

**SUGAR GROVE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
TRUSTEE'S MEETING
OPEN MINUTES**

DATE: October 20, 2014
TIME: 7:00 pm
PLACE: Sugar Grove Fire Station

Board of Trustees: Christopher Ruchaj, President
David Linden, Treasurer
Cheryl Wojciechowski, Secretary
Mike Fagel, Trustee

GUESTS: Attorney Shawn Flaherty, Attorney Tim Hoppa

Call to Order

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call – Chris Ruchaj – absent

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:
'Appoint Fagel as President Pro-tem'

Roll call vote – Motion carried

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Fagel to:
'Appoint Wojciechowski as Secretary Pro-tem'

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Approval of Minutes-

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:
'Approve the open session meeting minutes of Sept 15, 2014'

Roll call vote – Motion carried

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:
'Approve the closed session meeting minutes of Sept 15, 2014 and keep them closed'

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Treasurers Report –

Operations Account – \$2,937,036.05-, Construction Account - \$545,235.80-, Total \$3,482,271.85-
Five months in at 38%. A few high dollar items have been paid, making the percentage a bit higher.

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:
'Accept the October 20, 2014 Budget Percentage Report and Balance Sheet'

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Expenditures –

Chase Checking - \$199,089.25, Chase HRA - \$1,754.89 Total expenditures \$200,844.14.

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:
'Approve the Expenditures for September 2014 in the amount of \$200,844.14'

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Consent Agenda –

NFPA – Annual Fire Codes - \$1.295.00

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:
'Accept the Consent agenda dated October 2014'

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Report from Chief and Command –

Chief Perkins stated that the six month review of closed session minutes should be listed under Closed Session on the agenda, not under New Business as it is shown.

Total calls for September are 102, up by 25 over last year in September. Overall calls are up by 82 for this year vs. last.

Chief Perkins stated that he addressed the Ken-Com Board on how the 911 calls are being dispatched, they did not know of the problem. Chief heard from the ESTB Board the next morning, this problem should be fixed within the next 30 days.

Chief Perkins questioned Attorney Flaherty if we have to keep the reserve funds in on bank. Flaherty stated no, we can put them in as many different banks as we choose. It was questioned how much we can keep in reserve. Flaherty stated there is no limit on the general fund; although there are limitations on special funds.

Chief Perkins stated that he would like to talk with the Village of Sugar Grove about the collection of impact fees. Chief stated that he will address his findings with the Board next month.

Chief Perkins stated that Trustee Fagel asked to change the agenda to have Public Address the Board at the top of the agenda. Discussion took place, it will be on the agenda next month for review and or vote.

Attorney's report –

Flaherty questioned the Board if they want the Levy on next month's agenda or on December's. Flaherty stated that there are a few new twists – law has passed – 1 or 2 new tax rates can be added without a referendum. These would be Medicare and Social Security rates. Flaherty suggested to let other districts do this first and find out how it goes. Flaherty questioned how much we want to ask for; depending on the percentage, the District might or might not have to do a Truth in Taxation Hearing. Shawn stated the majority of the districts go with 4.9% unless 1. They don't want to raise taxes, 2. That between new growth and CPI they will go past the 4.9 and publish the ad or 3. They go for a referendum. Trustee Fagel questioned does it have to be raised each time. Flaherty stated that if we levy the same amount as last year, maybe \$1 more, the problem with that is we lose the future growth on that and we cannot get it back. Flaherty stated it is a board decision. Fagel questioned Chief Perkins if we could operate without raising the levy. Perkins stated he is a huge proponent for not taxing people out of our fire district, it is lean times for them and lean times for the district as well, and we have expenses to provide them with crucial emergency services, we need to make sure we have enough money to do that. Perkins stated his goal in future years is to not increase the levy. Perkins stated he does not feel comfortable in not trying to gain all the potential growth we have this year, everything goes up, including the cost of goods and services. Fagel stated that everyone has their own budgets, and people have asked taxing bodies to hold the line. Fagel stated that people keep asking to do more with less. Linden questioned what the highest we ever got. Flaherty stated when we ran a truth in taxation we received 8%, and then there were times we received 1%. Flaherty would like some direction this month from the board. Fagel stated if it was up to him he would like to go flat. Trustee Linden said we should keep it at 4.9, knowing we will not get it. Flaherty stated we don't have to go for the 4.9, we can go for 3, taking a risk if it goes beyond 3 we would lose something. Fagel stated that taxing to the max does not have a good sound to it. Trustee Wojciechowski stated to go under the 5 to 4.9, that the district should try it. Flaherty stated we will only get what the county will give us. Fagel stated the 3% would be a fair request, Linden stated yes, Wojciechowski stated that is fine. Flaherty will draw up a levy ordinance for next month's meeting.

