

SOMERSET FIRE/RESCUE COMMISSION
Minutes of the Thursday, June 22, 2006 Meeting

Call to Order: Chairperson Roy called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. at the Town Hall.

Roll Call: Present - Rita Lawson, Jerry Mullenberg, Bartt Palmer, Tom Roy, Chief Travis Belisle and Assistant Chief Jason Crotty. Absent - Shane Demulling.

Minutes From Previous Meeting: Motion by Mullenberg, second by Palmer to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2006 and May 13, 2006 meetings.

Public Input: None

Old Business

Bylaws – Discussion deferred to a meeting devoted to this topic.

Dave Parnell's letter – Roy noted the letter to former chief Parnell had been sent by registered mail.

Grants – Chief Belisle reported there was as yet no news on the FEMA grant application for turnout gear. Other grants in process: DNR 50/50 for fighting brush fires and to the state 75/25 for radios to move toward the 2013 goal of upgrading to the new system.

Bill insurance companies for fire calls – Tabled.

New Business

Bruno Reed resignation – Belisle and Crotty reported Reed had also left the department even though they had urged him to stay.

Swearing in of new Fire Chief, Travis Belisle – Chairman Roy swore in Belisle as Chief and the official form was filled out.

Give Minutes to Fire Department – Belisle reported Jeri Koester was making sure they had the minutes but asked, if possible, to have the minutes in time for their monthly meeting.

Fire Chief Report

- License plates: The department is waiting for former chief Parnell to change his plates.
- Membership: Letters were sent to members who have been absent a lot.
- Perpetual Burning Permit: A copy of St. Joe's permit was discussed. It has 3 copies – 1 each for the fire dept, town hall and homeowner. There is no charge if the department is notified ahead of the burning. Reminders need to put in the paper and tax statements.
- Budget: More money will be needed for NFPA rules (\$700), pension and computer software and network.
- Mutual aid agreement with St. Joe – Being reviewed as it is from 1995. Suggests delete St. Joe back up medical calls.
- County-wide mutual aid – There is no charge to other departments.
- Fixed phones in trucks – For some reason the bill was not paid for a time and the supplier canceled the phones. Discussion of possible solutions.
- Township issues – 1) Improving the yard/parking area, including removing gravel in grass by new addition. 2) Continuing leaks in new addition; shouldn't they be fixed by the construction company? 3) Letting bids for changing office space; in favor of doing this soon. 4) Garbage; could they add theirs to the township's to save the fee? 5) The flag needs lights on the east side. Could the Town replace it when needed next time?

- Pancake Breakfast during Pea Soup Days was well received. The \$2500 earned has been put in a separate savings account designated for communication equipment.
- Joint meeting issues – 1) Drug testing; Belisle had copy of policy from where he works. 2) Location of fire department; if the township moves the town hall the department would like to continue in its present location because of good access. 3) Budget; expecting to be over budget by the end of the year and are already cutting this summer's on-call by 50% to save money. Also, the department cannot cover the truck payment this year from fund raising as in past years.
- Captain appointed; Rob Weldon appointed to be in charge of training and members' needs.
Striping parking lot – Will be done when the offices are changed.
DSL hook-up – In place.

Motion by Palmer, second by Lawson to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Rita Lawson, Secretary

Next meeting July 19 at 7:00 p.m. will be devoted to the bylaws,