

FOSTER TOWNSHIP SPECIAL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
JULY 31, 2025
1968 CLEAR LAKE ROAD, WEST BRANCH, MI 48661

The meeting was called to order by the Supervisor at 5:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Kaseman, Shirey, Coleman, VanGoethem, Cooper.

Fire Chief DuPage provided a presentation regarding the proposed acquisition of a Quint fire truck. The presentation included the appraisal value, operational benefits, repairs needed and the necessary facility upgrades to accommodate the apparatus at the fire hall. Chief DuPage also shared that he had conducted site visits to other departments.

Chief DuPage formally requested board approval to purchase the Quint fire truck at a cost of \$16,000. Additionally, he reported that EMS partners have mentioned that they are willing to store the truck temporarily.

The Board followed up with questions regarding storage arrangements, potential building modifications to house the truck, comparative pricing with similar apparatus, and anticipated annual maintenance requirements.

Treasurer discussed how the truck was brought to the township. Chief DuPage stated that, based on the discussion at the previous meeting, he believed he had authorization to retrieve the Quint fire truck in order to display it to local municipalities. He reported that he contacted the township's insurance provider to add coverage to the vehicle and was under the impression that transferring municipal plates from one vehicle to another was permissible.

Chief DuPage also informed the Board that the truck was stopped while en route to a funeral outside the county, and the driver received a misdemeanor citation for improper registration plates.

Several residents voiced both support and opposition regarding the proposed purchase of the Quint fire truck. Supporters cited the enhanced capabilities it would provide for both the township and the county. Those expressing opposition raised concerns about the current budget and overspending. Additional concerns were expressed regarding the purchasing process, specifically that items were being pursued without prior approval from the Board. One resident noted that nearby townships do not operate ladder trucks and questioned the necessity of acquiring one for this community.

Motion by Kaseman, seconded by Shirey, to approve the purchase of the Quint fire truck in the amount of \$16,000.

Vote: Ayes: Shirey, Kaseman. Nays: VanGoethem, Coleman, Cooper. **Motion failed.**

Clerk inquired with Chief DuPage regarding recent charges made on the township credit card. Specifically, questions were raised about fuel purchases made for a vehicle not owned by the township, as well as a separate charge related to the purchase of flooring.

Motion by Kaseman, to enter closed session pursuant to [Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.268, Section 8(c)]* for the purpose of discussing personnel. Seconded by VanGoethem. **Roll Call:** Ayes- Shirey, Cooper, Coleman, VanGoethem, Kaseman. Nays-None. **Motion carried.**

The Board entered closed session at 6:18 p.m.

The Board reconvened in open session at 7:12 p.m.

Motion to adjourn made and carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m

Submitted by:

Nicole Cooper, Township Clerk