

PROPOSED MINUTES
GRAAFSCHAP FIRE BOARD
4534 60TH STREET
HOLLAND, MI 49423
(616) 335-3050

SERVING LAKETOWN AND FILLMORE TOWNSHIPS
September 6, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Bob Yonker called the meeting to order at 8:03 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug DenBleyker, Dave Grumney, Tim Hofman, Al Meshkin, Bob Yonker

MEMBERS ABSENT: Gary Dewey, Linda Howell, Bretton Prins

STAFF PRESENT: Mike Capel – Graafschap Fire Department

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The board reviewed the minutes of the April 19, 2023, meeting. **A motion was made by Meshkin, second by Hofman to approve the minutes as submitted. Chair Yonker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION VOICE VOTE– MOTION APPROVED 3-0.**

3. UPDATE FROM CHIEF -- None

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Staffing

DenBleyker reported some people have come in for applications but have not returned.

DenBleyker discussed the “24 Hour Staffing Plan And Benefits Update To Support Retention And Staffing Plan” that he submitted to the board. The package is designed to attract and retain firefighters. The benefits of dental, vision and disability are being considered and would be put in the 2024-2025 budget. For 2026, funds could be in budget without a millage increase to hire three 24-hour firefighters. He plans to start talking to Laketown and Fillmore boards and community to explain the needs.

Motion by Hofman, second by Meshkin, to approve the concept for staffing and benefits as presented by DenBleyker. Chair Yonker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION VOICE VOTE – MOTION APPROVED 3-0.

b. Pumper/Tanker

DenBleyker described process for bids for new pumper/tanker: Sent out five bids, received three back. Considering two – one from Toyne, Inc. of Breda, Iowa, though not yet received; other from Spencer Manufacturing of South Haven, Mich., for \$569,700 with a 30-day hold on the bid.

The board discussed the financing. The plan is to pay for the chassis when delivered using fund balance monies and some money from next year's budget, with the remainder of the balance to be financed.

Motion by Hofman, second by Meshkin, to approve the purchase of a pumper/tanker not to exceed \$600,000 and recommend to the township boards for approval. Chair Yonker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION VOICE VOTE – MOTION APPROVED 3-0.

DenBleyker noted that the ladder truck is waiting for parts for repair.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Insurance/Life and 24 Hour

DenBleyker discussed the Group Term Life Insurance Proposal and 24-Hour Accidental Death & Dismemberment Insurance Proposal, both from Provident. Adding both to coverage will increase annual cost by about \$8,700.

Motion by Hofman, second by Meshkin, to approve the purchase of additional insurance coverage as presented. Chair Yonker called for a vote on the motion. UNANIMOUS DECISION VOICE VOTE – MOTION APPROVED 3-0.

6. CITIZENS COMMENTS

Dave Grumney, firefighter: Will look at part-paid benefits to help with retention and recruiting.

Yonker adjourned the meeting at 8:43 a.m.