

Western Lakes Fire Board

Monthly Board Meeting

July 26, 2021

Call to Order

- George Morris called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Board members present were George Morris, Jeff Roemer, Kent Lorenz, Michael Tompkins, and Charlie Shaw. Board members Bill Riemenschneider and Lisa Mellone were excused. Also, in attendance were Chief Brad Bowen, Assistant Chief's Tom Schuetz, Matt Haerter Bill Lincoln, Deputy Chief's Kami Warren, Adam May, Brad Ingersoll, Division Chief Alex Konen, Captain Dylan Laue, Laurie Sullivan, Matt Trebatoski, and Jeff Herrmann.

Proof of Notice

- Chief Bowen announced that the notice was posted July 23rd, 2021 at 3:42 p.m. to the district web site, newspapers and at stations 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Deputy Chief May led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement of Closed Session

- George Morris announced that the District Fire Board will convene into closed session pursuant to section 19.85(1)(e), Wisconsin State Statutes, "Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public property, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: Contract Service Agreements with other Municipalities".
- The Fire Board may reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the closed session.

Public Comment

- George Morris opened the meeting to comments from the public, of which there was none.

Consent Agenda

- Items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered in one motion unless a Fire Board Member requests that an item be removed from the Consent Agenda
 - Minutes of June 28th, 2021 regular Fire Board Meeting
 - Payment of Bills
 - Ambulance and Highway refunds
- A Motion to approve consent agenda as presented including minutes from May 24th, 2021 Fire Board Meeting, and payment of bills in the amount of \$170,914.17 was made by Jeff Roemer and seconded by Kent Lorenz. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Brad Bowen's Report

- The District responded to 529 calls for service in the month of June.
- Chief Bowen reviewed the monthly financial reports with the board including revenues and expenses. Currently the District is within the budget projections for the year.
- Chief Bowen made the board aware of a trade in option being presented by Motorola for radios previously supported by the company. He stated a full analysis would be completed in the coming weeks and the proposal would be presented to the board at the upcoming budget workshop.

Assistant Chief and Bureau Chief Reports

- The Fire Board reviewed the reports from each of the Assistant Chiefs and Bureau Chiefs for the previously month.

Discussion/Action – Station #3 Exterior Maintenance

- Chief Bowen presented the board with updated quotes for the exterior maintenance of Fire Station #3. The District has solicited quotes for tuck pointing and repair of the exterior masonry and only has received one quote for the work. The project cost is \$6,960.00 which is \$2,105 higher than what was previously approved. Due to this work needing to be completed prior to the painting of the building and limited availability of vendors to complete the work the Chief is requesting for the quote in the amount of \$6,960 to be approved. The total project is under budget by \$2,255.00.
- A motion to approved the exterior masonry work at Fire Station #3 in the amount of \$6,960.00 was made by Kent Lorenz seconded by Michael Tompkins. Motion carried.

Discussion – 2022 Operating Budget

- Chief Bowen provided the board with the draft 2022 Operating Budget. The current draft is still being adjusted based on the current actuals and outstanding quotes for 2022 expenses that have not come in yet.
- Chief Bowen provided the board with the most variable items being the transition to a new records management system in 2022 due to the current legacy system being discontinued the end of 2021, increased workman’s compensation costs, and the expenses related to the full-time positions that were added in the middle of 2021.
- The District continues to have an exceptional low mill rate on the tax levy making it increasingly difficult to maintain services at the current budget and increasing call volume placing a larger demand on the staff. The Chief also went through future staffing needs for future budgets.
- The 7-year staffing plan was presented to the board for review. Based on projections with the continued growth of the municipalities and increasing call volume the District could be responding to over 9,000 calls a year in the next 7 years, which will require additional staffing to meet the growing needs of the community. He also discussed the priority for the next budget process continues to be staffing for the District and competitive wages/benefits.

Staff Presentations –

- Dive Team Operations – Assistant Chief Lincoln
 - AC Lincoln provided the board with a tour of the new Dive Squad and Command Post. He demonstrated the safety features that were included in this new unit and how it will serve the communities within the District.
- Drone Operations – Deputy Chief Ingersoll
 - DC Ingersoll provided the board with a demonstration of the District’s drone which was purchased thanks to the generous donations received in 2020 from the community and various fund raisers.

Future Agenda Items and Meetings

- Special Budget Workshop – Tuesday, August 10th, at 4pm at Fire Station #1
- Joint Owners Meeting – Wednesday, August 11th, at 6pm at Oconomowoc School District Administrative Offices.
- Monthly Fire Board Meeting – Monday, August 23rd, at 4pm at Fire Station #3

Closed Session –

- George Morris moved to convene into closed session by role call vote at 5:59p.m. pursuant to section 19.85(1)(e), Wisconsin State Statutes, “Deliberating or negotiating the purchase of public property, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session: Contract Service Agreements with other Municipalities”.
- The Fire Board may reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the closed session.
- The Fire Board return to open session at 6:52p.m.

Discussion/Action – 2022 Municipal Agreements

- A Motion supporting changes to the District’s Intermunicipal Agreement and including the Town of Oconomowoc, Town of Merton, and Village of Merton was made by Jeff Roemer seconded by Kent Lorenz. Motion carried.

Adjournment

- A motion was made at 6:58 pm by Kent Lorenz and seconded by Charlie Shaw to adjourn. Motion carried.