HOWELL AREA FIRE AUTHORITY

February 19, 2025 – 6:00 pm

Oceola Township Hall – 1577 N. Latson Rd. Howell, MI 48843

Board Members Present:

Chairman Mike Coddington, Vice Chairman Sean Dunleavy, Secretary Mark Fosdick, Treasurer Bob Ellis, Member Bill Fenton, Fire Chief Ron Hicks, Asst. Sec/Treas. Laura Walker

Chairman Coddington called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 15, 2025: MOTION by Mr. Dunleavy, SUPPORT by Mr. Ellis to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 15, 2025. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Call to Public: No Response

Discussion/Approval to purchase Hurst Combination tool: MOTION by Mr. Ellis, SUPPORT by Mr. Fenton to purchase Hurst Combination tool. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion/Approval to purchase 3 new Kenwood radios: Mr. Ellis asked how long the radios last. Chief Hicks responded that it depends on the user, but approximately 8 years. MOTION by Mr. Ellis, SUPPORT by Mr. Dunleavy to approve the purchase of 3 new Kenwood radios. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Discussion/ Approval to proceed with the expansion of Station 22: Mr. Fosdick asked why we need to add an additional bay, radio room, and two offices. He also stated that it seems like a lot of money to spend on an expansion project. Chief Hicks responded that it is our goal to expand for future needs, looking as far as 30 years down the road, and we do anticipate the need for an additional apparatus in the future as the community continues to grow. The need for two offices also accounts for the foreseeable growth as currently we don't have any office space at that station. Mr. Dunleavy stated that Oceola Township intends to assist by contributing funds to this expansion that also includes conference room spaces that Oceola Township intends to benefit from being able to use on occasion. Oceola Township intends to contribute somewhere between $700,000 to $1,000,000 (not to exceed 1/3 of the total) to this expansion project. Mr. Fosdick asked why we can't consider accepting additional bids from other companies with less experience to see if they would be less expensive. Chief Hicks stated that we are looking for a company that has experience with Fire Stations so we can trust that the work being done will produce high quality results. Mr. Dunleavy stated that even if a bid is cheaper, that doesn't necessarily mean that we would accept it if their experience is not what we are looking for. Mr. Fosdick stated that he felt we should give another less experienced company an opportunity. Several board members stated that it would be a waste of time to accept additional bids. It is preferable to accept bids from those with the experience and background of construction done on fire stations. Mr. Fosdick asked why the contractor would only check in on the work every 2 weeks. He had concerns about the quality of work being done on the site in between those visits. The Lindhout representative in the audience stated that there are supervisors on site at all times to monitor the work so they will ensure that it is being done properly. Lindhout will send a representative every couple of weeks to check in on the status of the project itself to ensure everything is moving along as expected. MOTION by Mr. Dunleavy, SUPPORT by Mr. Fenton to accept the proposal to proceed with the project as presented. Roll Call Vote taken: Mr. Coddington – YES, Mr. Fenton – YES, Mr. Fosdick – NO, Mr. Dunleavy – YES, Mr. Ellis – YES. 4-YEAS, 1 NAY. MOTION CARRIED.

Chief's Comments:
Ladder 20 is expected to be picked up from Station 20 from the buyer as soon as weather permits.

Discussion: Update from legal counsel: Full Time Firefighters have requested to vote on unionization with IAFF. We should know if they have voted to accept the unionization by March 17, 2025.

Approve payment of Bills and Payroll in the amount of $266,571.51 for period ending February 7, 2025: MOTION by Mr. Ellis, SUPPORT by Mr. Fosdick to authorize payment of Bills and Payroll in the amount of 266,571.51. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

New Business: None

Adjourn: MOTION by Mr. Ellis, SUPPORT by Mr. Fosdick to adjourn the meeting at 6:22pm. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully Submitted: Laura Walker
Laura Walker, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Approved By: Mark Fosdick
Mark Fosdick, Secretary