

Special Meeting
Eagle Township Board
November 25, 2008

1. Call to Order - The special meeting of the Eagle Township Board was called to order at 6:03 p.m. by Supervisor Schafer at the LGRFA Fire Station, 7720 W. Grand River, Grand Ledge.

Members present were: Supervisor Patti Schafer, Clerk Wendy Simmons, Treasurer Joe Smith, Trustees Steve Colby and Mark Therrian. Also present were members of the Watertown Charter Township Board; LGRFA Chair John Clark; LGRFA Chief Steve Fabiano; Jennifer Tubbs, Manager of Watertown Township as well as Mrs. Jean Husby.

2. Public Comment – No public comment was offered at this point in the meeting. The Eagle and Watertown Board members in attendance introduced themselves.

3. LGRFA Audit – Supervisor Schafer reported that the Eagle Board had accepted the audit and placed it on file. Supervisor Adams stated that the Watertown Board had acted in a similar fashion.

4. Financial Report – Mr. Clark reported that the Department is expected to end the year approximately \$11,000 under budget.

5. 2009 Budget – Clerk Simmons reviewed the correspondence from the Eagle Township Attorney regarding both Boards' action on the budget. Supervisor Schafer offered a summary of action/discussion of the Eagle Township Board on the proposed 2009 Budget. Mr. George Weitzel addressed his concerns regarding the \$4,800.00 proposed auto allowance line item. Mr. Clark addressed the Boards regarding this line item. Members of the Board discussed the line item. Clerk Simmons commented that it would be advantageous for the Boards to approve a revised budget for the Authority, retroactive to 1/1/2009.

6. Department Operations – Supervisor Schafer asked if there were issues that either Township would like to discuss regarding operations of the department. Mr. Weitzel asked for an update on the proposed purchase of a fire truck. Chief Fabiano reported that a grant proposal has been submitted for the new truck. He is waiting to hear if the Department is given the grant prior to moving forward with the specifications, etc. of the new truck. Chief Fabiano reported that, other than the engine, the equipment is on a 15-year depreciation schedule. Mr. Weitzel inquired about the Board positions for Eagle Township members. Supervisor Schafer reported that the membership is expected to remain constant. Supervisor Adams reported that Watertown membership will be discussed at the December meeting of the Watertown Board. Mrs. Thelen asked about staffing levels. Mr. Clark reported that there are currently 3 fulltime employees and 19 part time employees. The Department is hiring part time staff to return staffing levels to 22 part time employees. Trustee Colby asked Chief Fabiano if he was satisfied with the operations of the Department. Chief Fabiano reported that he is very happy with the current direction of the Department.

7. Future of LGRFA – Supervisor Schafer asked the members of both Boards if there is any interest in putting together a committee to formulate a 5 to 10 year plan for the Department. Trustee Therrian supported the idea of having a plan. Mr. Clark stated that it would be beneficial to open discussion with other departments regarding cost sharing for a long-term outlook. Mrs. Thelen wondered if a five-year plan was required to make application for the grant for the engine. She further stated that she thought it would be beneficial to have a five-year plan in place. Mrs. Adams stated that she felt we have a three-year plan in place with having just renegotiated a new agreement this year. She felt that it would be better served to consider formulating a plan as the agreement nears termination.

