

Hopkins Area Fire Board
Minutes of the March 30, 2011 Fourth Quarter 2010/11 Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Evans at the Hopkins Public Safety Building.

Roll Call Present were: Candy Adrianson, Mark Evans, Earl Collier, Merle Coffey, Vern Bellgraph, Dick Malone, Pat Kelsey, Sue Sebright and Chief Tim McKinnon, and Tom Iciek
Absent: none
Others present: none

Finance Committee Review – Members reviewed bank statements and checking account registers. **Motion by Adrianson and supported by Kelsey to approve. All ayes.**

Minutes – Minutes of the January 05, 2011 meeting were read. **Motion by Coffey and supported by Malone to approve as read. All ayes.**

Financial – Capital asset acquisition fund balance is \$24,300.90. Checking account balance is \$15,245.69. Building fund balance is \$8,843. Total funds on hand are \$48,389.59. **Motion by Collier and seconded by Kelsey to approve. All ayes.**

2010/11 Budget Amendments – Several line items in the 2010/11 budget were amended so the total income and expenses for the amended budget are \$150,821. The main reason for the decrease in the budget was because of the denial of the FEMA grant for which the fire officers applied. Also, the officers did an excellent job in keeping expenses down. **Motion by Kelsey and supported by Coffey to approve the 2010/11 budget of \$150,821 as amended. All ayes.**

Old Business:

Hazmat Agreement - Evans searched for answers to the question about who pays the expenses incurred in a hazardous waste spill when the offending party does not have insurance or refuses to pay. He found that the fire board would be liable for the expenses and could sue the offender. Evans will check with our insurance company to see if we are covered or can get coverage.

New Business:

Gas Company Change - Volunteer Energy Services is offering natural gas at a cheaper rate than Michigan Gas Utilities (our current provider). The difference in rate is .70 per cu.ft. versus .599 per cu.ft. There is no enrollment fee or charge to change back. Billing will continue with Michigan Gas Utilities. **Motion by Malone and seconded by Coffey to approve the change in natural gas providers from Michigan Gas Utilities to Volunteer Energy Services. All ayes.**

Brush Truck – The status of the FEMA grant to purchase a new brush truck is still unknown. I could be May before we hear anything. The old truck is 30 years old and due for replacement. The cost of a new truck is \$140,000 to \$150,000. Hopkins Twp. Fire equipment millage will cover the village as well as the townships portion of the cost. Monterey Township will have the funds in 2012. Watson Township feels that there is a possibility of having the funds at that time. Motion by Evans and seconded by Bellgraph to support the recommendation to purchase a new brush truck in 2012 for approximately \$150,000 and to ask the respective unit's boards for approval. All ayes.

Current Brush Truck – The truck is in need of engine repair. However, it cannot be taken out of service during spring and summer. It is the consensus of the board and fire department to leave it as is until the new one arrives.

Fire Station Cleaning – Gary Truax is no longer the village maintenance person and the fire station has not been cleaned. Evans will check with the new maintenance person and find out if we need to hire someone to clean.

Chief's Report – see attached

NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, June 29, 2011 at 7:30

Adjourn – Motion to adjourn by Evans and Coffey. All ayes. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.