

# **CASS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1**

## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **JULY 15, 2011**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

The Cass County Fire District 1 (CCFD1) Board met at 7:30 p.m. at Cass County Fire District 1 Station at 1441 Holland Street, Logansport, Indiana. Meeting was called to order by Sherman Kantzer. Bridget Enyeart present. Board member Mike Simms was not present and submitted his written resignation to Bill Buzbee, Trustee of Noble Township and board members Bridget Enyeart and Sherman Kantzer.

#### **MINUTES**

Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2011, were reviewed. Bridget Enyeart made a motion to accept the minutes. Sherman Kantzer seconded the motion. ***Motion passed 2-0.***

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Treasurer's Report was given by Bridget Enyeart. Checking account balance is \$10,534.82; general fund balance is \$4,453.58; CEDIT fund balance is \$6,081.24; savings account balance is \$302,475.67. Bridget Enyeart made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and to transfer \$200,000 from savings to checking in order to cover the check for contractual services for ½ of New Waverly Fire Department's contract for 2011. Sherman Kantzer seconded. Motion passed 2-0. Disbursements for June were reviewed regarding contractual services for Twelve Mile, Georgetown, Harris Twp., and Royal Center. Deposits were also reviewed for Noble, Eel, Washington, and Clay. Sherman Kantzer made a motion to approve all disbursements and deposits for June 2011. Bridget Enyeart seconded the motion. ***Motion passed 2-0.***

#### **WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP CONTRACT**

Mr. Mayhill sent CCFD1 the entire contract amount for fire protection for the entire year of \$20,000.

#### **FIRE DISTRICT SEAL DESIGN**

Due to school dismissal for the summer, the District has been unable to get in touch with the teachers at Caston and Lewis Cass to find out names of the students who won our seal contest. As soon as we are able to contact these individuals, the Cass County Fire District will announce and award the winners.

#### **New Waverly Fire Department Contractual Services**

Contractual services with New Waverly Fire Department for 2011, is \$748,020. The CCFD1 was to submit payment for ½ of the services provided for the year 2011, which is \$374,000. Due to Miami Township being unable to join CCFD1, the district is unable to levy taxes against the property owners in Miami Township. When CCFD1 and New Waverly Fire Department negotiated the original contract for services, CCFD1 would assume the remaining assets of Miami Township's fire fund. Miami Township has agreed to a contract payment for \$200,010.00 for July 15, 2011, contractual services. Bridget Enyeart made a motion to accept the amendment as written, Sherman Kantzer seconded the motion. ***Motion passed 2-0.*** Amendment to the 2011 Contract with Miami Township Fire Department was signed by Sherman Kantzer and Bridget Enyeart of CCFD1; Kyle Anderson and Josh Knight of New Waverly Fire Department.

#### **Public Hearing on the Establishment of the Cumulative Fire Fund**

Secretary shows 14 individuals present for the public hearing regarding the establishment of a cumulative fire fund. Sherman Kantzer explained to the public information regarding the function of a cumulative fund for capital expenditures. Much discussion was held regarding the requirements of establishing the fund pursuant to Indiana Code and in accordance with the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance. Sherman Kantzer explained to the public the necessity of setting the tax at the full amount allowed pursuant to Indiana Code which is \$0.0333 per \$100 of assessed value on property within the taxing district. Sherman made a motion to accept the tax rate. The motion died when member, Bridget Enyeart did not second the motion.

Board member Bridget Enyeart indicated that she was in favor of the establishment of the fund, but would like to see it at a lower amount with a gradual increase to the \$0.0333 by the year 2014. Bridget indicated that pursuant to the contract with New Waverly, even if one of our trucks were out of commission, New Waverly Fire Department will bring a back-up vehicle to the station while repairs are being completed on our vehicle. Bridget also indicated she didn't see any problems potential problems with fire stations since it is a new building. With this in mind, Bridget felt the board could have a lower tax and gradually increased each year. Bridget indicated that her understanding is that whether it is increased or lowered you still have to go through the same publication procedures.

Current Clay Township Advisory Board member indicated his experience and understanding of the cumulative fund was once the rate was established, it was almost impossible to increase the rate and it was much easier to set the rate and decrease later.

One member of the public expressed concerns regarding the Pharos Tribune article which indicated the proposed rate was \$3.33 per \$100. Sherman Kantzer read the proof of publication which was published by the Pharos Tribune. Sherman again confirmed the rate as \$0.0333 per \$100 of assed value on property within the taxing district.

Sherman indicated it has always been the intention of CCFD1, to establish the cumulative fund and the tax levy at the same time, based on the recommendation from attorney Steve Bushman and accounting consultant Jeff Peters. Pursuant to Indiana Code, the deadline in establishing the cumulative fire fund is August 1, 2011, well before the last day of the first publication of the proposed tax levy, which is September 2, 2011. If the assessed valuation of property owners in the taxing district remained the same, the tax rate proposed could possibly accumulate approximately \$56,000 in annual revenues. Future projections of expenses were discussed compared to the potential revenue. The district will be operating on a very tight budget even with the establishment of the cumulative fund. Bridget Enyeart discussed the need in the immediate future to find alternative water sources for the District to use. This could be expensive depending on the land leased or acquired and materials needed to make the water source viable.

A member of the public asked if there was a cap on what the cumulative fund could carry over from year to year and asked if the fund could grow if not spent each year. Sherman indicated it would accumulate, but the board could reduce the rate in the future. Public member then asked whether the rate would ever get reduced, and asked if the board would find more wants and needs for the money. Sherman stated that would of course be decided on the board members that are serving on CCFD1 board from year to year and the projection could change based on new townships joining the district and unforeseen capital expenditures.

Public member expressed concerns regarding the fact that farmers are assessed at \$100,000 per 80 acres and they would be paying more. Discussion also centered on what the estimated levy will be for CCFD1. Sherman stated that the original estimate was approximately 32.5 cents and by adding the proposed levy, the estimated total tax levy could be approximately 35.83 cents. Public members expressed concerns regarding the 1% property tax cap and the fact the fire district would not be accumulating what they project. The board indicated their projections are based on the recommendation or both attorney Steve Bushman and accounting consultant Jeff Peters.

Public member questioned the timing of the vote during the Cass County Fair, stating that this vote affects a good deal of the farming community that has other obligations at the fair. Sherman Kantzer indicated that the timing was unintentional and the CCFD1 advertised the meeting. Sherman indicated this meeting was the only opportunity for the board to meet in order for the Cass County Commissioners to review the resolution at their July 18, 2011, meeting; and, to meet the filing deadline of the establishment of the fund to the DLGF on or before August 1, 2011. Sherman indicated that the public can attend the Cass County Commissioner's meeting and express concerns as the Commissioners review the request on July 18, 2011.

After much discussion, board member Bridget Enyeart made a motion to approve the cumulative fund as advertised in the Pharos Tribune at \$0.0333 per \$100 of assessed value on property within the taxing district. Sherman Kantzer seconded the motion. ***Motion passed 2-0.***

**Next Meeting Date**

Discussion was held regarding scheduling the next CCFD1, board meeting after the budget workshop with the DLGF. Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on July 28, 2011 at 1441 Holland Street. Meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

***Bridget I. Enyeart***

Bridget I. Enyeart,  
Secretary