

## **July 20, 2009 Town of Peshtigo Fire Commission**

Chairman Bill Johnson called the meeting of the Town of Peshtigo Fire Commission to order at 6:30 p.m. and roll call was taken.

Present: Alex Dudka, Bill Johnson, and Don Wahl.

Absent: Tim Kodric and Joe Mans.

Also attending were Grace Pennings, Clarence Coble, Mike Folgert, Bryan Peth, Rich Seils, and Brian Eggener.

A motion was made by Wahl and seconded by Dudka to approve the agenda as printed. The motion carried with all in favor.

A motion was made by Wahl and seconded by Dudka to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2009 meeting as printed. The motion carried with all in favor.

Mike Folgert gave an update on the FEMA Grant. The grant is a matching federal grant with the Town of Peshtigo Fire Department. The federal share is 95% or \$76,266 of the approved amount and the Town's share of the cost is 5% or \$4,014. Some of the equipment purchased includes 14 sets of structural turnout coats which include the mandatory drag rescue feature, bunker pants and boots, Scott self-contained breathing apparatus (air packs) which include lights in the face masks showing remaining air and voice amplifiers, one Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) pack, one five-bottle cascade system with fill station for filling three air cylinders at a time, one washer/extractor for washing contaminated turnout gear at the station, and gear drying rack. \$72,000 has been spent with approximately \$4,000 remaining to be spent by November 2009.

The department would like to purchase a thermal imaging camera which can range anywhere from \$6,000 - \$9,000 for the models the department is looking at. The department does own one black and white display camera. They would like to have one in each truck. The newer models have a color display, one-touch temperature sensor, zoom capabilities, and are in high definition. The department has written a grant through the M&M Foundation for \$3,500 and should hear results in August.

A motion was made by Wahl and seconded by Johnson to recommend to the Town Board to cover the difference in cost between FEMA Grant money and possible M&M Foundation money to pay for the balance of a new thermal imaging camera. The motion carried with all in favor.

The Town Board requested the Fire Commission discuss the purchase of a fire truck. The choices are to purchase a used truck, a demo model, a basic model, or a custom built truck. Folgert distributed a list of all trucks with Engine 206 being 35 years old but it continues to pass annual pump tests. There are many features on Engine 206 that the department would like upgraded when considering purchasing a newer truck. Folgert distributed a list of features that Engine 206 has and what the department wants. To purchase a used truck it should be at least a 1991 to stay within the window of 30 years. Folgert reported that at the Fire Chief Convention it was suggested that if buying new to order and sign for the truck before the end of the year. This year's models will have many safety features that are now standards such as a black box and orange seat belts. The newer 2010 models will have new NFPA standards such as EPA emissions standards that will push up the price of the truck.

If the Town continues putting the annual \$50,000 away for the purchase of a new truck, in 2011 there should be approximately \$270,000 in the fund. The treasurer can research all areas of funding.

Folgert reported that they decided not to write a FEMA Grant for the purchase of a new truck because the department doesn't feel it has a good chance of being awarded a grant. Some things they look at are age of all vehicles, the number of vehicles, call volume, and automatic aide agreement which differs from mutual aide.

A motion was made by Johnson and seconded by Dudka to recommend to the Town Board to authorize the Town of Peshtigo Fire Department to write up specs for a new fire truck and if one is found in their budget to sign a contract by December 2009. If a used fire truck becomes available with the needed specs in their budget then the Fire Department should purchase that truck. The motion carried with all in favor.

Fire Chief Coble reported that the department now has currently 28 firefighters. They are all well trained and many are continuing on with further training. The morale of the department is good. The station had the new addition with a new office and computer with internet is now available in the station. Spending is within the budget

Coble learned at the seminar from Ruthann Watts that the first \$30 of each month's wages is exempt from all taxes. This would pertain to monthly wages and not annual.

The fire department fundraiser will be held July 25, 2009 at 2C's Game Farm. The event usually takes in about \$2,000.

The Fire Department Banquet is set for Monday, October 12, 2009.

Johnson suggested that for the next meeting the commission should think about some kind of compensation for Folgert and Seils for their work on the FEMA Grant.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 21, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. Some discussion items include possible compensation for Folgert and Seils for their work on the FEMA Grant, annual budget, and terms for Kodric and Dudka. An annual meeting should be set for every May to appoint a chair for the commission.

We will hold Fire Commission time sheets until after the September 21, 2009 meeting.

A motion was made by Dudka and seconded by Wahl to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. The motion carried with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Hagert