Flaherty stated that we reviewed correspondence from Baird about the re-bonding. Baird has taken a stance, different than other companies that buy debt, these is ongoing something that is called a Municipal Continuing Disclosure Cooperative (MCDC), this is a SEC function, this lets companies voluntarily raise concerns on self-report basis of potential lapses in the disclosures law for municipal bonds. Flaherty did research on the correspondence we received. Baird identified that the District back in 2002 up to and including 2013 may not have filed required financial statements with the agencies that require financial records. The District will have to self-disclose, there will be no penalty if we take action. The district will also have to file its financial reports/audits to EMMA (Electronic Municipal Market Access) by December 1, 2014.

Old Business –

Discussion was held on permitting trustees to attend board meetings through remote participation. Trustee Fagel said the reason he brings this up is so he can participate when he is on deployments. Trustee Linden said if this goes through there is always a chance for abuse; he would like to see it limited. Trustee Wojciechowski said we are going to miss meetings every now and then, and that she thinks this will benefit Trustee Fagel more than anyone. This has been tabled.

Appointment of New Trustee – tabled

Election of Officers – Linden questioned if the board can do this, since there is a quorum. Flaherty stated it will have to be done again once they appoint a new trustee, but can be done now, since there was a vacancy, or they can table it.

Linden motioned to nominate Mike as President. Fagel stated that is one out of two positions. Wojciechowski asked Linden if he would continue to treasurer. Wojciechowski stated she would be secretary. Flaherty then stated that the slate is Fagel as President, Linden as treasurer, and Wojciechowski as secretary.

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:

‘Appoint Slate of Officers until the next restructuring or trustee is appointed. Fagel – President,
Wojciechowski – Secretary and Linden as Treasurer’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

New Business –

Treasurers Annual Statement of Receipts and Disbursements

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:

‘Approve the Treasurers Annual Statement of Receipts and Disbursement for the Sugar Grove
Township Fire Protection, Kane County Illinois’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

6-month Review of closed session minutes – moved to closed session

Purchase of New Engine – Chief has been reviewing the budget over the last several weeks, he has concerns in light of decisions made tonight on what we are going to put on tax levies and monies coming in, the last thing he wants to do is sign on for a purchase of an engine. Chief Perkins stated that he believes we will be better off to wait.

It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Linden to:

‘Go in to closed session at 8:23pm’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Fagel to:

‘Go back in open session at 9:18pm’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Attorney Flaherty stated that the motion made earlier to elect officers needs to be rescinded. It is allowable under state statute but the Board Rule requires a filling of an office prior to reshuffling the officers. The secretary position can be filled since there is a vacancy in that position.

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:

‘The of election of officers as voted earlier, president, secretary and treasurer, be rescinded, as it is
against Board Rules’

Roll call vote – Motion carried

It was motioned by Fagel and seconded by Linden to:
'Fill the Secretary position by Trustee Wojciechowski'

Roll call vote – Motion carried

ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY LAWFULLY COME BEFORE THE BOARD

None

Public to Address the Board

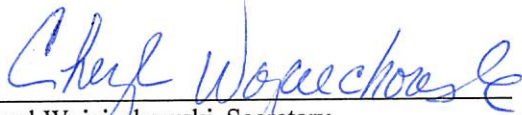
FF Jason Nichols questioned Trustee Fagel about the increase of the tax levy, with continued financial concerns expressed by Chief Perkins, with hesitation to the engine in the budget, why would you go for less on the increase. Fagel questioned vs the 4.9%. Nichols stated that he knows we won't get that, but if there is a chance to bring more money into the district, which when you calculate it out, would be very minimal to the taxpayers, why would we not go for it as a district. Fagel responded: He thought everyone had the open discussion to try and not hit the maximum tax of 4.9. Other than just trying to be fiscally responsible so we don't keep taxing to the limit every time, nothing punitive in it, just to try to not hit the max each time. Fagel asked FF Nichols if this answered his question appropriately, FF Nichols stated kind of.

FF Carlson questioned Flaherty if they hand out 3.2%, and we only go to 3, we will only see the 3%, correct? Flaherty stated whatever we levy is our limit, so if growth did exceed the 3%, that increment will not be recovered this year. Carlson questioned if those funds will have been collected by the county. Flaherty stated they will only collect based on our tax levy, taxpayers won't pay more than what we levy for.

It was motioned by Linden and seconded by Wojciechowski to:
"Adjourn at 9:23 pm"

Roll call vote – Motion carried

Respectfully submitted,


Cheryl Wojciechowski, Secretary


Paula Lacey, Recording Secretary