

Solon-Centerville Fire Department
Combined Board Meeting

Thursday, March 22, 2007, 7:00 P.M.
Cedar Fire Department Meeting Room
8907 Railroad Ave., Cedar, MI 49621

MINUTES

Leonard Kelenske opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M. with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Leonard Kelenske, Carl Williams, Joan Gauthier, George Rosinski, Robert Dezelski, Shirley Mikowski, Richard Pleva, Joe Czerniak, Trina Pleva, Jim Balesh, Al Rosinski, Amy Hubbell, Steve Watson, Dan Petroskey, Lee Laskey, Jason Hennessy, Barry Mazurek, Christine Mikowski, Larry Petroskey, Mark Galla, Shawn Beady and Herb Sudemann.

There was no agenda or minutes to approve.

The Board reviewed the letter signed by 11 members of the Fire Department (see attached). The letter addressed complaints against the Fire Chief, Al Rosinski and a request to dismiss him from his duties. The letter was read by Shirley Mikowski (note: four of the members that signed the letter were not present). There are currently 19 active members in the department. Ms. Mikowski also read Steve Ward's letter of resignation (see attached) and the letter of reply written by Al Rosinski (see attached). Most of the Board members were not notified of Mr. Ward's resignation. Al Rosinski noted that he heard it rumored on Friday that Steve was resigning and received the letter on Saturday. All Board members should have been notified immediately after Steve Ward turned in his resignation.

Leonard Kelenske was surprised that those members that were in contact with Mr. Ward on a daily or weekly basis had no previous knowledge of the reasons for his resignation. Several of the Board members felt that Al should have the same certification in the fire and emergency services as the members. Steve Ward received his additional training through the department's expense and most of his studying was done on the department's time. Robert Dezelski has talked with several of the members and they feel the Fire Chief's attitude is "my way or the highway".

Lee Laskey had concerns in writing prepared for the Board (see attached). This included addressing the deficiencies within the department. Some of the key points he addressed were: 1. inadequate equipment; the water supply tankers have been grossly ignored. 2. Lack of leadership; in twelve years there has not been any fire officer courses offered to any of the on call members. This does not allow the officers to improve their skills and does not allow for younger members to fill in the gaps when needed. 3. There is a lack of accountability and command structure on the fire ground. 4. Future needs of the Fire Department and the Community.

Lee Laskey suggested that a survey be sent in the summer tax bills asking how the taxpayers feel about the current fire coverage.

Leonard Kelenske is asking each member to put their concerns and complaints in writing and also suggestions of how to resolve the complaint. Letters need to be submitted and signed by the individual member.

Larry Petroskey stated that one of his biggest concerns is trust.

There was a Cedar Fire and Rescue Association started several years ago that most Board members were not aware of. This was started with \$2,000.00 drawn from the Memorial Fund.

Lee Laskey recommended that each fire member receive an annual evaluation from the Fire Chief. This gives each member the opportunity to work on areas that need improvement. The Fire Chief also needs to have an annual evaluation by the Board.

The Fire Chief and members need to work out their problems in a professional manner. Robert Dezelski recommended they work out their differences with representation from each board acting as a mediator. They will attend the Fire Department meeting on Thursday, April 5, 2007 at 7:00 P.M. Robert Dezelski will represent Solon Township and Joe Czerniak will represent Centerville Township. The members concerns will be addressed at that time.

There are seven applications for the full time EMT position. Al Rosinski has sent each applicant a letter. Shaun Beady has been hired to fill the full time EMT position until August.

In Other Business:

The two doors have been repaired. The one backed into by the car will be covered by the insurance. An electric eye cannot be installed because of the code numbers in the opener.

Al Rosinski sent a letter to Mr. Robert Lewis to retrieve the title for the tanker. The Board asked that he get a new title from the Secretary of State. The tanker has been sold to Joe Flaska for \$500.00.

The Prosecutor does not have time to review the Fire Ordinance. The Board members will receive a copy to review and study and this will be addressed at the next meeting.

The ISO (Insurance Services Organization) has not determined our insurance rate as of date.

There will be 19-20 physicals for members at the cost of \$269.00 per physical.

It will be more cost effective for the Fire Department to hook up to the sewer project because they will have to pay the Special Assessment fee whether they hook up or not.

The rug contract ends in March.

Barry Mazurek explained that a pager can be worn at all times without creating a disturbance because of the vibrating and talk back feature. The radio is used for communication. The average life of a pager is six years. The approximate cost for one pager is \$597.00 and radios are \$568.00. We are budgeted for approximately six new pagers.

Every vehicle is required to have a monthly inspection and each contain its own log book.

Motion by Joan Gauthier and supported by Trina Pleva to pay \$1.50 per hour stand-by fee for the members in training ~~two years late~~. Motion carried.

New billing charges will begin April 1, 2007.

The Board and several EMT's will review the applications and conduct the interviews when hiring the full time EMT.

The joint Fire Board will meet on Tuesday at 7:00 P.M. on the following dates for the fiscal year 2007-2008: May 15, August 21, November 13, February 19 and budget meeting March 18.

Comments:

Mark Galla is helping Shaun Beady with the office paper work.

Motion by Carl Williams and supported by Leonard Kelenske to adjourn meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Shirley Mikowski/ Clerk