

December 2, 2025 Oliver Township board meeting minutes.

Supervisor, Tom Ziel opened the meeting at approximately 7 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members and guest present; Tom Ziel, Adam Herford, Bob Ross, Gary Sweeney, Kevin McKenzie, Jim Seley, Chad Seley, Steve Vaughan, Lonnie Schulz, Ryan Upthegrove and several members from the community.

Motion to approve the agenda by Bob Ross and seconded by Gary Sweeney. Motion passed.

Motion to approve the previous months minutes and checks written by Kevin McKenzie and seconded by Gary Sweeney. Motion passed.

Treasurer's report:

Balances for all accounts are \$736,566.25.

Fire Chief's report:

James Seley reported that they would like to buy an air compressor for the air packs. Total cost of approximately \$31,000. The fire department would pay half from their fundraisers and the Township would pay \$15,500. Motion by Adam Herford to approve the expenditure of \$15,500 towards an air compressor for the air packs. Seconded by Bob Ross. Motion passed.

The Fire Chief reported that he was approached by a mutual aid group. It's something that we would agree to help other fire departments outside of the normal area, if need be. More information will be collected and brought back to the January meeting.

Batteries were bought for the Fire truck. Power steering is out on the pumper truck and we will get a bill when it's repaired.

Christmas lunch with Santa will be on Saturday at the fire hall. Also, senior citizens from Rosegarden long term care will be on hand to participate.

Fire Runs:

November 4, lift assist.

November 10, one vehicle personal injury.

November 17, lift assist.

November 26, wires down on Crown Road.

November 30, lift assist Geiger Road.

The Fire Chief reported that he would be subpoenaed to court in regarding the stolen car that was burnt in a cornfield last summer, south of town.

Last year the fire department made 87 runs, this year just completed had 76 runs.

Two applications for Fire Chief were submitted to the township Supervisor. Applicants are James Seley and Ryan Upthegrove. Seley has been Fire Chief for 25 years and Upthegrove has been on the department for 12 years.

Chief Seley brought a number of local citizens to the township meeting for support to stay Fire Chief. He also stated that the fire department personnel board appoints the Fire Chief. An application for Chief must go through the fire department personnel board.

According to Township Fire Department bylaws any fire fighter can send an application to the township Supervisor in the month of November and be voted on in December of each year. They do not have to go through the fire department personnel board. This process gives all candidates equal consideration.

Chief Seley had members of public and firefighters speak on his behalf to remain Fire Chief. Chief Seley was upset because the township board accepted an application from Ryan Upthegrove also.

Members of the public did not understand the bylaws for the fire department, or how the process was handled. Several spoke of how it should be written down. It is written down in the bylaws and the selection process is clear. The township board appoints the Fire Chief once per year.

The township board agreed to suspend discussion of the matter until next month. Motion by Adam Herford to suspend discussion of appointment of the Fire Chief. Motion was seconded by Bob Ross. Motion passed.

There was a discussion about standby fee prices for fire protection. It was agreed to leave the price the same again this year. Motion by Adam Herford to leave the standby fee at \$700 per section. Second by Bob Ross motion passed.

Grant Township downsized the OTFD coverage area to sections 1, 2 and 3 of their township. Chandler Township coverage will remain the same. Bob Ross reported that he would bill them accordingly.

Anges Kozinski from Elkton Lions, Parks and Recreation department asked for a donation for supplies for the annual Christmas events.

Adam Herford made a motion to donate \$225 to the Lions Club for supplies. Seconded by Bob Ross. Motion passed.

Planning Commission report:

Bob Ross reported that they have not met since the last Township meeting.

Commissioners report:

Steve Vaughan spoke about several local and county issues.

Gary Sweeney made a motion to pay the bills as presented. Seconded by Adam Herford. Motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Bob Ross and seconded by Gary Sweeney. Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Bob Ross, Township Clerk.