

CITY OF HARTFORD  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2021

Members Present: Ron Burleson; Frank Dockter; Richard A. Hall; Helen Sullivan; Terry Tibbs;  
Members Absent: Dennis Goss; John Miller;  
Staff Present: Akinwale; Rodney-Isbrecht;

Mayor Richard A. Hall called the special joint meeting of the City Council, Fire Board & Hartford Township Board to order at 7:00P.M. at the Fire Station, 436 East Main Street.

Pledge of Allegiance was said.

**New Business:**

- 2021/2022 Fire Department Budget

Fire Chief Harting presented an overview of the services provided in the 2020 annual report.

- COVID-19 regulations.
- Distribution of Fire Alarms was put on hold for the year, but will resume in 2021.
- Drive through pancake breakfast did very well.
- Average response time in 2020 was 7:20 minutes, allowance for a department of this size is 14 minutes.
- LED lights at the station are starting to reflect a cost savings on the electric bill.
- Van Buren County changed the structure/description of priority calls which reflects in the numbers.
- Applied for and received COVID funds from the federal government and a \$1,000 was distributed to those who were responding to medical calls.

Assistant Chief McGrew gave an update on the new truck. There have been some expected delay's due to COVID but delivery is still planned for June of 2021.

Fire Board Chairman Starner gave an overview of the updated expense budget.

Discussed Line Items:

- Payroll line increased due to increased pay to firefighters. Shift coverage is the same, & fire chief's retirement stayed the same.
- Legal & audit costs remain the same
- Phone bill increased
- Electric & gas costs budgeted the same
- Milage is the same
- Building supplies decreased, a drain in the back needs repair costs will be covered in the current budget
- Grounds costs decrease, lawn mower was purchased & staff are cutting the grass
- Capital building improvement increased to redo floors in offices & training room
- Explorer needs tires and breaks
- Office equipment increased to replace fire chief's computer
- Software upgrades
- Equipment 515.7 expenses include batteries, chain saws
- Medical supplies, most come from Pride Care or Hospital but EPI pens are not included.
- Annual physicals increased for new people
- Software programs to report to the State of Michigan
- Board members are asking pay raise increase from \$30. To \$60.00
- Fire extinguishers are due to be replaced

CITY OF HARTFORD  
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 10, 2021

- Bottles do not need to be tested this year but will be buying two new bottles so they are not all due to be replaced at the same time

Discussion:

- City Manager Akinwale asked the fire board what measures have been taken to sustain the growth of the fire department. The last three years has seen an average of 10% growth per/year to the department's expenditure budget. Board President Starner commented the increase has come from regulations and requirements of the department. Assist Chief McGrew commented that trends for all departments have been trending upwards in calls and that Hartford is the 3<sup>rd</sup> busiest for Van Buren County.
- Commissioner Tibbs requested an update on the Fire Departments being named a beneficiary from the Vanderlyn Trust and plans for the use of those funds. While the department has been notified, they are a beneficiary the details of the trust are not yet known.

Motion by Commissioner Tibbs, supported by Commissioner Burlison, to adjourn the meeting at 7:33pm.

Motion carried 5 – 0

Respectfully Submitted,

RoxAnn Rodney-Isbrecht, City Clerk