

# Western Lakes Fire Board

## Monthly Board Meeting

### October 23, 2023

#### **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, and Dan DeBehnke. Scott Carter was excused.

#### **Proof of Notice**

- Chief Bowen announced that the notice was posted October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 2:40 p.m. in accordance with open meeting laws.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

- George Morris led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Public Comment**

- George Morris opened the meeting up to public comment.
- Bill Lincoln, representative for the Town of Oconomowoc asked about the timeline and next steps of the ownership expansion to include the Town of Oconomowoc. Chief Bowen, provided information that this work is starting in December with representatives from each municipality.

#### **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 September 25, 2023 regular Fire Board Meeting
  - Payment of bills August in the amount of \$757,648.29.
- Jeff Roemer had questions on the upfitting costs of new apparatus. Over the past two years the costs of emergency lighting and equipment has increased by 30% which is consistent with other products. These costs were included in the budget.
- A motion was made by Jeff Roemer and seconded by Kent Lorenz to accept the Consent Agenda items including meeting minutes with correction from September 25, 2023 Fire Board meeting and payment of bills in the amount of \$757,648.29. Motion carried.

#### **Fire Chief's Report**

- Chief Bowen updated the board on various meetings since the September meeting, specifically many municipalities that had meetings regarding Fire Protection Services Fees. The Chief also met with other Chiefs and representatives of Waukesha County Communications Center regarding their staffing and operations. The Chief attended a Leadership Development Program in Maryland along with Lt. DuCharme. The next full-time academy to fill vacant positions starts on November 1<sup>st</sup> and Assistant Chief Gscheidmeier starts on November 13<sup>th</sup>. The swearing in ceremony for these positions will be Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at Station 1. The District is hosting a large scale regional active shooter exercise later this week. In November the District has assisted with a venue for Chief Officer Development.

#### **Assistant Chief**

- Reports from the Assistant Chief and Bureau Chiefs were included in the packet.

### **Discussion/Action – 2024 Capital Improvement Project (Engine)**

- The Chief provided an update on the specification and bidding process for the replacement engine included in the 2024 capital budget. The build time is between 24 and 36 months. To meet the District’s Purchasing Policy and Public Bidding this will go through the Sourcewell program. Manufacturers are expecting an increase on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and also are unsure which motor will be installed in the engine due to EAP changes. The bid and price will include the newer EAP model which is an increase of nearly \$100,000. If the District can get a motor prior to the cutover that will be reduced.
- This item was tabled until the November Board Meeting.

### **Discussion/Action – 2023 & 2024 Capital Improvement Project (Ambulances)**

- The District is currently in the process of updating specifications and obtaining bids for the replacement of ambulances. The chassis were ordered through Wisconsin State Bid separate from manufacturers. The District will be supplying its own chassis.
- No action taken until bids are received.

### **Future Agenda Items and Meetings**

- The next regular meeting of the board will be Monday, November 27, 2023 at 4pm. The meeting will be held at Station #1.
- Due to Christmas the December Fire Board meeting will be moved to Monday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at 4pm and held at Station #1.

### **Closed Session**

1. 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; 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 4:39 p.m. a motion was made by Jeff Roemer and seconded by Kent Lorenz to move to closed session by roll call vote. Affirmative roll call vote by all board members.
- At 6:00 p.m. a motion was made by Jeff Roemer and seconded by Kent Lorenz to return to open session by roll call vote. Affirmative roll call vote by all board members.

### **Discussion/Action – Following Closed Session Discussion**

- A motion was made by Jeff Roemer and seconded by Kent Lorenz to approve the District’s revised full-time employee benefits policy as presented contingent on the District Attorney’s final review. Motion carried.

### **Discussion/Action – Sworn Full-time Employee Vacation Selection**

- No action taken, included in the employee benefits policy.

### **Discussion/Action – Employee Compensation Steps (Fire Chief)**

- A motion was made by George Morris and seconded by Dan DeBehnke to approve a ½ step increase to Chief Bowen, retroactive to July 1, 2023. Motion carried.

## **Adjournment**

- At 6:09 p.m. a motion was made by Dan DeBehnke and seconded by Kent Lorenz to adjourn the meeting. Motion Carried.