**Board of Fire Commissioners, District II**

**February 6th, 2023**

President Cliff Sharp opened the meeting at 6:30 PM.

The American Flag was then saluted, and the Lord’s Prayer was recited prior to the start of the meeting.

**Members participating were:**

Mark Sheppard, Fred Hundt and Cliff Sharp

**Minutes**

The minutes of the January 2nd meeting were sent to all via email. Motion was made to accept the minutes by Mark Sheppard and seconded by Cliff Sharp. All those present voted to approve the minutes from the January 2nd Commissioners meeting.

**Treasurers Report:**

A copy of the Treasurers report for the last month was handed out by Treasurer Fred Hundt.

The detailed report showed all transactions since the January 2nd meeting. The beginning balance on the report was $216,213.85. It was noted that this balance on the report was off by $93.22. Fred had our new financial group run the report due to having printer problems and the gal ran the report from the wrong ending date.

The ending balance was $242,423.33. Motion to accept the report was made by Mark Sheppard and was seconded by Cliff Sharp.

Roll call vote was taken:

Mark Sheppard. Yes

Fred Hundt Yes

Cliff Sharp Yes

Mark Sheppard then made a motion to pay all bills for this period and it was seconded by Cliff Sharp

Roll call vote was taken:

Mark Sheppard. Yes

Fred Hundt Yes

Cliff Sharp Yes

**Old Business:**

Fred attended the meeting in the County Clerk’s office on January 10th. Others attending were representatives from County elections and most of the Boards of Fire Commissioners from the Fire Districts. There were a few Townships also online via zoom. Commercial Township was online.

The State now mandates that all residents that ask for mail in ballots for all general elections are now also to get mail ins for the Fire District elections. This was done in the past couple of elections. The County is now spending about $2700 per year on the Fire Districts elections. The County is advising that starting next year in 2024 that each Fire District will be charged for this mailing. The County wanted to start this in 2023. The County also had no idea that all the Fire Districts budgets were in and that this addition cost would effect the budgets. They decided at this time to wave this year and start next year. The County will supply all the needed ballots both English and Spanish. The total amount for each district will be about $5.30 per ballot.

Fred did a review of the of the registered voters asking for these mail in ballots. Currently the in our Fire District there were 47 voters asking for mail in ballots. This equates to about $250.00. Fred had ballots made that were closer to the County’s standards and 150 ballots cost our Commission $131.25. It is Freds opinion that for an additional $125.00 it’s not worth the time and efforts of our Commission to fight this.

Let it be noted that some of the other Commissions and Fred included, has already contacted the County Commissioners about the cost. It is felt that except for Saturday of election that the County Election board should handle this at only the cost of the ballots. The County Commissioners were unaware of any of these proceedings. This is now being looked at. There will be more on this later in the year.

There were two petitions filed on January 24th with the Clerk for Fire Commissioners, Cliff Sharp, and Ronald Sutton Jr for three-year terms. There is also the question on the ballot to approve or disapprove the annual Budget of $215,266

Megan Sheppard and Jennifer Hundt will work the fire election this year.

Fred went to meet with the associates of Cheryl Ward CPA on Saturday to start the transfer of the finances. They downloaded our quick books. Fred signed the banking authorizing them to have access to the accounts. They went through all of paper trails and they seemed to think that they received what was needed to start doing our treasures books and job.

They will be attending the March meeting to further discuss any concerns. They will bring us all the reports that we should looked at monthly by the commissioners. These will be explained to the Board. A plan will be laid out with Cheryl Ward, Ronald Sutton, and Fred Hundt to make this a smooth transition. Ron Sutton works 10 mins from her agency. Checks will be sent to the meetings for the Commissioners signatures. All bills must and will be turned in by the Thursday prior to the monthly meeting.

Mark reported that he is still waiting on the auditor from our insurance company to the yearly audit.

**New Business:**

There was no new business to discuss.

**Chiefs Comments:**

Chief Hundt reported that all the Air packs and the RIT pack have just been flow tested.

The state came in to inspect the Firehall. There were just two small deficiencies. They will be taken care of, and we passed their inspection.

**Public Portion:**

There was a discussion with the Chief and Steve Burt about the purchase of a lap that will be used exclusively for train purposes.

Mark Sheppard made a motion and it was seconded by Cliff Sharp to spend up to $500.00. All three Commissioners voted yes on the motion.

There was no other from the public.

Motion made by Fred Hundt to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM

Fred Hundt, Secretary