



Solon Township Hall
15185 Algoma Avenue NE
Cedar Springs, MI 49319
616-696-1718

**Minutes of the Solon Township Fire Committee
September 24, 2018 meeting, 6:45pm**

Meeting called to order by Chairman Mather at 6:47 PM

Roll Call: (* = voting member).

1. Fire Chief Jeff Drake, Fire Department Taylor Hunt. Vice Chairman Curt Steinebach*,
 Chairman Jeff Mather*, Township Trustee Fred Gunnell*,
 Community Representative Burt Drent*, Community Representative Rick Vargo*.

Approval of Agenda: Motion by Rick Vargo to approve agenda. 2nd by Curt Steinebach. Motion carried 3-0.

Approval of April 9, 2017 meeting minutes: Motion by Curt Steinbach to approve minutes. 2nd by Rick Vargo. Motion carried 3-0.

Business:

- 1) Chief Drake gave an update on personnel and indicated that overall participation by firefighters continues to be good.
 - a. There are currently 15 firefighters. Two recently passed MFR certification. There is one (maybe two) individuals who have expressed interest in applying to the department.
 - b. The cumulative participation rate for the Apr-Sep 2018 period was 31.1% (medical) and 39.1% (non-medical). This indicates that, on average 39.1% of fire fighters responded to all calls. This has been consistent (within 8%) since Nov 2017.
- 2) Chief Drake reviewed the August 2018 Fire Chief's monthly report and the increase in alarms from 305 in 2017 YTD to 339 2018 YTD. For the same period there was an increase in medical alarms (182 to 204), structure fires (6 to 13), wild fires (3 to 9), and public service #2 (15 to 32).
 - a. Note: Public service #2 includes: hazardous conditions, assist to other agencies, public assist.
 - b. There were 10 YTD mutual/auto aid given, and 27 YTD Received. We discussed that these number show good participation with the fire departments in the surrounding communities and demonstrates the value of the mutual aid program.
- 3) The committee reviewed a pending agenda item related to the budgeting process for capital equipment and incidental spending. The Chief indicated that clarification was provided, and the related questions have been resolved. We agreed to close this item.

- 4) The committee had a broad discussion about standby duty to determine if there was enough interest to develop a case-for-change proposal for the Board. This would include a break-down of the benefits, advantages and features of a program, as well as a budgetary proposal. We agreed that the preliminary work should include a review of the potential negative aspects of such a program to ensure we consider all potential unintended consequences.
 - a. Fire department representative Taylor Hunt reported that most if not all the (younger) firefighters were in favor of having stand-by duty available. There was no indication about whether the senior/veteran members support this.
 - b. All members of the committee present were in favor of moving forward with the next steps in compiling/analyzing the components of case-for-change proposal.
 - c. **Action: Chairman Mather** will call the committee together for a special meeting to outline the steps in the process and begin to develop the case-for-change proposal.
 - d. **Action:** Budget analysis: **Chief Drake** agreed to meet with the Township Treasurer to better understand where the millage dollars are currently allocated and to look the budget to identify possible sources of funding.
- 5) We discussed the build status of the new “Tender #1”. Representative Vargo showed pictures of the tender. The Chief indicated that it should be completed by the first week of October.

Correspondence:

- 1) Chief Drake and Representative Hunt updated the committee on the status of the FEMA grant for the purchase of SCBA’s for Solon Township, Cedar Springs and Sand Lake fire departments. The selection committee is in the process of selecting the manufacture. The full purchase process is expected to take up to one year.
- 2) Fire Department Representative Taylor Hunt reported that he and other firefighters are coordinating a Halloween event at one of the mobile home parks to pass out candy and have a fire truck available for the kids. The firefighters are also planning a PR event at the Meijer store prior to the Jr. Hunting season when parents and the children will be purchasing licenses.

Additional public comments:

- 1) None

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn and accepted: Time 8:37pm

Submitted by: Jeff Mather