

**MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP
MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
Board Workshop Minutes
October 3, 2023
6:00 p.m**

CALL TO ORDER

A Board Workshop of the Monroe Charter Township Board was called to order by Supervisor Alan Barron at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 3, 2023 in the Monroe Charter Township Hall, 4925 East Dunbar Road, Monroe County, Michigan.

Present: Supervisor Barron, Clerk Smith, Trustees Howe, Raymo, Janssens and Manor.

Excused: Treasurer Barton

Others

Present: Lisa Sulfaro, Fiscal Officer, Chief Cherney, Assistant Chief Broman and seventeen (17) audience members.

Supervisor Barron reminded everyone that this is only a Workshop, not a Board Meeting; therefore, no Board actions can be taken today. The purpose is to discuss Fire Department shift work, Fire Department Budget, Other Fire Department concerns. The notice was posted to the front and back doors on September 20, 2023 and posted on the Township website and Facebook on September 29, 2023.

SHIFT WORK PROPOSAL

Chief Cherney advised the Board that he wants to table the shift work in order to get moral up within the Fire Department and revisit this at a later date.

Clerk Smith praised the Fire Department on their recruiting and discussed possible incentives to increase Firefighter response.

Trustee Howe also commended the Fire Department on their recruiting efforts and expressed his support.

Supervisor Barron announced that a Fire Board would be started to assist with concerns and issues.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Audience member asked if there is a limit as to how many people we allow as Firefighters?

Supervisor Barron stated that we do not have a limit.

Firefighter Johnson stated that the Board should consider a number of volunteers based on a percentage call volume in order to have enough Firefighters responding to calls.

Captain Nadeau asked if it is possible to get a computer in the trucks in order for pertinent data to be available while en route to a call as well as data to show when a truck gets on scene?

It was clarified that an installed tablet would be preferred in order to prevent damage.

Captain Nadeau and Lieutenant Joe Hernandez is going to get quotes for the tablets and monthly costs before the budget workshop on October 10, 2023 and Chief Cherney is going to determine what trucks he would like them in.

PUBLIC COMMENTS (Con't)

Firefighter Nadeau stated that we need to look at the quality of the call not just the numbers from a report.

Lieutenant McCarty also expressed the importance of getting CAD information with the tablet. CAD information is anything that is input by central dispatch which is currently only available on the computers within the fire station.

Audience member thanked the Firefighters for what they do for the citizens of our Township. He also asked what the millage was to cover when it was voted on by Township residents

Supervisor Barron stated that it is for staffing, trucks, maintenance to buildings and trucks.

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Chief Cherney asked for clarification from Fiscal Officer, Lisa Sulfaro on available millage funds.

Chief Cherney asked if there are any ARPA Funds allocated for the Fire Department?

Clerk Smith verified that \$200,000 of ARPA Funds have been earmarked for the Fire Department, specifically station #2. It was also noted that the Board approved, at the September Board Meeting, a bid for just under \$10,000 for a french drain for station #2. Per Township Engineers the French drain must be in place for 6 to 12 months to make sure that it has stopped the erosion at the foundation before any additional repairs can be made.

Assistant Chief Broman apprised the Board of the changes in turnout gear and the need to order 31 sets of new turnout gear including gloves, boots and helmets. One notable change is the removal of velcro which has been found to be a carcinogen to be replaced by magnets within the jackets for closure. There is a slight upcharge for the magnetized closure. Assistant Chief Broman stated that the approximate cost is \$4,600 per set of turnout gear. Old gear would then be used as backup in the event that there are multiple emergencies though it would not be certified gear.

Trustee Howe discussed the possibility of replacing a portion of the gear on a monthly basis rather than all at once.

Trustee Raymo stated that he does not want to see the firefighters out in non-certified turnout gear.

Assistant Chief Broman stated that ideally, they would replace the turnout gear every 5 years so that all gear is certified.

Lieutenant Hernandez stated that if he is on a call in non-certified gear and is killed that his family may not get Federal benefits.

Chief Cherney is estimating 6 months to receive the new turnout gear.

Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro asked for clarification from Chief Cherney where he would like the turnout gear to be paid from?

Chief Cherney stated that he would like it paid through the fire millage.

Chief Cherney advised the Board that we were not awarded the FEMA grant for a new rescue boat.

MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

BOARD WORKSHOP

MINUTES

October 3, 2023

FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET (Con't)

Captain Nadeau advised the Board that a committee has been started and they have been pricing multiple boat manufacturers for a boat suitable to take out on Lake Erie ranging from \$200,000-\$250,000.

Clerk Smith inquired as to what size boat they are looking at?

Captain Nadeau advised 30ft to 35ft and they will get pricing before the Board Workshop on October 10, 2023.

Chief Cherney asked the Board about potentially moving the old rescue boat to a more visible location to try to sell it?

Captain Nadeau suggested that since the boat has been deemed unsafe that the Board consider scrapping it and selling the trailer.

Chief Cherney brought up purchasing a new utility truck, replacing engine #2 and a new rescue/ambulance.

Trustee Howe asked that Chief Cherney list the replacement vehicles in order of importance to the Fire Department for future consideration.

Chief Cherney brought up that he would like to build a new Fire Station #3. The current station does not have restroom facilities or hot water, making it difficult for firefighters to shower after a call or wash the equipment down in the winter.

Sergeant Schmitt mentioned that rescue #3 is beginning to rust because salt can't be washed off due to the water being cold.

Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro asked that she get the budget as soon as possible in order to adopt the 2024 Budget.

Chief Cherney mentioned the contract the Township currently has with Monroe County Ambulance where the Township is responsible to pay for the fuel in the ambulance. There is currently over 200,000 miles on it so its at the end of its life. Chief Cherney would like to purchase a rescue/ambulance but would not be transporting patients.

The last item Chief Cherney brought to the Board is an exhaust system for stations #2 and #3 to minimize the fumes within the buildings.

Training for new and existing firefighters was mentioned as the Fire Department roster increases. A grant writing class was also suggested.

Fiscal Officer Lisa Sulfaro praised the firefighters for their quick response to the needs of our residents and also asked why there is so little going on with fire station #2 and asked what they could do to make it a more usable fire station?

Chief Cherney mentioned that at one time there were firefighters that lived in Bolles Harbor, now there are not. There is one firefighter who lives close and he is in the City of Monroe. There is also a low volume of calls in that area.

There was also discussion of the new Ford warehouse and possible needs in the area.

MONROE CHARTER TOWNSHIP

MINUTES

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP

October 3, 2023

Attested:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Barron". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Alan Barron, Supervisor
Monroe Charter Township

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christina Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Christina Smith, Clerk
Monroe Charter Township