

City of Stewart Council Special Meeting Minutes

August 20, 2024

6:30 pm Call to Order the Special Council Meeting

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll call;

Bismark Township-absent

Collins Township-here (2)

Grafton Township-here (1)

Preston Lake Township-here (2)

Round Grove Township-here (2)

Mayor: Jason Peirce -here

Council Member: Carol Altrichter -here

Council Member: James Eitel -here

Council Member: Thomas Moon -absent

Council Member: Daniel Broucek -here

Call to Order the Fire, EMR, Township, and City Council Special Meeting

Mayor Peirce will turn the meeting over to Fire Chief Josh Cox

1. Discussion of Fire Budget

-The budget reflects equipment that will be needed such as turnouts

-The turnouts are \$3500 per set and they would like to keep 2 a year replacement rate to keep up with OSHA

-The cost of repairing and maintenance on trucks usually comes out to \$10,000

-There were considerable repairs done on one of the pumpers this year which ate up a large portion of the repair and maintenance fund

-There are no expected repairs to be done, but the pumper that went out this year was an unexpected expense

-The next purchase will likely be the rescue vans and cab and chassis which will likely be purchased in the 3 to 5 years, unless there is an immediate need

-The box would be transferred from the old cab and chassis and put on the new one

-The 50/50 division of funds is divided equally, so if the budget is not all used, then it will not be fully billed to the townships

A. Approval of the Fire Budget

Motion to approve the 2025 Fire Budget, Grafton/Round Grove, all in favor, motion carries

2. Discussion of any other information requested to be discussed

-StewartFest is this weekend: water ball on Friday, Pancake breakfast on Saturday morning, and parade on Sunday

-Looking to get 3 to 4 more turnouts with township and grant money

-Hired 2 new members

-Got the county grant that will come every other year as long as we continue to apply

Mayor Peirce will turn the meeting over to EMR Captain Jessica Cox

1. Discussion of EMR Budget

-The only change to the budget is for training

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-Most towns in the area are moving to Allina instead of Ridgewater for trainings going forward. The trainings are much more hands on and this allows everyone to be streamlined. Allina is \$4000 for the year vs the \$3000 for Ridgewater

-Allina will come here for training as well as come to drills to work with the fire department, showing them what they need to improve on

A. Approval of the EMR Budget

Motion to approve the 2025 EMR Budget, Collins/Preston, all in favor, motion carries

2. Discussion of any other information requested to be discussed

3. Relief Association Annual Budget Meeting Report

-Proposing to increase the benefit level by \$250, increasing it to \$2000 to increase recruitment and retention

-The increase would add \$4500 to our pension liability leaving us 175% funded

-One pension was paid out in 2023 for a total of \$36,000

A. Approval of the Relief Association Annual Budget Report

Motion to approve the increase of \$250 for Relief Association Pension, Round Grove/Grafton, all in favor, Mayor Peirce abstains since he is a vested member, motion carries

ADJOURN

Motion to Adjourn at 7:05pm, Preston/Collins, all in favor, motion carries