

SOMERSET FIRE/RESCUE COMMISSION
Minutes of the February 13, 2006 Meeting

Call to Order: Chairperson Roy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present - Shane Demulling, Rita Lawson, Gerry Mullenberg, Bartt Palmer, Tom Roy, and Fire Chief Bruno Reed. Also attending - Many members of the Fire/Rescue Department and Dave Parnell.

Minutes from Previous Meeting: *Motion by Mullenberg, second by Demulling to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2006 meeting. Motion by Mullenberg, second by Demulling to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2006 meeting.*

Financial Report – 3rd & 4th Quarter: Clerk/Treasurer Brian Duggan was not able to attend to answer questions. Commission discussed ways to best notify the Chief and the Clerk/Treasurer of meetings in addition to the normal postings of the meetings. Lawson asked to have a budget update page in addition to the list of checks and deposits. Roy asked about the \$712.63 cell phone bill from Nextel. Reed explained \$200 had been received toward the bill and the phone was not being used anymore.

Public Input: Lawson reported it was announced at the Village Public Safety Committee meeting the County will be renaming old Hwy 35/64 to be County VV. Also, that there were no concerts scheduled as yet for the summer and that the Village would start the Main Street reconstruction project in April.

Old Business

Fire/Rescue Commission Bylaws: Reed noted the department is working on their bylaws.

Motion by Mullenberg, second by Demulling to table the discussion of the commission bylaws.

Fire Chief Report: Reed reported in January there were 13 medicals and 12 fires. This month there had been one structure fire. At the St. Croix County Chiefs meeting he had attended the department was given a laptop computer obtained through a grant. The department had five applications for the department. Background checks will be part of the selection process. Experienced former members John Moore and Mike Nelson have returned.

Fire Inspections: Reed noted he had been able to find fire inspections for the last half of 2005 that were on file but hadn't been done yet the person had been paid. He said the department members were planning to do the first round this year so they'd get to know the buildings.

2004 Audit: Still waiting for the audit but so is the Township.

Drug Testing: The Village and the department are researching this. Jason Crotty noted baseline health screening doesn't have to include drug testing and the testing could be required if there is an accident.

Chairman Attend Village and Town Meetings: Mullenberg and Demulling felt they could report to their boards based on the chief's written report. *Motion by Demulling, second by Mullenberg to not require the commission chairman to attend the Village and Town meetings.*

New Business

Letter from Dave Parnell: Roy read the letter dated Jan. 25, 2006 and gave Dave copies of documents that were available. Roy noted retirement information wasn't yet available for anyone in the department but hoped it would be soon.

Fire Chief Wages: Since the 2 boards agreed to an increase at the last joint meeting, this can be taken up at budget time. Department members expressed a desire to have firefighter wages increased after a number of years of experience. The department will also need money for outfitting new members. They also anticipate several years from now the county will change the radio system and the department will need to buy compatible equipment.

New Members or Less Members: Reed explained the department is working on membership.

Fire Chief Posting Qualifications: The department will review this.

Fire/Rescue Complaint Form: The form that was made up some years ago is adequate for now but may be revised in the future. It needs to be available in the department.

Pay for Fire/Rescue Dept. Services: Roy noted this was originally set up to be paid as if members were on a call out. Since warranty work has to be done at the dealers in Ellsworth and Minneapolis, taking a vehicle for warranty work can be time consuming.

Other Business

Letter from Dan & Kaatje Plourde: The letter asked about the 20-minute delay in response a year ago to their son's emergency and what the department's back-up plan is. Department members described what they remembered happened that night when they had two very similar sounding emergency calls, one right after the other. Roy said he would contact the Plourdes to arrange a meeting.

Compressor Grant: Travis Belisle explained the department is responsible for approximately \$4800 to match the grant. The compressor will be hooked up soon. The old one will be sold.

Motion by Demulling, second by Palmer to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Next meeting: Joint Meeting, Wednesday, April 26, 2006, 7:00 p.m., Village Hall