

MINUTES OF THE SALEM TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING HELD NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Jim Pitsch at 7:00PM
Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Members Present: Jim Pitsch - Supervisor, Renee Busscher - Clerk, Dan Striegle – Trustee, Don Sebright – Trustee, Ashley Brower - Treasurer
Also preset: Jim Storey – County Commissioner, Dan Kipen – Firechief, Lisa Vandebunte – Library Director
Absent: n/a

Reading of previous board meeting Minutes and Bills, if no additions or corrections Minutes and Bills were approved and paid by consent.

County Road Commissioner: n/a

County Commissioner: Jim Storey presented. He stated there will be two more commissioner meetings. One will be held in November and one in December, instead of two per month like normal. They will be reviewing budget policy, board rules and operations. January 1st, the commissioner term changes from 2 years to a 4 year term. The commissioners will also be looking into salaries. Jim stated that salaries will increase 5%. This figure is determined by evaluating comparable counties and neighboring ones, staying within the median range. Jim also discussed the Veterans Day Ceremony where a statue was rededicated now that it was relocated. Commissioners also determined the remaining AARPA funds will be used for assisting those struggling with utilities and living expenses. Jim also talked about the Allegan County Dam being at a standstill currently.

Comments from Commissions & Departments of:

- *Zoning:* cleaning up blight, processes are ongoing
- *Planning:* special use permit approved, Dan Striegle is working on a blight tracking spreadsheet
- *Fire:* Dan Kipen presented. See attached report
- *Ambulance:* there was \$7500 worth of damage to an ambulance, the current deductible is at \$10k. Current build time for an ambulance is about 3 years out.
- *Library:* Lisa Vandebunte presented, see attached paper. Check out Library webpage for all information <https://saletownshiplibrary.org/>
- *Parks Planning:* no decisions made on the grant yet. Score was received from DNR. Salem previously scored 170 and after revisions, score is now at 200 out of 250 points. Williams & Works had a goal of 200.
- *ARPA Funding:* no change, awaiting Grant outcome. Two bills were paid out of this fund, one for the lighting in the park and one for Williams & Works work on the grant.
- *Roads:* Millage was turned down by vote in November General Election. There is no specified funding for township roads without millage. Winter taxes will still see the millage included.

Public Comment:

Mention about election running smoothly. Addressed idea to bring event for community seniors. 27th Street blight and complaints about unpermitted building. This is currently in process with PCI and was a recent discussion and permit denial at planning commission meeting.

Old Business:

1. Street Lighting – Request to add streetlight to 27th St and 142nd Ave
Request is removed
Discussion: n/a

New Business:

1. 2024-2025 Township Snow Plowing:
Moved by Dan Striegle to use proposal from Vans, seconded by Renee Busscher
Discussion: cost is similar to previous year’s quote
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
2. Set 2025 Salem Township Meeting Dates
Moved by Don Sebright, seconded by Ashley Brower

Discussion: new dates as follows: 2nd Tuesday of the month; Jan 14, Feb 11, Mar 11, Apr 8, May 13, June 10, July 8, Aug 12, Sept 9, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approve additional Blight Expense on 140th Ave cleanup

Moved by Ashley Brower, seconded by Don Sebright

Discussion: The bill increased by \$6500 due to additional debris and junk that was brought onto the property. However, with increase, the bill was still significantly less than other bids.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Public Comment:

Planning commission member stated we may want to review process on zoning administration. Jim Pitsch to follow up on notice received on Top Grade Sand Mine Bond Cancellation. Also established need to check on landscaping to ensure building doesn't flood again. Question from Library about library employee leave policy.

