

Watervliet Fire Board

Meeting Minutes May 19, 2020

(Meeting was conducted remotely via teleconference. Meeting was recorded by Patt Bambrick and meets OMA requirements and records are retained for Compliance and FOIA purposes)

The meeting was called to order at **7:01 pm** by Chair, **Deane Fizzell**. The Pledge of Allegiance was not recited.

Board Members Present; Fizzell, Bambrick, Stepich, Marvin and Brinker

A **motion** was made by **Marvin** and supported by **Stepich** to approve the **minutes, as corrected from the April 28, 2020 meeting. All in favor, motion carried.**

Brinker presented the **April 2020 payables in the amount of \$14,585.29. A motion was made by Marvin to approve the April 2020 payables. Motion was supported by Bambrick. All in favor, motion carried.** Copy of payables on file at the fire department. Brinker reported that he does not have all of the payables paperwork from the bookkeepers but will be getting it this week. Stepich will get a copy from Rose and a copy will be forwarded to all board members and a copy will be put on file at the Fire Station.

Brinker informed the board that he and Marvin had signed the payables in May to ensure the monthly bills are being paid.

Chief Jones presented his written report. Written response report will be forwarded by Chief Jones. Written reports are on file at the fire station.

New Business:

- Chief Jones stated that the department does not currently meet the requirements to receive any reimbursement from FEMA for the additional staffing and misc. expenses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. He is currently looking into two other sources that may offer some reimbursement.
- Chief Jones informed the board that there was one billable run in the month (the accident that occurred on the Lane Automotive property). Cara is in the process of billing the run. Marvin asked about the run at the corner of County Line Rd. / Red Arrow Hwy. Chief stated that call was dispatched to Van Buren County and though Watervliet responded, it was not billable. ERR runs are shy of about 200 for the year.
- Chief Jones stated that Berrien County is currently working to provide all departments with a 6-month supply of needed PPEs.
- Chief Jones will do a live/in-person Chief's meeting on 5.20.2020 and will update us if there is any news.

Old Business:

- Billing process and alternatives are still being discussed.
- Dan Jones spoke with Bill Mears of Pride Care Ambulance three weeks ago. Chief Jones is not aware of why Pride Care the \$15.00/call stipend. This revenue is estimated to bring in approximately \$3,000.00 annually. Chief Jones is working on getting the stipend paid for the previous year and moving forward. The initial agreement with Pride Care will be reviewed and the matter will be brought before the board. **(UPDATE: Chief Jones informed the board that Bill Mears is still working on this issue)**
- Dan Jones is hiring Marcus Smith. He stated that Marcus has been around the department since about Christmas. He still has to take Firefighter I & II but the training will be delayed due to the previous sessions being halted.

- Chief Jones reported that Watervliet continues to be one of the hot spots in Berrien County for COVID-19 infections.

Anyone to Be Heard: Brinker stated that he and Fizzell will be signing the letter of engagement for the auditors. Brinker stated that Aaron (auditor) is working on a quote for a three year agreement.

Next regular meeting to be held **June 16, 2020 @ 7:00. (Format to be announced)**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Marvin and supported by Bambrick. All in favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Melanie Marvin