

COLUMBUS RURAL FIRE GROUP

BUDGET MEETING MINUTES – OCTOBER 24, 2024

The Budget Meeting of the Columbus Rural Fire Group was called to order by President John Kraus on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at 7:03 P.M. at the Columbus Fire Dept. Building, 123 Harrison Street, Columbus, WI.

Roll Call: Town of Calamus – 2 Town of Columbus - 3 Town of Elba – 1
 Town of Hampden – 2 Town of Portland - 0 Town of York – 2
 Guests: Chief Scott Hazletine & Volunteer Firemen

Minutes of the Annual Meeting held April 25, 2024, Motion to approve Bill Hoffman and seconded by Dean Helwig. Motion passed on voice vote with all in favor.

Treasurer’s Report: Total funds available from all accounts were reviewed. Motion by Dave Tuschen and seconded by Nate Pollnow to accept the report as presented. Motion passed on voice vote with all in favor.

Chief Hazeltine addressed the group with The Fire Chief Report and logistics year to date. Copy of the report on file.

It was also discussed how the Group may explore billing for fire calls in the future, in addition to the current practice of billing for auto accidents, etc. It was noted that a fee schedule would need to be developed and adopted for it. **An agenda item to discuss will be placed on the 2025 Annual Meeting agenda.**

New Business

The proposed 2025 budget was presented for discussion by Kraus. After discussion by all representatives of the townships, a motion was made by Darren Schroeder and seconded by Harold Schwoerer, to accept the budget as presented, with a \$70,000 contingency in place, and budget totaling \$166,975. It is noted that \$14,500 income is projected from the 2% account to support the “Training, Meeting, Activities” expense line. Motion passed on voice vote with all in favor.

An update on the new truck was given by Chief Hazeltine and Darren Miller. They visited E-1(the manufacturer) in Florida in August 2024. After reviewing the specs and comparing them to our needs, \$13,000 was eliminated from our final cost. E-1 engineering department has reviewed and approved the specifications and the build has been placed on the assembly line schedule.

Discussion about Truck 96 chasis replacement due in 2025. Even with a 50/50 split with the City that will probably be postponed in consideration of the budget.

Discussed using Towns’ ARPA funds towards the new truck purchasing. Funds need to be spent by 12/31/26 and a net of \$310,000 will be needed after exhausting all other resources.

A discussion was held regarding town driveway ordinances. The chief noted that examples exist of driveways being too narrow. The Town of Driveway Ordinance was shared in hopes that other townships consider a similar ordinance for new driveways. Essentially, the chief is pointing out that it could be a safety issue.

A reminder was given that equalized valuations were needed from those that hadn’t submitted them yet.

Annual Meeting date was set for 7: 00 PM April 24, 2025

Being no further business, motion to adjourn by Dean Helwig and seconded by Bill Hoffman. All in favor, meeting was adjourned at 8:07 PM.