

**FIRE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD MARCH 1, 2010**

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The Fire Oversight Committee met in regular session on March 1, 2010 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: Scott Anding, Randy Benson, Ron Comer, Michael Kuhn, and Richard Pettit.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None.

**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. Benson stated that Mr. Anding's math was wrong on the last page. He knew he was just throwing out a number.

Mr. Anding replied we can clarify that, the correct number should read "\$286,000" not "\$280,000".

Chief Alldred stated on page 3, seventh paragraph should read "Self Contained Breathing Apparatus".

Mr. Benson moved to accept the February 1, 2010 minutes as amended, second by Mr. Anding.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Benson, yes; Mr. Comer, yes; Mr. Kuhn, yes; Mr. Pettit, yes; Mr. Anding, yes;. 5-yes, 0-no. MOTION CARRIED.

**VILLAGE MANAGER'S REPORT:**

Mrs. Sizemore stated that we need to get moving with the Levy.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that it is a personnel issue, but if word gets to any of you in reference to any EMS employees, the situation has been dealt with.

**FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT:**

Fire Chief Dan Alldred gave the February 2010 report.

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He stated that Mrs. Sizemore and he met with GRS to discuss extending the contract. The meeting was very agreeable, and the proposed contract for extending the 2010 contract for the final four months is in the hands of the Law Director and a copy was given to take to GRS's lawyer.

He stated that he has started driver training with the new Medic. Every evening this week, we will do training and the new Medic will be running Friday evening.

The Fire Fighter Level II class will start the end of March. The class will be held here in Germantown, like we did in the spring. This is thru Sinclair Community College with the same instructor, Chief Smith.

Mrs. Sizemore added that Council did authorize that a plaque be purchased for GRS, Inc. and they will be present it to GRS, Inc. at the next Council meeting. She stated it might be nice if Fire Oversight were there.

**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBER'S REPORTS:**

Mr. Anding questioned where we stood with the billing issue, Mr. Kuhn replied it was to be discussed, and they are possibly throwing around the contract extension.

Mrs. Sizemore added we will wait until September 1<sup>st</sup>

Chief Alldred added even though they have agreed to fund us through the last four months, with approval. Once that September 1<sup>st</sup> date has been met, we can do anything we want.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that we will have the billing in place and ready to go at that time. On September 1<sup>st</sup> we can start billing. She feels this will show good faith on our part. GRS has agreed to do the funding for the last four months, and then we will have it on a calendar year. The reason why we have only agreed to the last four months is so that at the end of those four months, we can look at where we stand. We can look at what billing has brought in, and see where we are financially and then there is potential for them to fund us another year.

Mr. Anding questioned if the Levy fails, what is plan B, Chief Alldred replied that we would sit back down and try to get a years extension on the contract, which should not be a problem.

Mr. Benson stated we would put the Levy back on the November ballot.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that we will have to do the billing regardless, but with all the issues surrounding it, she feels it would be best to start the billing September 1<sup>st</sup>. Regardless if the Levy passes, we still need to bill. It's additional money out there we are missing.

Mr. Benson stated this way we will be sticking to the contract.

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Mrs. Sizemore stated that even if the Levy passes, we still need to do the billing. We are running into issues with the daytime fire personnel having to have people here part-time during the day, we need all the money we can pull in.

Mr. Anding stated he could not agree with all those statements more, but he feels the timing is now and start the billing now. He thinks it is right to try to honor the agreement, but the agreement reads that we would not bill residents. We are billing insurance companies. He has done his due diligence on trying to find how anyone can misconstrue the language that is in that document. You can't. He has had attorneys look at it, and it is impossible. He feels we are missing the boat because he feels it is holding up projects that the department wants to make happen now. The money that we would be bringing in would be off setting what they have. They can do what ever they want with their money, and continue to peruse other things that coincide with their mission with grants and other special projects.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that if we fall short then they will be there to help us.

Mr. Comer stated that his concern is if we start billing, we will alienate GRS, Inc. And then they could withdraw their support and where would we be then. It sounds like we are trying to slap the hand that is feeding us.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that this would give us time to start the billing, because it will take some time to get everything into place, and we are not rushing it. At the same time, Council has asked Chief Alldred that by July 1<sup>st</sup> we have the First Emergency First issues all in place.

Mr. Anding stated that he did not want to bite the hand that is feeding us either, but sooner or later their money will run out. If we start the billing process now we wouldn't need their money, and they can do what they want with it.

Mr. Kuhn stated that billing alone will not fund the operations.

Mr. Anding stated that it certainly could.

Mr. Kuhn stated that he was always told that the projected billing alone could not fund the Fire Department.

Mr. Anding stated that if we had approximately 400 EMS runs and we get up to \$250,000 from GRS, which we have never gone over, we have always left money on the table.

Mr. Kuhn stated that what he has been told is that depending on the insurance company you can ask for \$800.00 and get \$50.00. So there is no way to find a concrete number as to how much we will pull in.

