

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 7:00 o'clock in the evening on Thursday, July 17, 2014, in the Council Room at 400 Railroad Avenue in and for the City of Albany, Stearns County, Minnesota.

Board members present were:	Fire Chief City of Albany Town of Farming	Gary Winkels Tom Kasner Neil Franz
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Board members absent were:	Town of Krain Town of Albany	Scot Laing Tim Nierenhausen
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Others members of the Fire Department present were: Kurt Richter, Assistant Fire Chief, Scott Reber, Assistant Fire Chief, Jamie Thelen, Treasurer, Jim Czajkowski, Loren Pelzer, Dean Mitchell, and Rolland Hanson, firemen.

Chairman Tom Kasner called for any additions or corrections to the minutes of February 25th and hearing none declared them approved.

Mr. Thelen appeared before the Board to update the Board on the number of calls that were billed out to individuals in 2014. Mr. Thelen noted that its getting tougher to collect and those that remain unpaid over a period of time will be forwarded to a collection agency to pursue payment.

Mr. Czajkowski, President Albany Firemen’s Relief Association, appeared before the Council on behalf of the membership to request an increase in the annual benefit level from \$1,800 to \$2,000 per year of service. Mr. Czajkowski informed the Board that if approved there is no required contribution from the Board in 2015. Mr. Czajkowski noted that historical financial information was reviewed and evaluated which supports the \$200 per year of service increase. Mr. Czajkowski also noted that benefit levels are based on municipal contributions, investment performance, vested retiree benefit liabilities and an actuarial calculation provide by the State of MN and utilized by the membership’s accountants at Schlenner Wenner, Co., St. Cloud, MN. Mr. Franz questioned if the Board should be concerned with risk in the event that there is ever a lack of funds in the pension and who would pay the deficit. Mr. Czajkowski noted that a financial investment consultant at UBS Financial retained by the membership oversees the investments who reports regularly to assure that solid financial decisions are being made with the investments. Mr. Czajkowski also noted that a solid benefit package is very attractive in recruitment and longevity of firemen which is a savings being training new firemen is very expensive. After due discussion and careful consideration, a motion was made by Neil Franz and seconded by Tom Kasner to approve a \$200 increase per year of service in the annual benefit beginning in the year 2015. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Hanson appeared before the Board to inform the Board that the number of calls the department responded to from January to July 10, 2014 is 110. Mr. Hanson noted that in 2013, the total number of calls was 167.

Mr. Winkels presented to the Board the following proposed 2015 Budget:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>
Part time employees		
Training and Instruction/physicals		
Workers Compensation	\$70,000	\$80,500
Relief	\$42,250	\$44,150
Office Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,150
Legal Fees	\$150	\$200
Telephone	\$2,300	\$2,300

Legal Notices Publications/Dues	\$2,400	\$2,800
General Liability Insurance	\$10,000	\$10,000
Electric Utilities	\$2,500	\$2,900
Gas Utilities	\$3,600	\$3,600
Repairs/Maint Building	\$1,500	\$3,000
Repairs/Maint Equipment	\$16,000	\$20,800
Capital Investment Fund	\$25,000	\$25,000
Other Equipment/New	<u>\$2,000</u>	<u>\$2,000</u>
Total: >>	\$178,700	\$198,400

Mr. Winkels noted the proposed increase is 11.02% and that the largest budget item increase is wages due to the expected number of calls projected and upcoming training. Mr. Schneider estimated the revenues to be \$60,000 +/- . Mr. Franz questioned if charitable gambling funds and/or fund raising monies are shown as projected revenues. Mr. Winkels noted that the aforesaid funds are not shown as revenues, but annually spent on equipment purchases and the Board is notified of those purchases. Mr. Franz requested that the Fire Department provide the Board with information on each aforementioned fund activity annually so that information can be shared with other Township Supervisors. Mr. Franz also requested that the Board be provided with an annual Capital Equipment Replacement schedule to allow the Board to plan accordingly for equipment replacement. After due discussion, a motion was made by Neil Franz and seconded by Tom Kasner to approve the aforesaid Budget in the amount of \$198,400. All voted for the motion and it carried.

Mr. Schneider presented to the Board the Policy for Establishing Fees for Emergency Protection Services for the Albany Fire Department and questioned if there should be an amendment to the said Policy that would prohibit potential charges to a City resident by another fire department that serves Krain, Farming, and Albany Township. Mr. Schneider noted the amendment approved by the Board in February 2014 does not allow the Albany Fire Department to charge residents that reside within the Townships of Krain, Farming, and Albany even if the resident lies outside of the Fire District boundary. Mr. Schneider questioned if other fire departments that serve Krain, Farming, and Albany Township are not going to charge residents within a township. Mr. Winkels informed the Board that he contacted nearby fire departments to discuss billing services and each is very different being multiple fire departments provide protection services to a township. Mr. Kasner noted that the incident that had occurred last year in Farming Township is rare and that it's nearly impossible to create a uniform billing policy for every fire department when each serves only a few sections within a Township. Mr. Franz informed the Board that this issue has been discussed thoroughly and would not support an amendment to the said Policy. The Board took no action.

Mr. Winkels presented the following information to the Board relating to the activities of the Department:

- Insurance Services Organization (ISO) conducted an inspection of water flow in the City in May 2014 and will reevaluate the insurance rate designation upon the completion of their report. The City ISO Rate is 6. It may be as high as ten (10) if you reside more than five (5) miles from the City.
- The annual Blattner Family Golf Tournaments for the Albany and Avon Fire Departments is on Monday, August 11th at the Albany Golf Club. Donations received by each Department have been in excess of \$15,000 in the past.

Chairman Tom Kasner adjourned the meeting at 8:25 PM.

Tom Schneider
Clerk/Adm.