

Village of Thurston  
Council Meeting Minutes  
August 13, 2019  
\*\*\*\* SPECIAL MEETING \*\*\*\*

Meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Mayor Mary Boring. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll call: Robert Ortman – present                      JoAnn Hite – present                      Jimmy Barber JR - present  
              Scott Whited – absent                         Lowell Hite – present                     Heather Baker - present  
              Mary Boring, Mayor – present                Aaron Reedy, Fiscal Officer – present

Mary said this meeting was to have a joint meeting with the Walnut Twp Trustees regarding fire department concerns. Everyone agreed that these meetings should be held more often between the 2 entities. Present from Walnut Township were trustees William Yates, Terry Horn, Doug Leith; clerk Jane Baker; recorder Carol King; Thurston Chief Jim Hite; Millersport Chief Robert Price and Millersport Asst. Chief Rob Robertson.

Mary told the Trustees that she heard rumor of decreasing the percentage of the Township Fire Levy to Thurston from 35% to 20%. Trustees all agreed they had not heard of any such discussion, nor was it their desire to do so.

The group discussed the issues of getting and retaining personnel at the stations. Chief Price said money is not as big a factor as some people think. There are other ways to make sure the employee's needs are met; for instance, training. The group discussed that shortage of personnel is an issue all over the state, not just for us.

Chief Hite said Thurston pays the following hourly wages:

EMT Basic - \$10  
EMT Advanced - \$11  
Paramedic - \$12

Chief Price said Millersport pays the following hourly wages:

EMT Basic - \$10.50  
EMT Advanced - \$12  
Paramedic - \$13

Jimmy asked if there was anything the Trustees would like to see change in the department. The trustees had no response. Aaron asked if they saw any issues with the department buying new trucks. There have been discussions of Thurston buying a new engine for around \$500,000 and a new medic for \$250,000. Bill Yates said as long as you can afford it in your budget, they are okay with it. Jim Hite said the priority has changed that a new medic is needed ASAP before an engine. The group discussed and agreed. More runs are made with the medic than engine runs.

Jane confirmed that Thurston got two \$75,000 payouts for the first and second quarter of the year. In January, she sent a payment for the balance from last year. She still has to keep some of the money back in order to make payroll. She said we wouldn't be getting another Fire disbursement until December.

The group discussed the possibility of creating a Township Fire Department to combine forces instead of have the two departments. Chief Price said you wouldn't be saving that much since you still have to have coverage at both ends of the township.

Mary asked the trustees about the Rules & Regulations for the Fire Department. Doug said he is still waiting on information from Chief Hite. Doug said he would send him what he's waiting for.

Everyone agreed that we should meet jointly again, and probably should include Millersport at some point. Everyone agreed on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7pm at the Township Trustee's building.

As there was no further business to discuss, Jimmy made a motion to adjourn at 8:26 pm. Heather seconded. Roll call vote: all YES. Motion carried.

Respectfully prepared by,

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Aaron Reedy