

Western Lakes Fire Board

Monthly Board Meeting

November 28, 2022

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, Mike Tompkins, Bill Riemenschneider, Dan DeBehnke, and Scott Carter.

Proof of Notice

- Chief Bowen announced that the notice was posted November 26th at 12:36 p.m. in accordance with open meeting laws.

Announcement

- George Morris announced, The Fire Board will convene into closed session pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c)(e), Wisconsin State Statutes, "To consider employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation of the District's part time and full-time employees, over which the Fire Board exercises responsibility;" and "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" for the following purposes: *Contract Service Agreements with Municipalities and negotiations strategies; Executive Management Plan; Specific compensation and benefits related to specific employees ."* The Fire Board will not reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the closed session.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Battalion Chief Pflanzler led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment

- George Morris opened the meeting to public comment.
 - Adam Fritsch a part-time Lieutenant with WLFD and resident of the Village of Dousman had public comment for the board. Fritsch has concerns regarding leadership at WLFD, responsiveness of Chief Officers, advancement opportunities for staff, and moral at WLFD. Fritsch requests that the board take action to address these matters.

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 October 24th, 2022 regular Fire Board Meeting
 - Payment of Bills - \$410,423.67
 - Ambulance and Highway refunds
- A motion was made by Jeff Roemer and seconded by Dan DeBehnke to accept the Consent Agenda items including meeting minutes from October 24th, 2022 Fire Board meeting, and payment of bills in the amount of \$410,423.67. Motion carried.

Fire Chief's Report

- Chief Bowen reviewed with the board activities over the past month. DC Ingersoll had a prior obligation during the meeting and Chief Bowen provided an update on a recent job fair the District hosted. During the event a total of 14 individuals came to learn about WLFD. A total of

7 interviews were completed during the job fair of those that had certification requirements. The other individuals are interested in the District's explorers post and internship program.

- Chief provided an update on the recent recruitment for full-time openings that closes on November 18th. A total of 16 applications were received for firefighter/paramedic, 32 for battalion chief, and 12 for assistant chief. Assessment centers are scheduled for the end of November and beginning of December. The Fire Commission will meet the middle of December to discuss the next steps in the process.
- The Chief Officers are actively working on a number of objectives including reorganization of the District's committees and workgroups. The involvement of WLF D employees in these is important to have diverse representation in programs and tasks in the District. In addition to these the District is completing a policy and training update of its harassment policy. Staff is also working to redistribute roles and responsibilities among staff at WLF D to balance the workload and involve the additional staff in tasks.

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.
- Roemer recognized the efforts and work of DC Meyer and Capt. Laue completing ICS forms and preparedness for the recent German Christmas Market, Christmas Parade, and upcoming Holiday Train.

Discussion/Action – Station 1 Generator Repairs

- The 2023 Dodge County 911 Joint Powers Agreement was reviewed with the board. This agreement is approved annually between the District and Dodge County for the service area in the Town of Ashippun. The agreement is required per State Statute. The Jefferson and Waukesha County Agreements are done between the Municipalities and the 911 Center, where Dodge County has the agreement between the providers and 911 Center.
- A motion to approve the Dodge County 911 Joint Powers Agreement was made by Dan DeBehnke, seconded by Kent Lorenz. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action – Adoption of Waukesha County Hazard Mitigation Plan

- In September the Fire Board approved repairs to the Station 1 generator up to \$10,000.00 following a failure of the controllers once a second quote is obtained. At the time the District was only able to obtain one quote for the work, as repair vendors are charging \$500 to come and assess the issues. The initial quote was from the primary service provider of the generators at the District. A second quote was obtained from the District's secondary provider. Upon inspection they were able to determine and provide documentation that the failure was due to a lightning strike. As a result this became an insurance claim and has been approved by the District's insurance provider.
- A motion to approve replacement controllers of the station 1 generator through insurance with the District's cost being the \$1,000.00 deductible was made by Jeff Roemer and seconded by Kent Lorenz. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items and Meetings

- Due to the Holidays in December the board will meet on Monday, December 19th, 2022 at 4pm. The meeting will be held at Station #1.

Closed Session

- George Morris announced, The Fire Board will convene into closed session pursuant to section 19.85(1)(c)(e), Wisconsin State Statutes, "To consider employment, promotion, compensation, or

performance evaluation of the District's part time and full-time employees, over which the Fire Board exercises responsibility;" and "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" for the following purposes: *Contract Service Agreements with Municipalities and negotiations strategies; Executive Management Plan; Specific compensation and benefits related to specific employees ."* The Fire Board will not reconvene into open session at the conclusion of the closed session.

- At 4:25 p.m. a motion was made by Dan DeBehnke seconded by Bill Riemenschneider to move to closed session by roll call vote. Affirmative roll call vote by all board members.
- At 5:45 p.m. the closes session concluded.