

Unofficial

Somerset Fire/Rescue Commission Meeting

Unofficial

Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 7:00 p.m. at the Fire Hall

Roll call: Doug Plourde, Wally Neumann, Rita Lawson, Chris Dubak, Travis Belisle, Dave Wolner, Mike Kappers, and Jason Crotty.

Doug called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting: Mike moved, and Dave seconded approval of the September 18, 2024 minutes. Approved.

Budget Report: *2024 4th Qtr. and Year end budget review and approval* – Travis reported the new washing machine cost \$14,000 over budget but they used savings to pay for it. The 2024 expenses were over budget, but the auditor explained the expenses were ok because the department could show what all the payments were spent on. Mike moved and Doug seconded approval of the 2024 4th qtr. and year end budget review. Approved.

Membership Update: Travis reported that six applicants were taking a class to become members. He added they had 4-5 applicants on file and would bring them on as firemen retired.

Old Business: *Update on building maintenance and stairs* – Travis reported that the door upstairs was not there yet and there were lights that needed to be put in.

New Tender equipment –

Review Town and Village ordinances regarding Fire Department structure for 2% dues – Doug and Chris reviewed examples of the very confusing differences between the Villages and Towns Fire Department ordinances, including the description of the officers' responsibilities, house inspections, and fire burning permits.

Discussion on Fire Department comprehensive plan options - Travis reported they had been looking for options and what they would cost. Doug suggested a county-wide option that would likely cost less because of cost sharing.

New Business: *Discussion on available grants* – Travis reported they had written a FEMA grant to increase the water their equipment can carry because of the amount of water needed now to put out fires at new homes. He reported they had also written a DNR grant for the radios needed to connect with the kind of radios now being used in the county.

Town Hall availability for training – Travis noted their class the 2nd Mon. of the month often conflicted with other uses of the Town Hall, such as the Buds Garden Club. Doug offered suggestions on how to handle this.

Update on Department Activities: Travis reported no prairie burns had been scheduled yet for this year. Doug described the benefit of the prairie burns on his property and showed photos on his phone.

Motion by Mike, seconded by Chris to adjourn the meeting. Approved. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.