

Meeting called to order at 5:30 P.M.

President W. Dompier opened the meeting.

Present at Roll Call: J. Mayo, A. Mayo, S. Johnson, N. Lozier and W. Dompier

Also Present: LeAnn LeClaire, Village Manager  
Diane Mayo, Village Clerk

The meeting was held for a discussion on a new position being created by the MSU Extension Office and a presentation by Chris Wiggins, JW2 Fire Consultants, on grant information for the area fire departments.

Wendy Goodreau was present to discuss a new position which the MSU Extension office hopes to create in the near future. The main funding for the position would be through a grant. However, \$40,000.00 would also need to be contributed over the next three years by local government agencies. The counties involved would be Baraga, L'Anse, Arvon and Covington Township. The focus of the position would be to hire an educator that would develop tourism and community development. The educator would help with planning, development, funding resources and tourism in the area. It would help by capitalizing on the strengths of our communities. The first year would be focused on working with current projects to make sure they are completed in a timely matter. Wendy will check with the other townships and get back to the council on their willingness to support the project.

Chris Wiggins, owner of JW2 Fire Consultants, was present to discuss grant information for the area fire departments. Mr. Wiggins has been writing grants since 2010 and has obtained \$4,650,000.00 in grant awards. He is also the Washtenaw County Regional Grant Coordinator. He explained the various stages of the grant process to the audience. He explained how a Regional Grant would be more likely to be approved. It actually goes to the top of the pile of grants being reviewed. A grant can be up to 1.1 million dollars and more than one could be applied for if needed. The equipment requested in the grant has to be new equipment. Chris Wiggins stressed how very important the grants are to this area. Equipment and apparatus in the area are considered outdated and in ill repair status. Firefighting and rescue equipment is well past its serviceable age. The fire departments in our area meet every hardship criteria so the grant would be funded 100%. The only cost would be to JW2 Fire Consultants for preparing the grants. They have agreed to offer their services at a substantial discount. The ambulance centers could also apply for the grants. Certain steps will need to be done in order to be approved for the grants. However, the steps are not difficult and help would be available if there are questions during the process. We do not know when a certain grant will open and the time frame for applying for it is usually thirty days. It is very important to be ready to submit the application. Legislator support letters for the area are great and also help with the grant process. Project completion time for an awarded grant is one year.

W. Dompier suggested the fire chiefs in the area have a meeting to discuss the grants. They also should start working as soon as possible to get their paper work done so they can be compliant and ready to apply for the grants. The fire chief would need to prepare a memorandum of understanding to be brought before their council for approval. Chris Wiggins said he would like to get started as soon as possible so everyone needs to act quickly.

Motion made by S. Johnson seconded by N. Lozier to adjourn.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

Absent: P. Stark and P. Mayo

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Submitted by Diane M. Mayo, Village Clerk