

OCQUEOC/BEARINGER FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARING
14127 Town Hall Highway
March 1, 2012, 6 PM
Minutes, 1st Copy

The meeting was called to order by chairman, Dan Olmsted followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call vote was taken:

Jerry Counterman, Ocqueoc TS Supervisor and Fire Board member, present
Jeff Foster, Ocqueoc TS Trustee and Fire Board member, present
Delores Merchant, Ocqueoc TS Treasurer, present
Pam Schaedig, Ocqueoc TS Clerk, present
Val Jaroch, Ocqueoc TS Trustee, present
Ted Slawinski, Bearinger TS Supervisor, present
Nancy Shutes, Bearinger TS Clerk and Fire Board secretary, present
Gale Phelps, Bearinger TS Treasurer, present
Pat Augustine, Bearinger TS Trustee, present
Kay Dowker, Bearinger TS Trustee, absent
Dan Olmsted, Fire Board chairperson, present
Beverly Rossetto, Fire Board financial officer, present

The budget discussion started with the Dry Hydrant repair. Phelps is concerned about the cost. Four years ago the cost was estimated to be \$500 for repairs. This budget has \$5000 budgeted for repairs. Phelps wanted to know if there are any estimates for the cost of repairs. She stated that four years is way too long to be waiting for the hydrants to be repaired. Chief Yaklin agreed that this has taken way too long. Pipe for two hydrant repairs has been ordered. The cost is \$317.

Phelps and Shutes both think that there is too much money budgeted for pagers, radios and turnout gear. After much discussion the amount for Radios/Pagers was reduced from \$4500 to \$3000.

Turnout gear was discussed. Phelps and Shutes think \$4500 is too much. Each member needs to be fitted for Turnout Gear. If new members are bigger or smaller they need their own Turnout Gear. Because we do not have any new members it was decided to cut the Turnout Gear from \$4500 to \$3000.

The purchase of an ORV was discussed. Deputy Chief Merchant has

researched the purchase of an ORV. With all the bells and whistles the cost will be around \$25,000. Rossetto suggested that any of the money not used could be returned to the townships by reducing the October payments. The Fire Department will make the final decision on which ORV will be purchased. Schaedig stated that we bought a 4X4 for \$16,000 and turned the DNR vehicle back over to the DNR. The 4X4 is too big to go on the snowmobile trails for rescue so an ORV would be a valuable purchase. Schaedig thinks we need to anticipate future needs and budget for them.

The purchase of security cameras was discussed. Rossetto mentioned a grant that is available through Risk Management. If approved, the grant would reimburse the cost of the cameras and installation once the project is complete. If the grant money is received we would get back the \$2,000. Rossetto will begin work on writing the grant.

Phelps is unhappy with the fact that the townships are still paying more than last year. The budget is coming in under what was budgeted last year but there is not as much money being carried over therefore the townships will be paying more. Phelps thinks that because we have no new members of the Fire Department the budget should be less every year. She thinks the emphasis should be on getting more members, not budgeting more monies. Merchant wanted to know how Phelps thinks we should get new recruits.

The Thermo Imaging camera was discussed. Rossetto thinks this is a necessary purchase to find the hot spots in a fire.

Augustine thinks we should budget even more for the Fire Department. She mentioned that Bearinger TS should have a Fire Department millage. Both Phelps and Shutes stated that Bearinger TS has plenty of money to support the Fire Department without a millage. Phelps thinks Bearinger TS has enough money for at least five (5) years due to tax revenues that are received every year and the abundance of money in Bearingers' savings and CD.

Shutes made a motion to do a roll call vote to approve the budget of \$75,364. Counterman seconded the motion. The roll call vote was as follows: Ocqueoc Township.....Counterman, yes. Schaedig, yes, Merchant, yes, Jaroch, yes, Foster, yes. Bearinger Township.....Phelps, no. Augustine, yes, Shutes, yes, Slawinski, no. Schaedig stated that the Joint Agreement states that if the two townships can not agree then the Fire Board makes cuts until both townships agree. After this discussion Slawinski

changed his no vote to yes. Due to a majority vote, the motion carried.

The Fire Department Budget Hearing was adjourned at 6:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Shutes, Fire Board Secretary