



– Evanston Foreign Fire Tax Board –
MINUTES

Date: December 17th, 2024

Location: EFD HQ – 909 Lake Street

Board Members Present: Polep, Munro, Casey, W. Davis, Holthaus, Smrha

Called to Order: 07:40

Financial: Casey gives the financial report.

Checking Account: \$ 283,982.29

Outstanding Funds: - \$ 34,649.82

Remaining Balance: \$ 249,332.47

Motion to accept the financials: Passes 6-0

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Casey begins discussion about a procedure that should be drafted for future submissions. This will be a new format of how to begin a submission to the board. This will ensure consistency moving forward. The process will account for the following:

- House Captain approval for station related items
- Relevant committee review for new, potentially policy changing equipment
- Chief officer approval for anything dictating policy

The board will be working on a new form stack to keep the submissions more organized, following a specific flow chart. It is the duty of the board to review and decide funds that will be allocated and not to dictate policy.

Rafacz presents to the board for the following:

- New thermal imaging cameras. The department’s current TIC cameras are getting outdated and have old technology. The new Seek Attack Pro camera is considered a “decision making camera.” Both the Fire Pro models and the Attack Pro models have promotional deals and come with a gear keeper retractable lanyard.

- Casey states that this type of purchase would be considered policy changing and asks if the appropriate committees and chief officers have agreed to the new equipment.
- Polep suggest that the new cameras be brought to the Skokie tower to be used during training simulations to ensure that all members think they function properly and are an upgrade from our current cameras.
- Item tabled for future consideration.

Malloy presents to the board on behalf of Arreguin for the following:

- 4 New Paratech supporter X2 struts for truck companies, 2 for each. These would be replacing the old struts that are currently assigned on Evanston's truck companies.
 - Casey makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$8000 for new stabilizer struts.
 - 2nd Smrha

Motion passes 6-0

Malloy presents to the board on behalf of Arreguin for the following:

- TL-9 Stabilization plates for Genesis Spreader.
 - Casey makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$1500 for the stabilization plates.
 - 2nd W. Davis
 - No discussion

Motion passes 6-0

Smrha presents to the board on behalf of Arreguin for the following.

- Coffee grinder for Station 2.
 - Holthaus makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$100 for a coffee grinder
 - 2nd Casey
 - No discussion

Motion passes 6-0

Palomares presents to the board the following.

- 2 new workout benches for Station 5.
 - The current bench is worn out. Additionally, if more than one firefighter wants to do an exercise that requires a bench they need to wait. These items have been approved by the house captain at Station 5. Palomares is requesting one standard width bench and one wide bench.
 - Holthaus makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$1300 for 2 new workout benches.
 - 2nd Davis

Motion passes 5-1

Smrha presents to the board for the following:

- \$500 stipend for miscellaneous kitchen supplies for Station 5.

- Casey makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$500 for Station 5 kitchen supplies.
- 2nd Holthaus
- No discussion

Motion passes 6-0

Smrha presents to the board for the following:

- A new label maker for Station 5. Casey asks if an additional label maker can be added to the order for Station 3. These will use the standard labels that have been adopted by EFD for labeling tools and equipment.
 - Davis makes a motion to the board to allocate funds not to exceed \$500 for 2 label makers for Station 3 and Station 5.
 - 2nd Davis
 - No discussion

Motion passes 6-0

Polep presents to the board for the following:

- Interface system for Tablet Command. This computer software will automatically input vehicles and personnel into the tablet command system. This program ensures better accountability of personnel on the scene of a fire or major incident.
 - Casey makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$5350 for the interface system for Tablet Command.
 - 2nd Davis
 - No discussion

Motion passes 6-0

Ceriale presents to the board for the following:

- New dishwasher for Station 4. The current dishwasher has a consistent alarm that is sounding and isn't washing dishes effectively. A commercial washer with complete the cycle in about 2 minutes. Discussion as to whether the current dishwasher is under warranty or if the appropriate ticket has been submitted to the city to have it repaired or replaced.
 - Casey makes a motion to table the item until further information can be provided to the board.
 - 2nd Davis
 - No discussion

Motion Passes 6-0

Ceriale presents to the board the following:

- A cover for the rear area of Station 4. This cover will provide protection from the elements for the station's grill and other cooking appliances.
 - Holthaus makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$500 for roof panels for Station 4.
 - 2nd Casey
 - Fund allocation is contingent upon approval granted from Facilities.