Adjournment:

Moved by Ashley Brower, seconded by Dan Striegle to adjourn meeting at 8:16 PM

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY



Salem Township Fire Department
Monthly Report
October 2024

EMS			
Total -16	YTD-203	Incidents in Sandy Pines-1	Incidents in Rehoboth- 0
District	Number of Incidents		
Salem-	12		
Monterey-	4		
Disregarded Priority 3 medical	5	YTD Priority 3: 69	
Year to date Medical Incidents in Sandy Pines- 32		Year to Date in Rehoboth- 5	

Trainings/Meetings	
Topic	Number of Personnel
Forcible Entry and Ventilation	15
Officers meeting	4
Equipment Checks	5
1714 Pump ops	2
SMV Fire Safety	4
Reading Fire Safety to Preschoolers	3

Personnel using the County's Forcible Entry Prop





Salem Township Fire Department
Monthly Report
October 2024

Projects	
SOGs	Working on updating operational SOGs
Tablets for apparatus	The tablets for apparatus are set up and installed in the trucks
Grants	Working on grants to get headsets in 1712 and 1714
Fire Engineering Online Training	Working on the onboarding process, should be live soon
School Fire Drills	Conducted 2nd fire drill with new SMV procedure
Reading to Preschoolers	Read fire safety book and did a truck demonstration for the library
SMV fire safety	Went to Saint Mary's School for fire safety program
Trunk or treat	Sent a truck to the New Life Church Trunk or Treat
Halloween Open House	Had our annual open house for Halloween- great turn out

Total Fire and EMS Year To Date- 398			
Fire Incidents	Total -13	YTD-128	Incidents in Sandy Pines- 0
Type	Number of Incidents	District	Notes
Fire alarm	2	2- Salem	1 for burnt food at Rehoboth & 1 for Burnips Equipment maintenance on system
Vehicle accident	4	3-Salem 1- Monterey	3 w/ injuries & 1 w/o injuries
Downed Powerlines	1	1-Salem	Tree and wire across the road
No incident found	2	2- Salem	"Unresponsive" patient drove away prior to arrival
Assist EMS	1	1-Salem	Lift assist
Gas leak	1	1-Salem	High Pressure gas line struck by construction
Field Fire	1	1-Jamestown	Corn field fire
Person on Distress	1	1-Salem	Driver that fled an accident later flagged down a fire truck
Year to date Incidents in Sandy Pines- 7			

Salem Township Fire Department has a dedicate group of personnel that respond from home and work to help keep the residents of Salem Township and the surrounding communities safe.



Director's Report
October 2024



Mission:
Building a community of people who discover, share and belong



Vision:
Inspire Curiosity
Foster Community
Ignite Imaginations
Cultivate Learning



Core Values:
Teamwork
Respect
Access
Curiosity
Kindness

Allegheny County Libraries Circulation

	<u>Circulation</u>	<u>Population Served</u>	<u>Hours Open Weekly</u>
Salem Township Library	6,502	8,289	45
Dorr Township Library	2,778	7,922	31
Fennville District Library	3,174	14,496	53
Hopkins District Library	1,464	4,851	37
Leighton Public Library (Moline)	6,111	7,001	40
Saugatuck District Library	5,036	5,686	47
Henika District Library (Wayland)	3,643	7,978	53

Salem Township Library Stats

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Last Year</u>	<u>% +/-</u>
Circulation	6,502	6,417	1%
Overdrive	968	959	1%
Hoopla	525	434	17%
Hotspots	29	13	55%
ILL Requests	449	371	17%
MEL Holds	24	29	-21%
References	103	124	-20%
New Patrons	19	21	-11%
Patron Count:			
Children	509	400	21%
Adults	776	610	21%
Total	1285	1010	21%

Programs/Events:

- * 35 people (kids and adults) attended our Fire Safety Story Time
- * 42 people attended our Halloween Story Time
- * 5 people attended our Cruising Tips and Tricks program; several who did not attend inquired about it later
- * 13 people attended our book character pumpkin painting
- * Landscaping program was postponed until spring
- * We took in \$539 during our used book sale.
- * November 4-9:
 - * kids could make cards for Veteran's Day, we deliver them to a nursing home
 - * kids could vote for their favorite food
 - * celebrated Children's Book Week with various activities
- * November 18: Adult Christmas craft night at 6:30pm. Sign-up for a \$1
- * November 18-23: Elf on the shelf naming contest
- * Lego club and book clubs are still ongoing

Other Notes:

- * November 28-30: Library will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday
- * Library Board has three new trustees and three returning trustees:
Ashley VanZoeren, Lydia Bouman, Rebecca Walters, Amber Hoppe, Connie Immink and Joy Jones,