

**FIRE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD DECEMBER 7, 2009**

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The Fire Oversight Committee met in regular session on December 7, 2009 at 5:30 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Benson.

**ROLL CALL:**

The following members were present at the Call to Order: Randy Benson, Ron Comer, and Richard Pettit.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

The following members were absent: Jim Lawson and Scott Anding.

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Also present were Dan Alldred, Fire Chief, Anna M. Sizemore, Village Manager, Kelli R Novak, Clerk of Council and three visitors.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Pettit moved to accept the October 19, 2009 minutes as presented, second by Mr. Comer.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Benson, yes; Mr. Comer, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes. 3-yes, 0-no. MOTION CARRIED.

Mr. Benson moved to accept the October 20, 2009 minutes as presented, second by Mr. Comer.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Comer, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes. Mr. Benson, yes; 3-yes, 0-no. MOTION CARRIED.

**VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mrs. Sizemore announced the meeting with the Township, Council, and the Rescue Squad Inc. will be on December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at the Germantown Library.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Fire Chief Dan Alldred gave the November 2009 report. The total Fire and EMS calls year to date is 779.

The rear apparatus building has been repaired.

He stated that the level 1 class has been completed and eight of the ten Germantown personnel have passed both Sinclair's and the State exam. He is hoping to hold a level 2 class in the spring of 2010 here at the Germantown Fire House.

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He asked if the Fire Oversight would consider paying for extended training. Each class would cost \$1,200.00 plus the cost of the class at Sinclair.

Mrs. Sizemore stated the fire fund can afford to pay for this training, we are looking for Fire Oversight's feedback right now.

Chief Dan Alldred stated Fire Safety Services tested all SCBA in November, for the year. ARMS did the annual fire apparatus service for the year, which included oil changes and lube.

He announced that the Fire/EMS Levy failed by 56 votes.

He stated that a new medic was purchased by Germantown Rescue Squad, Inc. through the Burgess Company.

Mr. Comer questioned if a unit would be retired, Chief Dan Alldred replied Medic #653 would be retired.

Chief Dan Alldred asked everyone to attend the meeting with Germantown Rescue Squad Inc. on December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Benson questioned if anyone had started working on soft billing, Chief Dan Alldred replied that the Mrs. Sizemore has put together a RFP to go out for bid.

Mr. Comer asked if anyone heard why the residents did not vote for the Fire/EMS Levy, Mr. Benson replied that most everyone he spoke with did vote yes.

Mrs. Sizemore questioned if the committee had a target date as to when they would like to start the soft billing process.

All agreed they would like to see the soft billing start January 1<sup>st</sup>.

Chief Dan Alldred added that it would not be cost effective if the Village did the billing themselves. The information he has gotten states that the companies will take a percentage of the bill, which the average is 6%-7%.

Mrs. Sizemore stated we will still have to monitor the billing company, in what they are to write off and any other issues.

Mr. Benson stated he would like to start the soft billing on January 1, 2010.

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Chief Alldred stated the billing alone will not sustain the Fire/EMS department. The billing may cover some of the cost but there is just no way the billing will support the department.

Mr. Benson stated the Fire/EMS Levy Campaign Fund has a balance of \$950.44.

Mr. Benson questioned if everyone was okay with running the Levy again in May 2010.

Chief Alldred stated he did not think we should lower the Levy rate.

Mr. Comer stated if residents are billed with a soft billing charge the votes may change.

Laurie Rohrbach questioned if they are talking about billing people out of the jurisdiction.

Chief Alldred replied we will be billing everyone.

Laurie Rohrbach stated if the Village starts billing everyone it will void the contract.

Chief Alldred replied it will not affect the contract if we bill the private insurance companies, Medicare, or Medicaid. The residents themselves would never receive a bill, they may receive an EOB. When you have health insurance, a portion of the insurance is set up to pay EMS.

Mr. Benson stated the more people who understand now the better the chances are of getting this Levy passed in May.

Mr. Comer stated it would only raise the resident's taxes by \$61.00 a year.

Chief Alldred stated it would only raise the taxes \$61.25 a year for a home that is valued at \$100,000.

Mr. Benson stated the residents still are confused about the roll Germantown Rescue Squad Inc. has here in Germantown.

Mr. Pettit stated a lot of the residents still refer to the Fire/EMS as the Germantown Rescue Squad.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that everyone's term on the Fire Oversight Committee expires this year; she asked if everyone would still want to continue to serve on the Fire Oversight Committee. It will come before Council at the beginning of the year.

Mr. Comer questioned if all the seats of the Fire Oversight were going to expire, Mrs. Sizemore replied yes. He went on by saying the terms should be staggered, and not all expire at once, Mrs. Sizemore agreed and stated she would look into it.

Mr. Comer stated that the residents need to know that the new medic was donated not purchase. They will be less likely to vote for the Levy if they think the Fire/EMS department purchased the new medic.

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**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Mr. Pettit moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Kelli R. Sanders-Novak  
Clerk of Council