

A Regular Meeting of the Mid-Michigan Community Fire Board, held at the St. Louis Area Fire Department – Meeting Room, was called to order by Chair Kevin Beeson at 5:30p.m., on Tuesday, August 8, 2023.

Members Present: Chairman Kevin Beeson, Vice-Chair Kurt Giles, Carmen Bajena, Greg Mikek  
Bobbie Marr.

Members Absent: None

Fire Chief: Bill Coty

Others in Attendance: Firefighter- Trevor Allen, Ralph Echtenaw – St. Louis Sentinel

**Minutes.**

Moved by Member Giles, supported by Member Bajena, to approve the minutes of May 9, 2023 meeting. All ayes carried the motion.

**Public Comment.**

None.

**Claims and Accounts.**

The Fire Board reviewed the Claims & Accounts.

Moved by Member Giles, supported by Member Mikek, to approve the Claims & Accounts for May 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023 in the amount of \$121,869.22. All ayes carried the motion.

**Financial Statements.**

The Fire Board reviewed and discussed the Financial Statements of July 31, 2023, and placed on file.

**Fire Chief's Report.**

The Fire Chief's Report was reviewed, discussed, and placed on file.

**Ballistic Helmets & Vests**

Chief Coty showed off helmets and vests that were purchased through grant monies to outfit firefighters for active shooter and/or similar situation. Hopefully we will never have to use them.

**Salaries/Per Diem Wages Discussion**

Chairman Beeson requested that we start taking a harder look into Salary and Wages. Upon doing some comparisons of our County neighbor departments it is clear that we pay the least amount, which is embarrassing because we think we have the best department. While we understand that there is a volunteer aspect of the job, it shouldn't cost firefighters to respond to an event. We currently have a modern facility and updated equipment while being debt free.

The Fire Board discussed the local comparables and concluded that beginning with the Chief's position would be a good start and then consulting the chief for recommendations for other positions could happen and be revisited at the November meeting. Also, will consider any budget adjustments at that time.

Motion by Member Marr, supported by Member Giles to make the annual salary for the fire chief \$10,000 and reimbursement of both Fire and Rescue Runs be set to \$50 per run for that position beginning with the August pay.

Roll call vote- Ayes: Marr, Giles, Bajena, Mikek, Beeson. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**Public and Other Comment.**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Bobbie J Marr, Secretary