

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the Albany Area Fire Board was called to order by Chairman Tom Kasner at 6:45 o'clock in the evening on Thursday, August 3, 2017, at the Albany Fire Hall, 221 4th Street.

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Board members present were: | Fire Chief | Gary Winkels |
| | City of Albany | Tom Kasner |
| | Town of Farming | Dan Stommes |
| | Town of Krain | Scot Laing |
| | Town of Albany | Loren Pelzer |

Board members absent were: none

Others members of the Fire Department present were: Derrick Dirkes, Assistant Fire Chief, Greg Muellner, Secretary, Steve Frericks, Treasurer, Brian Schneider, Assistant Fire Chief and the following firemen: Meryl Didier, Scott Reber. Tom Schneider, Clerk/Adm. was absent from the meeting.

Chairman Tom Kasner called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of February 16th and hearing none declared them approved.

Mr. Frericks appeared before the Board to update the Board on the number of fire/rescue calls that were billed out to individuals in 2016-17. Mr. Frericks noted that other departments are contracting billing services to collect on behalf of the fire departments outstanding bills from individuals, insurance companies including Medicare, Medicaid, VA and other insurance providers. Mr. Frericks noted that insurance companies are requiring specific codes for different types of services provided and collection is becoming more difficult and time consuming. Mr. Winkels noted that Melrose Ambulance contracts with a billing agency and has had no issues with the service. Mr. Winkels noted that the fee charged to the fire department would be \$27/billable service and the contract term is 5-years. Chairman Tom Kasner, with the consensus of the Board, directed Mr. Winkels and Mr. Frericks to pursue the idea to enter into an agreement with a billing service company.

Mr. Muellner appeared before the Board to inform the Board that the number of calls responded to year-to-date for the Fire Department is 152. Mr. Pelzer questioned if the Department and Mother of Mercy Campus of Care resolved their differences of what is deemed an emergency at their facility. Mr. Winkels informed the Board that he met with the administrator at the nursing home to discuss the requests for services at their facility and many will be taken care of internally by their employees.

The Board took notice of the Fire Apparatus and Equipment Replacement Schedule. Mr. Winkels noted that Unit 15, the Rescue Suburban, is scheduled to be replaced in 2018 and the estimated cost maybe \$70,000+/- . Mr. Winkels noted that funds from the charitable gambling account and fundraising proceeds will be considered to purchase a new vehicle. Mr. Winkels noted that the funds allocated to replace Unit 15 shown on the said Schedule can be reallocated for the replacement of Unit 2, the pumper truck, in 2020. After due discussion, a motion was made by Scot Laing and seconded by Dan Stommes to authorize the Fire Department to purchase a new vehicle to replace Unit 15 with funds from the charitable gambling and fundraising accounts not to exceed \$70,000. All voted for the motion and it carried.

The Board took notice of the following proposed 2018 Albany Fire Department Budget:

| <u>ITEM</u> | <u>2017</u> | <u>2018</u> |
|-------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Part-time employee wages | | |
| Training and Instruction..... | \$67,000 | \$75,000 |
| Workers Compensation | \$25,000 | \$20,000 |
| Relief | \$48,000 | \$48,000 |
| Office Supplies | \$1,150 | \$1,000 |

ALBANY AREA FIRE BOARD

August 3, 2017

| | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Legal Fees | \$200 | \$150 |
| Telephone | \$2,300 | \$2,300 |
| Legal Notices Publications/Dues | \$2,800 | \$3,000 |
| General Liability Insurance | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Electric Utilities | \$2,900 | \$2,900 |
| Gas Utilities | \$3,600 | \$3,500 |
| Repairs/Maint Building | \$3,000 | \$3,800 |
| Repairs/Maint Equipment o/m | \$20,800 | \$25,000 |
| Capital Investment Fund | \$26,523 | \$27,318 |
| Other Equipment/New | \$2,000 | \$2,000 |
| Total: | \$215,273 | \$223,968 |

Mr. Winkels noted the proposed increase is 4%. After due discussion, a motion was made by Dan Stommes and seconded by Loren Pelzer to approve the 2018 Budget in the amount of \$223,968. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Winkels informed the Board that the Department was not awarded the Mn Department of Natural Resources (DNR) 50/50 grant and no response as of yet was received regarding the submittal of the 2016 FEMA application. Mr. Winkels noted that the annual Blattner Family Golf Tournament for the Albany and Avon Fire Departments is on Monday, August 7th at the Albany Golf Club.

Chairman Tom Kasner adjourned the meeting at 7:40 PM.

Gary Winkels
Fire Chief