

**SOMERSET FIRE/RESCUE COMMISSION**  
**Minutes of the September 23, 2009 Meeting**

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**Call to Order:** Chairperson Roy called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. at the Town Hall. Roy welcomed Mike Hanks, new Village member-at-large.

**Roll Call:** Commissioners present – Shane Demulling, Mike Hanks, Rita Lawson, Bart Palmer, and Tom Roy; absent – Jerry Mullenberg. Fire Dept present – Chief Travis Belisle and Asst. Chief Jason Crotty.

**Minutes From Previous Meeting:** *Motion by Demulling, second by Palmer to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2008 meeting.*

**Public Input:** None

**Old Business**

**New Brush Truck:** Belisle reported the truck is working well and having it available really saves wear and tear on the other rescue vehicles.

**Generator Update:** The first real test of the fire hall generator was successful this summer. When power went out in the area, the generator came on automatically as it should have. Locally there are 4 more large generators - at EconoFoods, the clinic, the Village Hall, and the school district.

**New Business**

**Truck Equipment Problems:** Belisle reported the department is doing preventive vehicle maintenance since money is available this year in the budget at this time.

**2010 Budget:** Belisle presented a budget of \$154,264 in receipts and disbursements. This is the same total amount as last year but a few items have been adjusted to reflect current costs and needs. Belisle noted the state does not allow fire budgets to be reduced but also does not require they be increased. The 2% fire dues, based on fire inspections and equalized property values, are slightly different this year.

Belisle reported the auditor had reviewed the budget which was very helpful. The auditor caught the fact that in 2007 the Fire/Rescue department had made the final payment for the new truck but had never received the money for that payment from the Village and Town. The auditor had pointed out several areas where Village versus Town use of Fire/Rescue services differed from the 55/45 payment ratio. One example was how the department's monthly payment for internet includes the Town's internet but not the Village's. This was an issue for the two boards to sort out.

The vending machine and fundraising accounts are not in the budget because they do not involve tax dollars. Belisle reported the approximately \$9000 in the fundraising account had been used for generator costs. Also, the vending machine is basically self-supporting. Department members fill the donated vending machine themselves, and any extra money is used to pay for free pop during department training.

Belisle noted the \$10,000 donation negotiated for the 2008 summer concert was never received and there was also no reimbursement or donation for this summer's concert and tubing seasons. He would like to see Fire/Rescue costs included in the Village's fee to tubing establishments and for concert tickets so the taxpayers aren't bearing those costs. As to equipment needs, the department will look into the costs of a boat with a reasonable motor so they can better respond to emergencies on the St. Croix River and local lakes.

*Motion by Hanks, second by Palmer to recommend approval of the budget to the Town and Village Boards. Approved.*

Lawson noted it was good to see the Chief's monthly report is now read at both the Town and Village monthly board meetings. Palmer added, by having the report as a regular agenda item at Village meetings, any Fire/Rescue issues could be discussed by Village board members on a timely basis.

*Motion by Palmer, second by Demulling to adjourn.* Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Next meeting: Joint Village/Town/Fire Rescue September 30, 2009 at the Village Hall.

Respectfully submitted, Rita Lawson, Secretary