

**Marine City Area Fire Authority
Regular Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 15th, 2015 at 7:00 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Lisa Hendrick at 5:00 pm.

2. MOMENT OF SILENCE AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

There was a moment of silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Roll call was taken. Present – Marine City Representatives; Vice-Chairman Lisa Hendrick, Treasurer Steve McConnell and Mark Posey. Cottrellville Township Representative; Tom Whitenight. East China Representatives; Chairman Larry Simons and Don Beaudua. China Township Representatives – Secretary Linda Schweihofer and Julia Rust.

Also present were Fire Chief Joe Slankster and Jennifer Vandenbossche.

Absent and excused was Cottrellville Representative; Kelly Fiscelli.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

None

5. APPROVE AGENDA (Additions/Deletions)

Chief Slankster requested to add a proposal from Sideline Electric as item 10b. Linda Schweihofer, supported by Lisa Hendrick, made a motion to approve amending the budget to include the proposal as item 10b. A/A M/C

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Julia Rust, supported by Don Beaudua, made a motion to accept the previous Regular meeting minutes on 2/18/15, with the correction to reflect the re-appointment of Board Treasurer Steven McConnell and not Julia Rust as written. A/A M/C

Lisa Hendrick, supported by Steve McConnell, made a motion to approve the Special meeting minutes on 3/26/15. A/A MC

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

8. CHIEF'S REPORT

Fire Chief Joseph Slankster read his submitted report.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Linda Schweihofer, supported by Lisa Hendrick, made a motion to open the Public Hearing on the proposed '15-'16 budget. A/A MC

The Public Hearing for the '15-'16 Fiscal Year proposed budget was opened at 7:11 pm.

There were no public comments.

Linda Schwehofer, supported by Don Beaudua, made a motion to close the Public Hearing. A/A M/C.

The Public Hearing for the '15-'16 Fiscal Year proposed budget was closed at 7:12 pm.

Larry Simons, supported by Linda Schwehofer, made a motion to accept the proposed '15-'16 Fiscal Year budget as presented. A/A M/C

b. Larry Simons reviewed the Wage Classification submission for changes in effect 4/15/15; adding a new position as 'Senior Engineer' that Richard Tucker will assume at his current pay rate. Fire Chief Slankster advised that Richard Tucker is the only member of the department that meets the qualification for this position. This position includes extra apparatus duties and assisting Officers, when needed. Resolution 2015-6 was also read to approve this change in the Wage Classification table. Tom Whitenight, supported by Don Beaudua, made a motion to approve the change and Resolution 2015-6. A/A M/C

Larry Simons reviewed the Wage Classification submission for changes effective 7/1/15, for the new budget. The Board discussed these changes which included a raise for the fire chief to the top of his pay scale, with the understanding from Chief Slankster that he would not be asking for an additional increase. He has not received an increase in his annual stipend since becoming Chief 4 years ago and there was documentation from previous years' minutes discussing increases. The Board also discussed the positive results of his employee reviews. Linda Schwehofer, supported by Tom Whitenight, made a motion to move Chief Slankster to his top pay rate of an annual stipend of \$26,000.00 per year. A/A M/C

It was also presented to combine the various pay rates for Jennifer doing administrative and finance duties into one hourly rate and pay scale for the position a maximum 70 hours per month. The rate starting 7/1/15 would be \$14.34/hr. Don Beaudua, supported by Tom Whitenight, made a motion to approve the changes for the Finance Administrator position. A/A M/C

Neither of these changes would create an increase to the new budget. Resolution 2015-7 was introduced to reflect these changes for the Fire Chief and Finance Administrator positions and a Roll Call vote was taken. A/A M/C

At this time, the Board meeting moved to 10 – New Business to allow for a presentation by Larry Cleaver.

10. NEW BUSINESS

a. Larry Cleaver, from Burnham and Flowers Insurance, discussed renewal information and timelines for submitting renewal proposals for review. He also discussed submitting a proposal for an Accident and Death Benefit plan to supplement our Workman's Comp policy.