Motion Passes 6-0

B. Lynch presents to the board for the following:

- Cancer Screenings for members. These screenings will work in conjunction with current annual physicals. The company will come to Evanston to perform the necessary tests. Firefighters fall into class 1 in terms of exposure to cancer. The cost is approximately \$350 per firefighter. The proposal amount would allow for each firefighter to have a cancer screen performed in 3 year rotations.
 - Casey makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$14,000 to cover 40 members.
 - 2nd Davis
 - Polep adds that he will need to confirm the process with the city before initiating the program
 - The initiative will be non-mandatory and not precedence setting.
 - No further discussion

Motion passes 6-0

Smrha presents to the board on behalf of Seale for the following:

- Traeger smoker for Station 5. This smoker will basically be the same model as the one purchased for other fire stations.
 - Hothaus makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$1800 for a Traeger smoker and accessories for Station 5.
 - 2nd Davis
 - No discussion

Motion passes 6-0

Smrha presents to the board on behalf of Seale for the following:

- New mattresses and frames for Station 5. The purchase of these mattresses will ensure that there are enough at the station for all regularly assigned personnel and any floaters.
 - Davis makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$5,000 for new mattresses for Station 5.
 - 2nd Hothaus
 - No discussion

Motion passes 6-0

Bazan presents to the board the following:

- New grill for Station 1. The old grill is 4 years old and is rusting and not functioning properly. Bazan states that the new grill will not only have a cover, but will be further protected by the elements by the station's awning.
 - Davis makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$1200 for a new grill for Station 1.
 - 2nd Casey
 - No discussion

Motion Passes 6-0

Bazan presents to the board the following:

- Exposure suits for Dive team members and M21. Bazan would like to have enough exposure suits for the dive team members and any Marine 21 operator to have in the event of a long duration incident during inclement weather.
 - Casey makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$2700 for 5 exposure suits.
 - 2nd Davis
 - No discussion

Motion Passes 6-0

Bazan presents to the board the following:

- Ice bath for Station 1. This will be used after workouts for muscle recovery.
 - Davis makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$500 for an ice bath for Station 1.
 - 2nd Casey
 - No discussion

Motion Passes 6-0

Malloy presents to the board on behalf of Koopman for the following:

- Miscellaneous equipment for the HazMat team. The department has already purchased all of the new meters for the team. One item that was included is a new communication system for the team members to use. Board discusses if equipment has been tested by all the members. Malloy states that it has not been field tested yet.
 - Casey makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$6000 for items for the HazMat team. (excluding the communication system)
 - 2nd Smrha
 - No discussion

Motion Passes 6-0

Malloy presents to the board for the following:

- Ice rescue boat for S21. The inflatable boat can be filled utilizing an SCBA bottle. It will make ice rescues safer for the rescuers and for the victim.
 - Polep states that the department will help cover the cost of the boat by contributing \$2000.
 - Smrha makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$3000 (\$5000 total needed) for an ice rescue boat.
 - 2nd Casey
 - No discussion

Motion Passes 6-0

Muno presents to the board for the following:

- New Airbags for S21 and Truck companies. The current high pressure airbags are over 25 years old. The company who makes them will no longer test or certify

them due to their age. These bags are vital to lifting heavy loads when space is limited.

- Casey makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$38,000 for new air bags for the department.
- 2nd Davis
- No discussion

Motion Passes 4-2

Muno presents to the board for the following:

- A stipend of \$5,000 for tools and equipment for the new truck. New fire trucks will come equipped with the basic tools; however, they do not come with all of the necessary tools to be placed in service. Muno would like funds to ensure the new truck can be placed in service as soon as possible when it arrives.
 - Holthaus makes a motion to allocated funds not to exceed \$5,000 for tools and equipment for the new truck.
 - 2nd Davis
 - No discussion

Motion Passes 6-0

Casey presents to the board for the following.

- A new refrigerator for Station 3. Currently there is an old soda machine on the bay floor that is no longer working properly. Casey would like to purchase a new refrigerator to store pop along with other station supplies.
 - Davis makes a motion to allocate funds not to exceed \$700 for a new refrigerator for Station 3.
 - 2nd Holthaus
 - No discussion

Motion Passes 6-0

Other Business:

The board hopes to institute a form stack and flowchart for future EFFTb submissions.

Meeting Adjourned: 09:55

Next EFFTb meeting: Monday, March 10th 2025.

EFD HQ – 909 Lake – 0730 HRS