

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof a regular meeting of the Albany Area Fire Board was called to order by Acting Chairman Neil Franz at 7:00 o'clock in the evening on Monday, February 9, 2015, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue in and for the City of Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota.

Board members present were:	Town of Albany	Tim Nierenhausen
	Town of Farming	Neil Franz
	Town of Krain	Jeff Goebel
	City of Albany	Tom Kasner (arrived 7:45PM)
	Fire Chief	Gary Winkels

Board members absent were: none

Others present were: Scott Reber, Assistant Fire Chief, Derrick Dirkes, Assistant Chief, Greg Mueller, Secretary, and Jamie Thelen, Treasurer. Members of the Fire Department were: Dean Mitchell and Steve Frericks, outgoing Secretary.

Acting Chairman Neil Franz called for any corrections or additions to the minutes of the meeting held on July 17, 2014. A motion was made by Jeff Goebel and seconded by Tim Nierenhausen to approve the aforesaid minutes as written. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Gary Winkels, Fire Chief, informed the Board that the following individuals are the officers of the Albany Fire Department for the year 2015:

- Gary Winkels, Fire Chief
- Derrick Dirkes, Assistant Chief
- Greg Mueller, Secretary
- Scott Reber, Assistant Chief
- Jamie Thelen, Treasurer

Mr. Thelen appeared before the Board to present the 2014 year end charged incidents for those individuals requesting assistance that do not reside within the Fire District. Mr. Thelen noted that the total billed was \$24,288 and collected was \$15,563. Mr. Thelen noted that \$8,725 remains outstanding.

Mr. Thelen presented to the Board the Fire Apparatus and Equipment Replacement Schedule that included all vehicles and major equipment for the Albany Fire Department. Mr. Thelen recommended that the Board consider a three-percent (3%) increase to the annual \$25,000 contribution to the Capital Equipment Fund. Mr. Thelen noted that other funding sources will need to be considered due to the high cost of replacement for fire and rescue vehicles. Mr. Thelen informed the Board that the vehicle replacement values shown on the schedule are only estimates, but would like authorization from the Board to proceed to gather vendor information and pricing as soon as possible for the replacement of the 1996 Tanker, Unit 11, in the year 2016. Mr. Schneider informed the Board that if a decision is made to purchase a vehicle, specifications and a bidding notice is required to be published in the local newspaper. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tim Nierenhausen and seconded by Jeff Goebel to authorize the Fire Department to explore vehicle options and financing for the replacement of the 1996 Tanker, Unit 11. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Frericks appeared before the Board for the last time as the Secretary to present the following activity report for the Department from the period 1/1/14 to 1/1/15:

<u>Calls</u>	<u>Number</u>
Fire Calls	43
Rescue Calls	163
Mutual Aid	4
Weather spotting	0
Cancelled in-route	<u>10</u>
Total Calls:	210

Mr. Kasner arrived for the meeting at 7:45PM.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Board a financial report for operations of the Fire Department for the year 2014 and the proposed contribution to the 2015 Capital Equipment Fund. Mr. Schneider noted that the operations were very similar to the previous year with the exception of two insurance premiums being paid in 2014. Mr. Schneider noted that the double payment was due to an invoice timing issue with the League of Minnesota Cities. After due discussion, a motion was made by Tim Nierenhausen and seconded by Jeff Goebel to approve the aforementioned 2014 Fire Department operations reimbursement and 2015 Capital Equipment Fund contribution. All voted for the motion and it carried. The reimbursement is attached to the minutes as Exhibit A.

Mr. Thelen updated the Board on the Charitable Gambling fund and other activities of the department. Mr. Thelen noted the annual estimated revenue sources of the department are as follows: 1) \$18,000 golf tournament, 2) \$10,000 firemen's dance, and 3) \$25,000 Charitable Gambling funds. Mr. Winkels noted that nearly \$40,000 was spent from Charitable Gambling proceeds for equipment in 2014. Mr. Franz requested that a breakdown of the revenues be presented at the meeting in July.

Mr. Winkels informed the Board that all the firemen have to complete First Responder Refresher Training in 2015. Mr. Winkels also noted that a proposed increase will be requested at the July meeting for the officer wages. Mr. Franz directed Mr. Winkels to contact other departments to compare officer wages and present the information at the July meeting.

Mr. Winkels informed the Board that fireman Loren Pelzer retired from the department after nearly twenty-five (25) years of service on the department. Mr. Winkels noted that Brian Schneider, a former firefighter in the department who moved out of the service area, informed him that he would like to rejoin the department having moved back to Albany. Mr. Winkels informed the Board that Mr. Schneider successfully completed the employment requirements and recommended Mr. Schneider be approved as a firefighter in the department. After due discussion and upon the recommendation of the Fire Chief, a motion was made by Jeff Goebel and seconded by Tom Kasner to hire Brian Schneider as a firefighter in the department. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Acting Chairman Neil Franz adjourned the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.