

Westfield Fire Committee Meeting
September 30, 2009 7:00pm
Westfield Fire House
Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm by Mr. Likley. Attending were committee members Jim Likley, Greg Oakes, Rick Robbs and Heather Sturdevant. Also in attendance were Ron Oiler, Gary Harris, Bill Thorne and Tim Brunenmeister. Kevin Rych arrived later in the meeting.

In reviewing the bills, Chief Carson mentioned that at this point everyone has turnout gear. There were also new member physicals in the bills this month. Chief Carson also stated that we double paid the bill to Carnegie for repairs on the truck and we have a \$2500.00 credit left with them. The members of the committee asked that Mike request a check be cut back so that we are not sitting on a credit as there is not any current work left to be done on the equipment.

A homeowner called both Chief Carson and Gary Harris regarding their neighbor burning trash. Mike sent a certified letter to the homeowners regarding the current burn laws. There have been no complaints since the letter was sent. Gary Harris also stopped by and explained the problem to the homeowners.

Chief Carson stated that the fire department got a \$5500.00 grant from the state of Ohio. This will pay for several people's EMT classes. After that we will have almost \$1800.00 in credit left to pay for supplies.

Mr. Likley stated that he had heard that some checks were coming to the firehouse and Mike was getting them over to the village or town halls as necessary. In order for that to continue, Mike would need to be bonded. Mike stated that he did not feel comfortable handling the checks at all and would make sure they all started getting sent to the Village or Town Halls as were appropriate.

Mr. Likley asked chief Carson if he was reviewing the time sheets for inspections as they came in from Dan Lloyd. Mike stated that he was and signed off on them as well. Mr. Likley stated that he would like to see this continue. Chief Carson mentioned that the truck stops and the recycling center still needed their inspection to be done. Mr. Robbs made a motion to pay the bills, Mr. Oakes seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The minutes were read and approved by Mr. Robbs and Mr. Oakes as Mr. Likley and Ms Sturdevant were not present at the last meeting.

Chief Carson stated that the department had two new members signing on. Their names are Justin Filous who is a 240 Basic EMT and Brittany Rufener who is an EMT. Greg

Oakes made a motion to accept the new members, Rick Robbs seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Chief Carson stated that he will not be taking on any more new members as he has no more room and cannot buy any more turnout gear.

Greg Oakes stated that there was a domestic call at the hotel at 4:00am. No one from our department responded and it took over twenty minutes for Lodi to be dispatched to the scene. Chief Patterson and Mayor Horwedel were very upset that it took this length of time to get anyone to the scene and wanted to know what happened. Chief Carson stated that he questioned the members as to why they did not respond and was particularly disturbed by Mr. Kevin Rych's response. He stated "why should I get out of bed when I didn't hear an officer call on". Yet Mr. Rych called Lodi to see if they needed help with the call. When they said they did not he stated he went back to sleep. There were two members at the station waiting for a third to respond yet they did not follow procedure and call on. Mr. Rych apparently stated this while there were several members present including new members and Chief Carson did not feel that it set a good example. Mr. Oakes stated that he is disturbed that the president of Fire Association will sit in fire committee meetings and badger the members about the professionalism of the department and constantly state that there is no fragmentation. He is continually politically posturing before this board and feels that this behavior is hypocritical. Mr. Oakes stated that this individual has stepped to the forefront as the spokesman of the department yet has a big credibility issue as far as he is concerned and that it needs to be addressed. Mike was informed that he as chief can discipline any member as per the SOG's. Chief Carson stated that he has begun having problems with Mr. Rych lately and will use the SOG's for disciplinary measures accordingly. Mr. Robbs suggested that the chief document all disciplinary measures even if they are verbal reprimands. Chief Carson agreed to this suggestion. Mr. Thorne stated that the department can make a rule that all members must attend a certain number of calls in order to remain active on the department. Mr. Oakes suggested a disciplinary e-mail be sent by the chief to Mr. Rych and that a copy be kept on file at the department.

Chief Carson stated that he would like to reinstate the position of Maintenance Officer and add two new Lutenants, 1 Safety Officer and 1 Assistant EMS Chief. Mr. Robbs asked the chief to develop an organizational chart so that we know how they are currently structured. Once that is done, the committee can discuss it.

Soft billing charges will be increasing by \$100.00 and \$10. for each mile in transportation. This will make our prices comparable with the surrounding departments. All Life Force needs to do this is a letter from the chief. Per Bill Thorne, both boards should vote on this. Mr. Likely will take it back to the Trustees and Mr. Robbs will take it to the Village Council for approval.

Mr. Likely had a call about residential Knox Boxes. We can allow this for \$240. each. Mr. Likely will contact the resident and put him in touch with Chief Carson.

Mr. Likely stated that he would like to open the current contract between the township and village for changes as some of the items were void and he would like to discuss and

put the splits in writing. The village members stated that they did not want the current contract opened until decisions had been made on several items. They have not changed their mind and still want a full time chief. They also feel that the contract states that the township will hire and maintain a full time chief and by not doing so and by Mrs. Sims and Mr. Liklely's current discussions on hiring a part time chief the township is in breach of contract. Mr. Oakes also stated that based on the personnel discussion from this evening lends credence to the decision to stick with a full time chief and that this department needs that for the leadership within the department. Mr. Likley stated that he saw the need for a full time chief but that the township could not afford it at this time.

Mr. Oakes made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel and employee discipline. It was seconded by Mr. Robbs. The motion carried and the committee went into Executive session at 8:45pm. The committee came out of session at 9:10pm. No decisions were made in session. Mr. Robbs made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. It was seconded by Heather Sturdevant. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned.

Jim Likley

Greg Oakes

Rick Robbs

Heather Sturdevant