

CASS COUNTY FIRE DISTRICT 1
MEETING MINUTES
12/16/11

CALL TO ORDER

The Cass County Fire District 1 (CCFD1) Board met at 6:40 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 and Lori Forrer present.

MINUTES

Meeting minutes of November 17, 2011, were reviewed. Sherman Kantzer made a motion to accept the minutes. Lori Forrer seconded the motion. ***Motion passed 3-0.***

TREASURER'S REPORT /PAYMENT OF CLAIMS

Disbursements for December were as follows: 2011 Contractual Service Payments for July through December 2011, to Twelve Mile Community Fire Department; Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department; Harrison Township Volunteer Fire Department; and Royal Center Volunteer Fire Department. Disbursement to Thrasher Buschman Voekel for legal service, **Logansport Municipal Utilities for hydrant fees, Dick Dilling for the monthly building contract obligation.** Board member Sherman Kantzer submitted a claim in the amount of **\$438.04 for attending board meetings, mileage reimbursement, reimbursement of long distance calls, postage, copies and application fee for REMC round-up.** Bridget discussed that mileage and expenses must be submitted pursuant to Indiana Code 36-8-11-14(Sherman Kantzer agreed to re-submit the claim for next month.

Treasurer's Report was given by Bridget Enyeart. Checking account balance is \$3,045.74; CEDIT fund balance is \$0.00; savings account balance is \$49,520.68. Lori Forrer made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Sherman Kantzer seconded the motion.

Motion passed 3-0.

CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENTS FOR 2012

Discussion was held regarding contracts for 2012, all long-term contracts between township fire departments and Cass County Fire District #1 were signed approved during the November 17, 2011, meeting with the exception of Twelve Mile Volunteer Fire Department. Twelve Mile Volunteer Fire Department has submitted their contracts for 2012. Cass County Fire District Board reviewed the contracts. Bridget made a motion to approve Twelve Mile Volunteer Fire Department's contract as presented. Lori Forrer seconded the motion. ***Motion passed 3-0.***

TAX LEVY PROGRESS

The Cass County Fire District's request for an initial maximum levy was approved by the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) on December 2, 2011. The DLGF also approved an equipment replacement fund tax rate of three and thirty-three hundredths cents (\$0.0333) on each one hundred dollars (\$100) of assessed valuation.

OPERATING LOAN

Sherman presented a request for an operating loan due to the fact CCFD1 does not have enough carry over funds going into January 2012 to meet our obligations in January which includes our contract with New Waverly Fire Department for the first half of services in 2012. Board Chairman, Sherman Kantzer wanted to borrow approximately \$250,000 until we received all of our money from the assessed taxes at the end of the year. Board member Bridget Enyeart indicated that she wanted time to review his request and asked that discussion be tabled until January's meeting. Board member Lori Forrer agreed and indicated she also wanted time to review his request and investigate other alternatives.

ANNUAL REPORT

Bridget Enyeart indicated that the annual report will be due in February 2012, and stated that this Board should no longer rely on consultants and outside individuals to prepare the documents. She further indicated it was time for the Board to become self-sufficient, and only use consultants when needing verbal assistance.

Mayor Franklin's Proposed Interlocal Agreement

Mayor Ted Franklin outlined a proposed partnership agreement between Cass County Fire District 1 (CCFD1) and Logansport Fire Department (LFD). The proposed plan allowed each entity to remain in existence. Mayor Franklin proposed a contract for eight years, with a 1 year extension to be signed by the city and the District each year on December 31st. This plan would allow time for each entity to acquire necessary equipment and facilities in the event that either side decided not to approve the 1 year extension.

Mayor Franklin proposed that the City of Logansport would absorb all current full time CCFD1 employees into Logansport Fire Department subject to PERF Pension Board approval, IRS Rules, state statutes and IAC guidelines. CCFD1 would be required to provide an annual payment to the City of Logansport equivalent of personal services cost for (9) firefighters. Mayor Franklin estimated the cost to be approximately \$55,000 per firefighter which would be an approximate annual installment of \$495,000, but indicated that amount could be more or less.

Mayor Franklin's proposal also called for CCFD1 agreeing to establish a non-reverting Fire Equipment Fund. CCFD1 would be required to deposit \$50,000 annually into that fund. Said fund would be used to purchase and lease equipment that is needed to operate Logansport Fire Department and to repair the current Logansport Fire Department fleet and equipment as needed. The proposal calls for Cass County Fire District 1 to own and manage the fund. All equipment purchased or leased by CCFD1 will be titled and owned by CCFD1. LFD would submit a comprehensive equipment replacement plan detailing anticipated needs and life expectancy of the current equipment.

The Mayor also discussed other long-term planning initiatives to include a Cass County Ambulance Service; station expansion in Washington Township at or close to the Ivy Tech facility; a proposed partnership with Ivy Tech or Indiana Department of Homeland Security offering a fire academy or classes for firefighters, EMT, and paramedics; and exploring whether we should consider construction of a fire station in Clay Township.

Mayor Franklin summarized that he wanted to provide fire protection at the lowest cost possible and apologized for the past relationship the City of Logansport has had with the townships. Mayor Franklin proposed this is the first step towards the townships and the city being able to work together again.

Board member Sherman Kantzer indicated that the Board has already entered into contracts for 2012, and are legally bound to those contracts. The board cannot consider any negotiation with the City until the board considers contracts again in April 2012 for 2013. Sherman stated he appreciated the mayor making some suggestions for the future and thought it would be great if New Waverly and the City of Logansport and Logansport Fire Department could work together. A mutual aid agreement has been signed by all fire departments in the county with the exception of Logansport Fire Department. Sherman indicated that perhaps the first gesture from the city could be to sign a mutual aid agreement with the rest of the fire departments and offer assistance without charging a fee.

Several comments were made by members of the public regarding this issue and there was lengthy discussion between board members and the Public regarding Mayor Elect Franklin's proposal. Public constituents who commented in favor of keeping the Fire District the same as it has operated the past year with New Waverly included Mike Simms, George Stebbins Sr., and Fireman Rex Danely. Public constituents that expressed concerns with the current service and indicated they would like to see us consider Mayor elect Franklin's proposal included Milt Hess, Ed Nason, Former Logansport Fire Chief, Bernie Mittica, and Rick Schroeder.

Board member Lori Forrer Thanked Mayor Franklin for his proposal Lori indicated to the public that instead of looking back, we should be looking forward. Lori expressed her interest in using Mayor Elect Franklin's proposal as a an excellent starting point for negotiations in 2012. Lori also indicated that the Board could consider using that proposal or modify it, for a potential future relationship with Logansport Fire Department, City of Logansport and Mayor Elect Franklin.

MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Lori Forrer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Bridget Enyeart seconded the motion. ***Motion passed 3-0.***

Meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget I. Enyeart,
Secretary