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Mr. Anding stated that Mr. Kuhn was right, you don't want to bank 100% on it because you want to make sure that that money goes into a general fund. If you include that in your budget and it is always shown as a line number in your budget, then the City Management can say that you are getting this money and we are not funding you anything out of the general fund this year. If you put this into a Fire Department general fund then it is not a line item budget anymore and you are not banking your operations on it.

Mr. Kuhn stated that he feels that as a Fire/EMS Department we would not be where we are today without all the years GRS put in. He feels until August, which is really not that long, we can hold out to respect all the years of service those people put in. That is how he feels comfortable with it. He agrees that billing would be great, but there are a lot of people who have put in a lot of hard work and time. And if at all possible he would like to respect that.

Mr. Anding stated that he really hoped that Mr. Kuhn was not insinuating that he is being disrespectful, he is trying to progress our organization over this hurdle.

Mr. Kuhn replied he was not trying to insinuate that Mr. Anding was being disrespectful.

Mr. Pettit stated that a lot people may think also that if you are billing the insurance companies, you are billing them, so why should they vote for it.

Mr. Anding questioned vote for what, Mr. Pettit replied the Levy.

Mr. Kuhn stated that there is the confusion fact also. That will be a big one, because we still have confusion and if someone is billing then we have more confusion.

A brief discussion took place regarding insurance bills.

Mr. Kuhn stated that he understood Mr. Anding's argument, but he feels that alienating GRS and slapping the hand that feeds us is not good.

Mr. Anding stated that we are not alienating GRS or slapping their hand. What we are doing is that we realize the issue that is before us, and we are taking advantage of this over here, thank you, and we appreciate it for all the years of service and everything else financial. But it's okay; you can keep your money, because we will be doing this over here.

Mr. Comer stated that it sounds like we are asking for a lot at one time. We are trying to get a Levy passed and then we are all at once hitting them with billing. People will say, why will I want to vote on a Levy, and then they will turn around and bill me anyway. A lot of people see a bill; they think it is a bill. If you are billing the insurance company they may think that their insurance rates will go up. He feels we are trying to get too much at one time.

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Mr. Kuhn stated if we try to get the Levy passed and if it doesn't pass start billing in September, it gives a better chance about people hearing about billing and get the Levy passed, and use the billing money after September as Capital Improvements.

Mr. Benson stated he noticed that the Village has changed the cable channel.

Mrs. Sizemore replied yes, we changed the backgrounds.

Mr. Benson said it looks good, and asked if we can use that for the Levy, Mrs. Sizemore replied yes, we have used it before. She went on by saying that MVCC will be coming out to do some filming for us and also another filming of the Chief, like they did before.

Mr. Benson stated that he was impressed and it really looks nice.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that we are planning on doing what Mr. Anding did before and do a recruitment video.

Mr. Kuhn added that Brian Wafzig is talking about MVCC coming out and doing a Levy piece, and maybe show the trucks and the personnel.

Mrs. Sizemore stated that Chief Alldred is already taking care of that.

Mr. Benson stated that we need to stress to the residents that this is a volunteer Fire Department.

Mr. Benson questioned if the Dayton Daily News was coming out to do a piece, Chief Alldred replied they have not yet.

Mr. Pettit stated that Channel 2 gives us more cooperation and information than anybody else.

Mr. Benson stated that we have \$950.44 in the Fire/EMS committee account.

Chief Alldred stated that we actually have \$3,950.44 in the account we received another \$3,000.00.

Mr. Benson questioned if we were still planning on doing the mailer, Chief Alldred replied he will do whatever the committee wants him to do.

A brief discussion took place about the Levy mailer.

Mr. Anding questioned what is it that we did not do the last three times, that we need to do this time, Mr. Benson replied we did not convince 25 people that they need this service.

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Mr. Kuhn questioned if anyone did the phone bank, Chief Alldred replied no, we did not make any calls.

Mr. Kuhn stated that there are also some people that are willing to go door-to-door, and he and Brian Wafzig were planning to go door-to-door also. We may want to put up more or bigger signs, which he can make some at the shop. We need to push in the areas it failed; he thinks we can get those 25-26 votes.

Mr. Anding questioned if those areas were the Township and Hillcrest, Mr. Kuhn replied yes.

Mr. Kuhn stated that we have a registered voter list and we can do some door-to-door and phone bank work. Maybe we need to send out a specific mailer to the Township area because it will be hard to go door-to-door.

Mr. Benson stated that they would be able to put something on the Township Website.

A brief discussion took place regarding the Levy signs.

Mr. Kuhn added that the Hillcrest Church is a polling place, and if you guys went out there and did an evacuation plan it may help. Chief Alldred replied that during the last Levy he solicited a few churches and offered to come in and do a power point presentation and he was denied.

Chief Alldred stated that he would like to bag groceries at the IGA on a Saturday morning for a few hours to inform the people. Maybe not focus on talking to them while we are bagging but to take a few minutes while we walk the groceries out to their cars.

All agreed the next meeting would be before the next Council meeting on March 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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Kelli R. Sanders-Novak  
Clerk of Council