Date: December 8, 2011

To: Park Township Board

RE: Agenda Item 9.c: Consider Purchase of Fire Equipment

In the current budget we have set aside $250,000 ($200,000 from fund balance and $50,000 from Fire Department Operations) for future fire equipment. Our intent at budget time was to establish a funding base in anticipation of the need to replace major capital needs, including trucks.

In looking ahead to next budget year, our plan was to include funds for the replacement of our current brush truck, Vehicle # 1581. The current model is 1974 GMC three-quarter ton truck equipped with a water tank and pump. Our intent was to replace this unit with a new vehicle and a "skid- type" water/pump unit that slides into the truck bed rather than be constructed directly to the truck.

In our considerations it became apparent that the summer is the time when the vehicle is most used and it seems logical to make every attempt to have the vehicle in service prior to the summer months rather than take deliver after the busy season. Therefore, even though this particular purchase is not included within the current budget, we are recommending that you authorize the purchase in order that we can take delivery prior to the summer season.

Attached is information detailing the current vehicle and the proposed one. We are looking at a new 2012 model along with the new skid mount water/pump unit. The $23,750 price on the vehicle is from the state purchasing bid program. The costs for the ski unit, lighting, striping and brush guards are estimates but we do not anticipate exceeding these amounts. We may add the plow unit that will allow us to plow the stations if needed but we want to evaluate the need for that over the winter. We currently have plowing service and we also intend to take over some of that operation ourselves with the new unit purchased for the Maintenance Department. The Fire service is a 24 hour operation, however, and it may prove beneficial to have plow service available via this vehicle on a 24 hour basis, too.

Chief Gamby will have the current vehicle at the Township Hall prior to the Board meeting and you are welcome to preview that vehicle at that time. If not convenient, feel free to contact the Chief for an inspection at Station 2, Perry and 160th.

<u>Manager's Recommendation</u>: To authorize the purchase of a new brush unit in an amount not to exceed $55,000, as outlined; to be financed from the Fire Department Equipment Reserves.