The Board meeting then moved back to 9c – Unfinished Business

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS, cont'd

c. Chief Slankster gave an update on the new Water truck. He advised that there was an issue with the pump that was being looked at. He also discussed a delay in the truck graphics being done due to a family emergency that the lettering company had.

d. Chief Slankster advised that he had an offer for the Ladder truck of \$5,012.00 from Robert Klingler. He also discussed the fact that the firefighters had purchased it about 8 years ago for \$5,000.00. He reviewed the fact that it was just too much money to keep trying to maintain and certify it, especially when we had neighboring departments with ladder trucks that could provide mutual aid if one was needed. The truck has already been advertised in several magazines and there have been no offers. Jennifer will draft a bill of sale using the template from the other truck sale. Linda Schwehofer, supported by Steve McConnell, to sell the Ladder truck for the submitted bid of \$5,012.00. A roll call vote was taken. A/A M/C

10. NEW BUSINESS, cont'd

b. Chief Slankster reviewed the proposed quote from Sideline Electric to complete the LED light bulb and fixture replacements around the inside and outside of the station that the members could not complete. Their quote was \$12,170.00. The materials would come from the same suppliers but there was concern about the labor being completed by a licensed and insured electrician in case there are any future issues. We are currently saving about \$400 a month on our DTE bills due in part to the changes that have already been made. Larry Simons discussed to get additional quotes. Larry Simons, supported by Linda Schwehofer, made a motion for Chief Slankster to request additional quotes. A/A M/C

11. FINANCIAL BUSINESS

a. Julia Rust questioned why there were disbursements for attorney fees. Jennifer explained that it was due to the attorney needing to provide documentation to the bank for financing the new water truck and a Liability letter for the Bill of Sale for the old water truck. Don Beaudua, supported by Linda Schwehofer, made a motion to accept the disbursements as presented. A/A M/C

b. The statements were reviewed.

c. Resolution 2015-4 was presented to amend the '14-'15 budget to adjust for changes in anticipated expenditures. Linda Schwehofer read the resolution. Linda Schwehofer, supported by Don Beaudua, made a motion to approve the resolution. A/A M/C

Resolution 2015-5 was presented to amend the '14-'15 budget to adjust for the sale of the 1983 Ford Water truck. Linda Schwehofer read the resolution. Linda Schwehofer, supported by Larry Simons, made a motion to approve the resolution. A/A M/C

d. Jennifer provided a finance update, including some possible changes to the appearance of the reports due to changing to QuickBooks format.

12. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Don Beaudua discussed a letter that the St. Clair Fire Authority received from Helen Schwehofer thanking all of the firefighters that responded to her garage fire during a snow storm, including the Marine City Area Authority. She was very happy with the response.

Steve McConnell discussed attending the SCCFFA Annual Dinner with his wife. He talked about the awards and meeting Randolph Mantooth (AKA – Johnny Gage) who was the guest speaker, who spoke about not getting burned out on the job.

Mark Posey had no comment.

Julia Rust advised the Jennifer was doing an awesome job.

Linda Schwehofer thanked the firefighters for everything they do and keeping everyone safe.

Lisa Hendrick thanked Chief Slankster for getting the deal done with the other truck and helping the other department that needed one.

Jennifer Vandenbossche had no comment.

Tom Whitenight said that it was a good job with the sale of the trucks. It went smooth considering it was our first time putting it all together. He also asked Chief Slankster if the roof was all set and Chief advised that it was. Julia Rust asked if someone went on the roof and checked because they had left scraps on their roof. Chief advised that they had checked.

Chief Slankster advised he received a price for the radio for the new water truck of \$3,831.00, not installed. He will ask the firefighters to donate the money from the sale of the ladder truck back to the Authority to pay for the new radio. He also advised that we had one new applicant, Sarah DeMorest, and that one member moved to Utica and resigned. Another member also submitted a leave of absence. He also discussed getting the Authority's approval to donate some of our old turnout gear that we could no longer use to the department that purchased our old water truck. In looking at their information, they do not have a lot. He advised he would find out if they would even be able to use it due to their State regulations. Larry Simons advised that it was ok with him and the Board agreed.

Larry Simons discussed reading Marine City's budget approval in the paper.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Linda Schwehofer, supported by Steve McConnell, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. A/A MC. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Jennifer Vandenbossche, Administrator