

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

September 6, 2018

### MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairman Dorchinecz  
Alderman Olive  
Alderman Vota  
Alderman Burtle

### ALSO PRESENT

Mayor Barry  
Alderman Budd  
Fire Chief Crews  
Assistant Fire Chief Goodall  
Alderman Lanzotti  
Shirley Sams

Chairman Dorchinecz called the meeting to order at 8:38 P.M.

### BASEMENT BATHROOM REPAIR AT FIREHOUSE

Fire Chief Crews advised when the TFD building was constructed, the women's basement (shelter) bathroom was taken out of the project. The Fire Department members have been taking care of the work to finish this project but needed a vanity top purchased/installed and stall partitions. Chief Crews presented the Committee with estimates for the needed items and the cost of labor for work which is mandated to be performed by a plumber. Mayor Barry advised he does not have a problem with the person/company that submitted the quotes, but as he has been advising other Superintendents, he is recommending that at least two or three quotes be obtained. Fire Chief Crews advised he will make more calls for quotes; he and Assistant Fire Chief Goodall have made multiple calls for quotes but were not called back. This will be on next month's agenda.

### FEMA WIRELESS EMERGENCY ALERT

Fire Chief Crews advised a National Alert Test for both the Wireless Emergency Alert and Emergency Alert System capabilities will take place on September 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:18 CDT. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will issue a Nationwide Wireless Emergency Alert. The test message will be available to "all compatible cell phones". After researching, it appears flip phones will be incompatible. FEMA plans to have educational messages sent out publicly about a week prior to the test. A message "THIS IS A TEST" will follow the actual message.

### DISCUSSION RE: AGREEMENT BETWEEN CITY OF TAYLORVILLE AND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

There was discussion regarding the Agreement between the City of Taylorville and the Fire Protection District. The City at one time received \$50,000.00 a year. Currently the City receives \$30,000.00, due to annexations.

### FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

- Total of Service Calls: 117
- Inspected 10 businesses
- Trained on the following topics: Driving course two different weeks, four vehicles, sprinkler systems and standpipes (Hershey Towers, Park Glen, Senior Village), building construction
- Building a Ham Radio Communication Team has approximately 40 people interested
- Toured the schools with the School Resource Officer; Chief Crews will be attending classes in Litchfield to help prepare school preparedness packets
- New hires begin academy September 10<sup>th</sup>
- Had two dive calls within the last week

### ANY OTHER MATTERS

Fire Chief Crews and Assistant Fire Chief Goodall asked that an amendment be made to the agreement with the City of Charleston for ambulance billing. Assistant Fire Chief Goodall explained how the billing is currently being handled. After an ambulance call, he gathers and scans the reports, puts them in a file and sends the information by email to the City of Charleston. They then generate a bill. The bill is sent to the patient, insurance company, or responsible entity for payment. The payments are then sent to the Fire Department to be

applied to the patient's bill. He advised that the Department does not have a tracking program designed for this. The State of Illinois payments come in one total and it is very hard to keep track of payments for each patient. The procedure takes him hours to complete.

Assistant Chief Goodall and Fire Chief Crews visited the City of Charleston to discuss the billing procedure. They have the software, and for an additional \$5.00 per claim, they will take care of all the billing. They would then direct the money into a City of Taylorville account. The City would have access to a "view only privilege" of the accounts, but could generate a number of different reports.

The additional costs associated with the City of Charleston handling the accounts is a post office box fee and the increase from \$25.00 to \$30.00 per claim fee. To make the changes, the City Attorney will need to prepare an Ordinance to amend the Ambulance Billing Agreement with the City of Charleston. The Committee agreed to direct City Clerk Lilly to place this on the September 17, 2018 City Council Agenda.

Alderman Budd commended the Fire Department for an outstanding job for getting the fire under control that occurred on Heights Avenue. He was on location and advised the flames were shooting at least five to six inches from the roof when he arrived. He advised the Committee there was smoke coming from Engine 1, Assistant Fire Chief Goodall stated it was a broken hose, it has already been repaired. Chief Crews advised one complete set of gear will have to be purchased which was destroyed fighting the fire; the firefighter was safe. Alderman Lanzotti thanked the Department also, stating they responded to a call from a neighbor and they responded quickly and did a great job.

Motion by Alderman Olive and seconded by Alderman Vota to adjourn. Motion carried 4-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:48 P.M.

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Ernie Dorchinecz, Chairman  
Emergency Services Committee