

**OCTOBER 4, 2023
WEDNESDAY, 6:30 P.M.**

MINUTES

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER:

Chairman Robert H. Rohner, Jr. called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M. Also present were Theresa Laino, Vice Chair, Aaron Springs, Supervisor, and Edwina Wolfe, Asst. Secretary.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

BUSHKILL FIRE COMPANY BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Chief Kyle Rohner started by going over the calls, training hours, reaction time to calls, time spent on scene, volunteer hours, etc. the fire company has logged from January 1, 2023 through October 4, 2023. His report is a part of these minutes on file.

Chief Rohner then discussed the current amounts owed on vehicles. The amounts are as follows: 24 Support has one (1) remaining payment of \$30,893.00, 24 Tanker has a loan balance of \$311,125 with six (6) monthly payments remaining, and 24 Ladder has a remaining loan balance of \$1,303,447. Robert Rohner asked what the yearly payment is for each vehicle. The response was \$14,000 for the 24 Support 1; \$28,284.12 for the 24 Tanker 6 and \$100,267.51 for the 24 Ladder.

Chief Rohner explained that a Planning Committee has been formed to determine what vehicles need to be replaced, when they should be replaced, and how long it will take for the vehicle to be built. The cost to replace an engine is \$1 to \$1.5 million with a build time of two (2) to four (4) years. A new brush truck will cost \$400,000 - \$500,00 with a build time of two (2) years. The cost for new rescue equipment to replace the existing E-Diaulic and Gas will be \$160,765, and four (4) sets of turnout gear (which are on order) will cost \$21,000.

The fire company has submitted the 23-24 OSFC Grant for \$20,000 for debt reduction towards 24 Tanker 6. Chief Rohner asked if the Supervisors will help in applying for an LSA grant to assist in the cost for the Emergency Service Building at the Ranchlands property. Robert Rohner said they will help.

Chief Rohner then discussed losing department members due to the fact they can't find affordable housing in this area. He would like possibly allow firefighters to live at the Ranchlands station in the future. This will be discussed in more detail in the future.

Chief Rohner explained the department is running tight on funding with all of these costs coming up in the near future and asked if the supervisors would consider a tax increase for the upcoming year. Robert Rohner answered that the supervisors will need to discuss this, but speaking for himself he is reluctant to raise taxes during a recession. He added that the supervisors may be able to assist with some costs. Tim Rohner pointed out that the fire department has presented this issue to the Middle Smithfield Board of Supervisors as well.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:01 P.M. made by Mr. Springs second by Mr. Rohner. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,
Edwina Wolfe
Edwina Wolfe
Assistant Secretary