

GALESBURG CHARLESTON JOINT FIRE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MEETING DATE MAY 17, 2023

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Chris Balkema

Attendance: Josh Balkema, Chris Balkema, Ann Nieuwenhuis, Roger Frazee, Josh Balkema and guest Josh (fire fighter/DPW) and our VFIS Insurance Agent-Brian.

Approval of April 19, 2023 draft minutes 1st by Roger, 2nd by Josh, 4 ayes motion passes

Public Comment: none

Educational Insurance Presentation by VFIS Agent for Board discussion. Great information, excellent questions and discussion! Information confirmed that our property and casualty limits are sufficient. The Insurance Agent assured us the all Board members and Fire Fighters are bonded

The Board did agree to add the member/family assistance program for all of our fire fighters. The motion was made by Chris, 2nd by Roger , with approval by all board members. For more information on this program please contact the Chief.

Chief's Run Report: Stats: Charleston 29, Galesburg 12, Total of runs 29. Motion to accept 1st by Chris, 2nd by Josh with 4 ayes, motion passed.

ISO called and we are running out of time since we are still waiting for proper rates from the water department. Without these figures residents and business property insurance could increase.

The Fire Department has received two new AED equipment for a cost of \$2,000 and will be arriving in 21 weeks. We received credit for the 3 AED's we turned in to the company.

Treasurers Report: Refer to April Treasurers/ Financial Report; Motion made by Chris and 2nd by Ann to move \$16,500 dollars from the 2021-22 budget to the 2022-2023 budget to pay for 4 complete turn-out gear and 3 new helmets. We have not received the equipment and need to move the dollars into our current budget to access for payment. We anticipate the arrival of this gear in coming year.

Budget for the 2023/2024 year has been approved by both entities.

Building Update: The door has a temporary fix, waiting for more parts. EPS will cover the \$300 in repairs. The spring needs to be replaced.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report and pay bills by Chris, Second Roger, and 4 Ayes, 0 Nyes: motion passes.

Old Business: Firefighter Attraction and Retention Update: no applications were received in the past year. The monthly Saturday breakfast are continuing and are greatly appreciated.

FOIA policy: The Board agreed to adopt the MTA FOIA policy presented at tonight's meeting. Motion made by Ann, seconded by Roger with unanimous approval. Once all of the name changes have been made to the FOIA policy, the policy will be available on our website.

Public Comment- 3 minutes per person; no one in attendance

New Business:

The Board discussed the need for a pay increase for all of the fire fighter and for an increase for those receiving a stipend. The board accepted the proposal for a 22 percent increase per hour and per stipend for all fire fighter. Chris moved the motion and Josh 2nd the motion, 4 ayes, motion passes. The pay increases will begin June 1, 2023 which is the beginning of our new fiscal year.

Need to seek other entities job descriptions and evaluation for both the Chief and the Assistant Chief so the Board Members can review at the June meeting.

Discussion focused on the closing of Pride Care and possible next steps for the Fire Department and our joint communities.

The need for Fire Board Alternate Board members has been passed by Galesburg Council with the nomination and approval of Carol Wortinger. Chris Balkema will bring the same resolution to the next Charleston Township Board Meeting. This will make it possible to hold regular meeting with sufficient Board members in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Nieuwenhuis, Secretary of the Galesburg-Charleston Fire Board