

Village of Balsam Lake Special Board Meeting
Monday February 19th, 2024 6:51 p.m. – 8:06 p.m.

Meeting called to order by President Jim Duncan

Members present on roll call: Jamey Flaherty, Kellie Flaherty, Aimee Newbauer, Jena Paquette, Corby Stark, Len Manning.

Others present: David Patterson, Mark Anderson, Tom Mabry.

No Public comments.

Update on Joint Fire Department training opportunities. Tom Mabry was in attendance. Mr. Mabry stated there has not been any joint fire department trainings. Tom Mabry stated training nights will remain the same as the Balsam Lake Fire Department already has their training nights set.

Discussion and possible action on Apple River Township payment support for 2023. Tom Mabry stated the Fire Department does not want to pay the \$7,500.00 out of their fundraising account. Mr. Mabry states those fundraising monies are allocated for future equipment purchases such as a brush rig, pumps, new trailers, youth programs, cutters and the department must keep an estimated \$20,000.00 in their account for start-up money for the Demo Derby each year. Mark Anderson and Tom Mabry both reported if the \$7,500.00 comes out of the fundraising account at least four fire department members would quit. **Motion by Kellie Flaherty to terminate Airgas contract for oxygen tanks. Second by Corby Stark. All in Favor. Carried. Motion by Jamey Flaherty to pay Apple River Township from 2024 budgeted funds with \$3,888.00 coming out of the general fire department expense line item and remaining be issued out of the 2023 carry over from the fire department budget. Second by Aimee Newbauer. All in Favor. Carried.**

Discussion and possible action on Fire Department inventory. From the joint meeting the Apple River Township asked for a fire department inventory on trucks and equipment. Mark Anderson and Tom Mabry were asked if the inventory was complete. Both reported that the inventory has not yet been completed. Tom Mabry reported the time frame to complete the inventory was not long enough. Jena Paquette reported that the time frames was a suggestion and not a set date. It was stated if they needed more time to complete the inventory why didn't they ask for more time. Tom Mabry stated nobody from the department is able to do the inventory because the members are busy. Jim Duncan stated the inventory must be completed to continue discussions on combining departments as currently it is in the best interest for public safety. Jim Duncan also stated that he would coordinate with Mark Anderson to set up a day to assist with the inventory at the fire hall. Jena Paquette, Amy VanDeBrake, Jim Duncan and Jamey Flaherty all stated they would donate their time to assist completing the fire department inventory. **Motion by Corby Stark to have Jim Duncan coordinate with Mark Anderson a Saturday in March to conduct the Fire Department Inventory. Second by Kellie Flaherty. All in Favor. Carried.**

Discussion and possible action on Fire Department Budget. The Village Board has received complaints from the fire department regarding fire department budget cuts. After reviewing five years of budget data, the numbers illustrated that the fire department has not seen significant

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budget cuts. The budgeted amounts are very similar for each of the past five years, however the fire department has chosen to increase officer pay, allocated money for fire department work hours and increased pay for individuals who are conducting fire inspections.

Discussion and possible action on Fire Department fundraising account. Through reviewing the fire department fundraising bank statement, it was noted that moving forward the Village Board would like a treasurer's cash report given at each board meeting. Mark Anderson stated he would be interested in learning more about the laws governing fundraising accounts for future transactions. This will be added to the next public protection meeting agenda.

Discussion on three SCBA's out of service. Mark Anderson reported there were three SCBA's that are out of compliance. These findings were a result of an annual test. Mark Anderson states he would like to switch to a newer air pack as it would result in less battery costs over time. No action was taken.

Update on number of calls for service in 2022 and 2023 totals. Tom Mabry reported this report has not been complete as they did not have enough men or hours to do it. Jim Duncan stated when the joint inventory is being completed, the group can also count the number of calls for service for 2022 and 2023 and report back to the joint task force.

Review EMS agreement. Apple River Fire was interested in knowing more about the EMS agreement. The contract has been located and was shared with the board by the Clerk.

Discussion and possible action on 2024 call for service. Mark Anderson reports moving forward Balsam Lake Fire Department and Apple River Fire Department will be called jointly for first page fire calls and just Balsam Lake Fire Department will be called for EMS on first page.

Discussion and possible action on active Fire & EMS roster. No active roster was presented to the board.

No fire Chief Report was given.

Motion by Corby Stark to adjourn. Second by Jena Paquette. All in Favor. Carried. 8:06 p.m.

Amy VanDeBrake, Clerk Treasurer