it would be a division of cost. Den Bleyker added that the RFP's were distributed without a cost for evaluation. Meshkin said the cost could potentially be funded on a per phone charge (as is for anyone with a phone line which has 911) at a maximum of \$3.00 per unit per month. Ideally, it would be a blended funding using phone fee and property tax base as it really covers property value as well. Lorence asked how the cost is determined for the property owner and Meshkin responded it is based on the address of registry. Meshkin added that a quarter mil would generate over a million dollars in the county in one year. The Board of Commissioners will get a recommendation from the users that tested the system and the consultant that was hired to evaluate it.

C. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Chief Den Bleyer provided a working spreadsheet detailing the date of purchase, life span, original purchase price and estimated replacement and upgrade pricing of all apparatus, equipment and station maintenance spanning from 2016 to 2037.

Stielstra asked if much is salvaged from reselling old equipment. Den Bleyker said it may be minimal as it would require recertification by buyer.

Yonker appreciates the information provided and commented that it seems reasonable to consider a consolidated proposed expenditure plan. Den Bleyker provided an overview of the department needs for upcoming years for equipment and fire station upkeep. Once a firm price is available for the new engine an amended proposal will be provided but the spreadsheet will be a working document based on actual needs.

ARTICLE V. NEW BUSINESS

A. CAMERA SECURITY SYSTEM

Den Bleyker reviewed the Secure n Safe, LLC proposal to add a security camera system with remote Internet access to the station. The current security alarm provider quoted approximately \$10,000 for a system compared to \$1,463 quoted by Secure n Safe, LLC. The remote access will be an added benefit which will eliminate the need to come to the fire station to disarm a tripped alarm.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Hofman and seconded by Lorence to approve the Secure n Safe, LLC quote for \$1,463 to install the security camera system with remote access. Chair Yonker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

B. PUMPER/TANKER 741

Den Bleyker provided a review of three estimates to replace the manual transmission with an automatic transmission on the 1994 Pumper/Tanker. The life span of the truck is 30 years, has less than 20,000 miles on it and is in great condition. Den Bleyker feels it would be safer and extend the life of the truck if the transmission is changed out along with improved ease of driving for the firefighters, some of whom are not familiar with driving a standard transmission, thus limiting the number of drivers. The changing tactics such as longer and narrower driveways are also a factor in justifying the cost to retrofit the unit. K & R Equipment estimates \$19,607.08 for the parts and labor.

Lorence asked how feasible it is to change the transmission. Den Bleyker said he took the truck to the provider and they assured it is feasible. Hofman asked for a breakdown on parts and labor,

Den Bleyker provided his copy of the quote. Brems commented on how difficult it is to drive the 10-speed split shift transmission. Stielstra said the flexibility to have anyone be able to drive would be beneficial. Meshkin asked if the old transmission had any value and Den Bleyker said very little. Den Bleyker suggested taking the money out of the available Fund Balance to cover the expenditure noting there would still be monies available for a down payment on the new engine. Lorence stated there might be someone interested in the old transmission. Den Bleyker will provide the specifications of the unit for potential resale.

Following discussion, **a motion was made by Lorence and seconded by Hofman to approve the expenditure of \$19,607.08 to replace the standard transmission with an automatic transmission for the 1994 Pumper/Tanker 741. Chair Yonker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION – MOTION APPROVED**

C. REPORTING SOFTWARE

Den Bleyker explained that the current reporting software is a Windows based system, very cumbersome with limited capabilities. Den Bleyker and the Saugatuck Fire Chief have been researching other options and have been testing a web-based program called Emergency Reporting. This system is light years ahead of what is currently being used, much more user friendly with many beneficial report features. The recommended module would cost \$2,341 for first year and then \$1,536 per year thereafter. Last year we spent \$1,860 on the current system which has limited capabilities. Meshkin added that the current system provider has not kept up to speed with upgrades; it is 10 years old and very difficult to use.

Lorence asked if we can make a firm analysis on the software, the new truck and equipment and take one vote on all proposed expenditures. Den Bleyker responded that he anticipates receiving a firm price on the new engine in May and finish testing the software by mid-summer. Meshkin asked when the contract with the current software provider expires and Den Bleyker responded the contract was renewed in January 2016 so it would be possible to run dual systems if the new software was implemented mid-year. Stielstra asked if the proposed fiber optics would be beneficial for the department and Den Bleyker responded that it will be a much faster system and potentially save \$250 per month in expenses. Meshkin said any kind of training will be done at the station with updated technology and a national data system for research and reporting purposes.

D. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting date will be determined based on receipt of necessary information.

ARTICLE VI. CITIZENS COMMENTS - None

Stielstra asked if any of the fire equipment have dash cams and if not, would it be considered for the future. Den Bleyker said the new truck will have a back-up camera but as far as dash cams, they have been discussed but no decision has been made.

Den Bleyker announced that the annual pancake breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, July 2 this year due to the 4th of July being on a Monday.

ARTICLE VII. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 P.M.