

September 17, 2009

The Saratoga Town Board met at 6:00 p.m. in the town hall. Chairman Rickaby called the meeting to order. All members were present. The meeting was officially noticed.

Members from the Town of Grant Board and the Town of Grand Rapids Board were present at the meeting. The meeting was held to negotiate the 2010 fire contract Saratoga and Grant have with Grand Rapids.

Don Bohn, Grand Rapids Chairman stated that .625% of a mill as a retainer amount for the contract was based upon comparables of other fire departments in the area. He also stated that their auditor recommended that amount.

Saratoga and Grant stated that Grand Rapids has an excellent fire department. Saratoga and Grant suggested that we look at a three to five year contract. Jay Goska from Grant questioned getting a reduced mill rate if we went to a longer length contract. Grand Rapids stated they will not reduce the mill rate, but would look at a longer length contract at the .625% of the mill.

Darcy Held, Grant fire protection committee member, questioned why their fire department budget has gone up 45% in the last two years. Scott Bernette, Grand Rapids Fire Chief, explained that their budget numbers are affected whether they get a grant or not.

Saratoga and Grant boards guaranteed a one year contract, and would look at doing a three year contract if the rest of the wording in the contract was agreed upon between all three boards. The .625% rate will be effective until November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009, which will give all boards the time to review and sign a contract after the necessary changes are made.

The contract was reviewed and on most items an agreement was reached. 2% dues were discussed and Grand Rapids stated they are fine with getting the money at the end of the year or the following year from Saratoga, since the amount they get is based on the number of fire inspections done throughout the year. Saratoga and Grant requested that we be put on their insurance policy as an additional insured. Judy McLellan, Grand Rapids Clerk, stated that she talked to their town's insurance company and they told her that Saratoga and Grant wouldn't be named in the policy, but would be covered under the blanket policy. Saratoga and Grant will check into this more to make sure we are covered. Sharon Schwab, Grant Chairman, was concerned about going to a longer length contract that if the need arose, Grant may adjust the coverage area. Grand Rapids will put in a clause that if coverage area needs to be changed a 90 days advance notice will need to be given and changes will need to be agreed upon by both parties. Grant also had a few insertions to put in their contract regarding collaboration with Portage County and Grand Rapids approved those. Grand Rapids stated that they are raising their communication tower in order to serve Grant better.

The lawyer for the Town of Grand Rapids and the lawyer for Saratoga and Grant will work together on the second whereas paragraph and paragraphs 13 and 14 of the proposed contract to see if they can come to an agreement. Once the lawyers get the changes worked out, the contract will be sent to the Towns.

Forbes made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Nelson seconded it. Motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Heidi Kawleski  
Town Clerk

