

HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY

March 15, 2023 – 6:00 pm

Oceola Township Community Center – 1661 N. Latson Rd. Howell, MI 48843

Board Members Present:

Chairman Bill Bamber, Vice Chairman Mike Coddington, Treasurer Bob Hanvey, Secretary Mark Fosdick, Member Bob Ellis, Attorney Kevin Gentry, Fire Chief Ron Hicks, Asst. Sec/Treas. Laura Walker

Also Present: Lt. Chris Mazer

Chairman Bill Bamber called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm

Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2023: MOTION by Mr. Ellis, SUPPORT by Mr. Coddington to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 15, 2023. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Call to Public: No Response

Discussion-Follow-up on website updates for Howell Area Fire Authority: Deputy Chief Czubenko reported that we are waiting to get the calendar cleaned up and finalized. Also working on an event to list on the Events page.

Chief's Comments:

- The new command vehicle has been delivered and is in our possession. We cost of the 2023 Chevy Tahoe was \$39,475.00.
- Chief Hicks requested to meet with the Personnel Committee to discuss the 2023/2024 fiscal year budget in a couple of weeks. A copy of the budget will be provided to the committee in advance for review.

Approve payment of Bills and Payroll: MOTION by Mr. Ellis, SUPPORT by Mr. Fosdick to authorize payment of Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$178,851.12. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

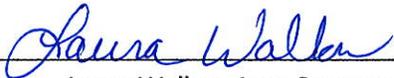
Old Business:

- Presentation by Lt. Mazer regarding efforts to purchase the new Engine by March 1, 2023 as approved by the board at the previous meeting of the Howell Area Fire Authority on 02/15/23. We received 4 bids and reviewed all of the specifications comparing each of the apparatus options, taking into consideration our needs, the cost, and the expected delivery time.
 - HME was the lowest cost option but did not meet our needs for the specifications on the cab in several areas of concern.
 - Spencer could not meet our needs on storage for necessary supplies/tools. We have also had an issue in the past with customer service on another apparatus that we purchased and have concerns about how they may handle any issues with another new truck purchase.
 - Rosenbauer had the longest wheelbase and poor cab design (including multiple blind spots)
 - Sutphen met our needs but had a delivery span of 3 years and 10 months which is too long for us to wait.
 - The Apparatus Committee met to establish a new plan and discovered that Sutphen has a Straight Stick Ladder Truck that would meet our needs for both an engine and a ladder truck. Since we have are

already in the market for a new engine and our ladder truck would need to be replaced next, this option seemed to be the most cost effective and timely solution.

- Many factors were considered when determining if the straight stick ladder truck would be our best option.
 - Our current ladder truck is too long to use within the downtown Howell area. Most residential neighborhoods are too tight for our current ladder truck to be able to maneuver safely. The straight stick ladder truck has a shorter wheel base than our current ladder truck, making it easier to maneuver and would allow us to access our downtown areas with ease.
 - The cab of the straight stick ladder truck is identical to our current Engines, giving us continuity amongst our apparatuses.
 - The straight stick ladder truck could serve the purpose of an engine as well as a ladder truck due to its size and maneuverability. Given the fact that our ladder truck is 34 years old, the straight stick truck could serve as our ladder truck's replacement as well as the Engine's replacement.
 - It is available for delivery in 24-26 months
 - It carries 500 gallons of water and has the same hose capacity as our engines. This is half of the water capacity as our current engine, but it is certainly sufficient and we can utilize our additional apparatuses on scene for water supply.
- The Apparatus Committee is requesting approval from the Board to spend up to \$1,500,000 for the purchase of a 75' Straight Stick Ladder Truck.
- Mr. Fosdick asked what we would do if we need to rescue someone from the top of a building and this straight stick truck has no bucket? Lt. Mazer responded that there is a stokes basket that can be used, but NFPA standards don't recommend using hydraulics of a ladder truck to lower a patient. It is recommended that we use a rope system to ensure the safety of the patient during the descent. Fire Marshal Czubenko stated that we don't use the bucket of our current ladder truck for rescue efforts either. We use ladders, which all of our apparatuses are equipped with.
- Mr. Fosdick requested to see a contract and quote for the proposed straight stick ladder. If necessary, a special meeting may be called in order to discuss and approve the purchase of the new ladder truck prior to the next board meeting.
- Mr. Fosdick asked if we found any feedback on fighting solar fires. Chief Hicks responded that no data has been available. FM Czubenko also stated that we would follow our regular Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's) to ensure the safety of the community and environment, just as we do with any other fire incident.

Adjourn: MOTION by Mr. Ellis, SUPPORT by Mr. Fosdick to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted: 
Laura Walker, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Approved By: 
Mark Fosdick, Secretary