

**OZAUKEE CENTRAL FIRE DEPARTMENT  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
APPROVED 3.19.2025  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 2025**

Board President Dickmann called the Board meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Board Members Present: Barb Dickmann (*via Teams meeting*), Jim Nowlen, Barry Jondahl, Andrew Schwartz, Steven Solymossy, Zachary Kranz, Topher Adams and Marcia Nosko

Staff/Officials Present: Saukville Village Administrator Dawn Wagner, Grafton Village Administrator Jesse Thyges, Fire Chief William Rice, Assistant Fire Chief Matthew Karpinski, Deputy Fire Chief Bobby Kaslick, Fire Department Business Manager/Secretary Diana Degnitz, OCFD Treasurer Dan Galginaitis and Police and Fire Commission President Paul Moroder

Others Present: Village Trustee Lisa Harbeck, Michael Babcock of the Ozaukee Press and resident Bob Chernow

Pledge of Allegiance and opening prayer led by President Dickmann

Secretary Degnitz noted that the notice had been distributed to the village and town clerks.

**Persons Requesting to be Heard** – Bob Chernow, 2020 Lakeshore Road shared concerns he had regarding the process of consolidating the Saukville and Grafton Fire Departments.

**Saukville Station Tour** – Chief Rice led OCFD Board members and meeting attendees on a tour of the Saukville station.

**Approval of the January 15, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Schwartz, second by Nosko, to approve the January 15, 2025 OCFD Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

**Fire Station Safety Plan** – President Dickmann shared that Mr. Schwartz had requested this item be included on the agenda. Mr. Schwartz summarized that safety improvements needed at both the Grafton and Saukville Fire stations, now being leased by Ozaukee Central Fire Department from the municipalities needs to be a priority. Additional discussion ensued and President Dickmann stated that the safety of OCFD members is a priority and confirmed with board members that all were in agreement and as such this topic will remain a regular agenda item.

Chief Rice added that the discussion regarding these improvements needs to begin with a larger discussion regarding planned capital improvement purchases. Chief Rice added that he will be reviewing the current CIP with OCFD staff including Treasurer Galginaitis and intends to prepare and present an updated plan in June of 2025.

There was no formal action as this was for information only.

**Memorandum of Understanding with Village of Grafton for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance –** referred back to OCFD Board by Village of Grafton Village Board.

Administrator Thyges summarized the MOU highlighting section 1.c. on page 1 which indicates that the Village of Grafton “Hub” system will be used for organization, tracking and notifications. Some discussion regarding the jotform reporting system that has been in place for some time being replaced by the Hub and what impact that would have on both parties involved and confirmation was provided by Administrator Thyges that in virtually all situations, Fire Department emergency vehicles would be given repair priority. Chief Rice also noted that with a July 1, 2026 agreement termination date, the OCFD Board needs to be considering funding a long-term solution for vehicle repairs and maintenance.

Motion by Schwartz, second by Nolen to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Village of Grafton for Vehicle Repair and Maintenance. Motion carried.

**Memorandum of Understanding with Village of Grafton for Finance and Human Resources**

**Support** - Administrator Thyges introduced the MOU and shared that many of the items included in the agreement are already in practice both for the Village of Grafton and the OCFD. Administrator Thyges reviewed the clarifications he had provided to OCFD staff prior to the meeting and discussion around the agreement termination date and other deadlines included in the agreement. It was agreed by Administrator Thyges, the OCFD board and OCFD staff that additional discussion was needed to determine the feasibility of the transition schedule proposed and to better define the necessary steps to achieving an independent finance and human resources plan for OCFD. Chief Rice added that a meeting between Village of Grafton Finance staff and OCFD staff including Treasurer Galginaitis is planned for Tuesday February 25<sup>th</sup> and recommended some additional discussion begin then.

Motion by Nosko, second by Schwartz to table the Memorandum of Understanding with the Village of Grafton for Finance and Human Resources Support. Motion carried.

### **Benchmark Reporting Update**

Deputy Chief Kaslick reviewed Grafton Fire Department benchmark statistics from January 2025.

There was no formal action as this was for information only.

### **Treasurer Update**

Treasurer Galginaitis reviewed the January financials. Treasurer Galginaitis added that second installment payments by each of the municipalities are due February 20, 2025.

There was no formal action as this was for information only.

### **Fire Chief Update**

Chief Rice provided updates as follows:

- OCFD start up costs to date
- Chief Rice has met with the Fredonia Fire Chief and the Newburg Fire Chief and planning for collaborative solutions with no financial impact for mutual aid fire and EMS service for residents in the Town of Saukville located near each of those communities is underway
- Chief Rice clarified that the OCFD is a “combination department” not a regular full-time department adding that part-time and paid on call staff are, and will continue to be a critical part of staffing shifts

**Intergovernmental Agreement Review and Questions** – Administrator Thyges stated that he and Treasurer Galginaitis had met and reviewed some clarifications and “clean up” needed to the existing OCFD Municipal Agreement. Administrator Thyges indicated that he will be working with Treasurer Galginaitis to compile that list of updates and create a final version for OCFD Board review and action.

**Schedule Next Meeting Date/Time/Location**

The next OCFD Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2025 at 6:30 pm to be held at the Grafton Fire Station Training Room.

**Adjourn**

Motion by Solymossy, second by Nowlen, to adjourn at 8:18 pm. Motion carried.