

## Shawnee County Fire District #1

February 10, 2016

The Board of Trustees of Shawnee County Fire District #1 met in regular session on Wednesday, February 10, 2016. Members present were Chairman Graig Brummer, Tom Noble, Alan Ribelin, Bill Ross, and Leonard Wonnell.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

### **Approval of the minutes** of the meeting held on January 13, 2016

A motion was made by Wonnell, and seconded by Noble by to approve the minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

### **Approval of the financial** report from the month of January, 2016

A motion was made by Ribelin, and seconded by Noble to approve the expenses totaling **\$25,364.90**. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Hawkins reported we have had 21 calls through 10-Feb-2016. As of this date in 2015, we had 33 calls.

### **Old Business:**

Graig Brummer was appointed Chairman of the Shawnee County Fire District #1 board by the Shawnee County Commission at their January 14, 2016 meeting. Graig thanked those in attendance for the opportunity to serve and is looking forward to working with the board to provide for the best interests of the department and district.

Chief Hawkins reported that the department has 'closed' on the property located on the NE corner of NW 62<sup>nd</sup> St and NW Leedy Rd. Noble mentioned that when we submit the site plan for that location, we should plan and request approval for a building that is larger than currently needed so that we as a department don't have to request additional changes later, which come at an increased cost. After some discussion, Hawkins also reported that because of the bonds used to build station 62, we cannot pay off this debt early and save any money as the interest on the bonds must still be paid. Hawkins stated his intention to not finance the planned building at 62<sup>nd</sup> and Leedy, but rather pay off the building when it is constructed, in order to save financing costs on this site.

Brummer questioned the status of the old fire department building, form Station 62, located at Kiro. Chief Hawkins reported that the lease with Union Pacific will come due in May for this site. Chief Hawkins also stated that he has provided information to a potential tenant that Union Pacific is requesting \$2,000 to lease the building in the future. Hawkins has not heard again from this entity and is not aware of any other potential tenants at this time. Hawkins also stated that the natural gas has been turned off at that facility given that equipment is no longer stored there and given the high cost of winter heating required for the building. He further stated that we may consider removing the meter as well in the future to save further costs; however after some discussion; it was decided to leave the meter for the time being since the cost is small and it might be beneficial to a future tenant. There was further discussion regarding the fate of the building, including the possibility that we may need to raze the building if no tenant is found, but no action was taken at this time.

Chief Hawkins report that the annual dinner was held on February 6<sup>th</sup> at the Ramada. At that dinner, the fire department recognized Mike Killion for his 8 years of service as the board chairman and Francis Kelsey for 40 years of service to the department. Hawkins also reported that Kaleb Chockley was presented the Department's Star of Life Award, Dave Larson was presented the Firefighter of the Year Award and Shawn Hastings the Training Attendance Award.

Noble introduced the fact that he has served as Vice-Chairman of this board for a considerable period of time and thought it might be best if someone else assumed this responsibility. After discussion, Ross made a motion that Alan Ribelin take responsibility for the Vice-chairman position in the future. Motion seconded by Wonnell, motion carried 5-0

**New business:**

Hawkins reported that the department has begun readiness efforts for the spring grass fire season. Plans call for one of the stations to be manned on weekends during the duration of this season. There was further discussion regarding when the season might begin and the length of time needed for the manning of the stations. Hawkins stated that this is dependent upon the climate and several other factors, but generally lasts approximately 6 weeks.

Chief Hawkins reported that Engine 62 has been experiencing problems with the Compressed Air Foam System (CAFS) and that he had purchased hoses at an expense of approximately \$2,500 to repair the issue. No action needs to be taken but Hawkins wanted to alert the board to the large expense that will be submitted in next month's financial report.

Ribelin asked for a report on volunteer status. Chief Hawkins stated that the department has been replacing lost volunteers, which included 2 last year and 1 so far this year. Ross questioned what efforts were being made to retain current volunteers and Hawkins reported that there are a number of incentives, including life insurance policies. Currently volunteers are provided with two life insurance policies, the first provided by the department through New York Life, and the other provided by the Kansas State Fire Fighters Association through the National Volunteer Fire Council. Hawkins also stated that volunteers were provided the opportunity to receive a reimbursement from AFLAC annually. Brummer asked about the efforts of other departments to address the same concern. Hawkins reported that Soldier Fire has been paying their personnel for approximately 3 years, but that this effort hadn't had any particular effect, good or bad, on their ability to obtain and retain volunteers. Hawkins also reported that a number of other departments, most notably Shawnee Heights and Rossville, are also paying their volunteers, but Hawkins did not have any other information regarding this effort. Hawkins stated he was continuing recruiting efforts. Hawkins also reported that a Pastor was being provided to help volunteers with stressful situations which they encounter and to assist them in time of despair.

Wonnell requested a copy of the annual report in order to review. There was some discussion regarding the cost of a required audit on an annual basis. Both Ross and Wonnell volunteered to perform a financial review in lieu of an expensive audit. Hawkins stated he would provide both with the reports.

Steve Peak thanked the board for the purchase of new shirts and stated that feedback by department had been very positive.

Ross made a motion to adjourn, second by Noble. Motion carried 5-0.