

Hopkins Area Fire Board
Minutes of the January 14, 2016 Third Quarter 2015/16 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by Chairman Evans at the Hopkins Public Safety Building.

Roll Call Present: Mark Evans, Mary Howard, Faye Black, Sue Jones, Pam Brown, Nevin Cooper-Keel, Sue Sebright and Chief McKinnon

Absent: Ben Brenner

Others present: Asst. Chief Bob Kerber, Jeff McCray, Pat Peterson, Brett and Michelle Harris

Agenda – The agenda was reviewed and the signing of the FD mutual aid agreement was added as number 4 under new business. **Motion by Brown and supported by Howard to approve the agenda as amended. No further discussion. All ayes.**

Minutes – The minutes of the October 7 meeting were read. **Motion by Brown and seconded by Black to approve the minutes as presented. All ayes.**

Financial Report – The total fund balance as of 12/31/15 was \$93,625.47. **Motion by Howard and supported by Jones to accept the financial report. All ayes.**

Chief's Report – See attached. Four potential firefighters are being interviewed. One, former Hopkins firefighter Justin Johnson, has returned to the area.

Old Business:

Truck Purchase update – There was discussion about using \$10,000 from the Capital Projects Fund to reduce the purchase price to the units. **Motion by Howard and supported by Jones to apply \$10,000 from the Capital Projects Fund to the purchase price of the new truck. No further discussion. All ayes.** The truck will be delivered on February 12 as scheduled. A bill will be sent as soon as possible to each unit for their share. Bob Kerber will verify the final cost and report to the board. Money from the sale of the old truck will be deposited in the Capital Asset Savings account. The truck has an approximate value of \$10K. Kerber would like to start advertising the truck for sale. **Motion by Cooper-Keel and supported by Jones to have Bob Kerber advertise the truck for \$13,000 and accept no less than \$8,000 without approval from the board. No further discussion. All ayes.**

New Business:

Disability Insurance – Jeff McCray from Burnham and Flower Insurance Agency presented a proposal for renewal of our policy. We currently are ending a three year commitment at the Plan 1 level. It is an accidental death and disability supplemental policy. February 1 is the renewal date. There was discussion about increasing our coverage to the Plan 2 level which would increase benefits to spouses and other injuries not presently covered. The increase in premium from Plan 1 to Plan 2 is approx. \$240. The annual premium is \$4,351 each year for three years. **Motion by Cooper-Keel and seconded by Jones to renew our disability insurance policy with Burnham and Flower Agency and increase the coverage to Plan 2. All ayes.** McCray also offered a 24 hour accidental death policy for firefighters covering them when off duty and doubling the benefit when on duty. **Motion by Black and supported by Howard to purchase the 24 hour Accidental death policy for a 3 year term at a total cost of \$882. We will be buying Option 1 Class A & B. No further discussion. All ayes.**

2016/17 Budget – 2016/17 budget total will be \$278,574. The officer wage amount will increase to \$15,000. The chief and assistant chief will decide the distribution. We currently have one chief, one assistant chief, two captains, two lieutenants and three training officers. **Motion by Black and supported by Howard to set officer wages for the 2016/17 budget at \$15,000.** Discussion continued as follows: Cooper-Keel stated that the officers are presently underpaid. He liked the idea of increasing their wages this year and using the CPI in the future for salary increases. Mary Howard would like to see a committee formed to study and make recommendations for salary increases. **Vote taken, all ayes.** Marcie Fredricks wages (A5) will increase to \$15 per hour with the new budget. **Motion by Howard and seconded by Brown to approve the 2016/17 Budget of \$278,574. All ayes.**

Mutual Aid Agreement – The Hopkins fire department currently has a mutual aid agreement with Salem, Wayland and Martin fire departments. It is time to renew the agreement. **Motion by Howard and supported by Jones to approve the updated agreement. All ayes.**

Watson Twp Occupancy Agreement – It is time to renew the occupancy agreement between the Hopkins Area Fire Board and Watson Township. We currently house two trucks at their public safety building. **Motion by Howard and supported by Brown to authorize Evans to sign the renewal. All ayes.**

Other Business:

Meeting time change – We will be changing the time of our future meetings to 7 p.m. instead of 7:30.

Motion by Evans and supported by Brown to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m.

Next meeting will be April 6, 2016

Respectfully submitted by
Sue Sebright/secretary