

Western Lakes Fire Board

Monthly Board Meeting

August 22, 2019

Call to Order

- George Morris called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Board members present were George Morris, Kent Lorenz, Bill Riemenschneider, Mike Tompkins, Mike Sauer, and Jeff Roemer. Also, in attendance were Chief Brad Bowen, Assistant Chief Matthew Haerter, Oconomowoc Finance Director Laurie Sullivan and Administrative Assistant Michael Krug. Jimi Hall was excused.

Proof of Notice

- Mike Krug announced that the notice was posted Tuesday August 20th to the district web site, newspapers and at stations 1 and 2.

Pledge of Allegiance

- George Morris 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” The topic of discussion was Contract Service Agreements with other Municipalities.
- The fire board will not convene into open session at the close of the closed session.

Public Comment

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

Discussion – 2020 Operation Budget

- Chief Bowen presented his 2020 Operational Budget.
 - A. 2020 Budget Initiatives
 - a. Part-time Employee Wages
 - i. Increase part-time employee wages as presented in 2018 under the seven-year staffing and wage plan.
 - ii. Average increase in part-time wages for 2020 is 6%.
 - iii. District part-time wages remain 25% below regional average.
 - b. Full-time Positions & Wages
 - i. Add two full-time positions as presented during 2018 seven-year staffing and wage plan.
 1. Position #1 is a full-time firefighter/paramedic
 2. Position #2 is a full-time salaried/exempt chief officer position responsible for fleet/facilities and maintenance.
 - ii. Decrease wages steps for full-time firefighter/paramedics and captains from 8 steps to 6 steps based on internal and external comparable.
 - iii. Represent a 2.5% wage increase for full-time positions.
 - iv. Wages
 - c. Minimum Staffing

- i. Ensuring the District has an adequate number of employees to respond to emergency incidents throughout the District.
- B. Changes since July budget presentation
- a. Tax levy amount has decreased from 3.75% to 2.75%
 - b. Accounting for Medicaid Transport payment from State of WI. This is \$18,000 of revenue annually, which decreases the amount due on the tax levy.
 - c. Ambulance revenues are increase based on actual year end projects.
 - d. Decreased amount due for ambulance billing service fees based on actuals.
 - e. Decreased utilities based on actuals.
 - f. Increase in station supply costs due to increased number of employees using these materials. (toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc.)
 - g. Copier expenses were not in the original calculations and needed to be added.
 - h. Conference and Seminar costs decreased to reflect actuals.
 - i. Communications equipment costs increased based on need to replace radio batteries that have reached their expected service life.
 - j. Part-time retirement benefit increased based on actual projections and past years
 - k. Decreased dispatch costs based on first net data service costs decreasing overall costs.
- Jeff Roemer suggested that we look at transitioning money from Paid-on-Call wages to full-time wages. Laurie Sullivan said that adding full-time staff to the budget will be difficult. Jeff said we are not adding full-time staff to the budget, but converting money that was allocated to paid-on-call to be used for additional full-time staff. We would be relying more on full-time staffing than paid-on-call as we are seeing a decrease in the availability of members responding from home to respond to calls. Brad stated it would not be a even conversion as the pay rate for a full-time employee is higher than that of a paid-on-call, but we are working on increasing the paid-on-call wages to be more competitive.

Closed Session

- At 5:10 pm the board convened into closed session by roll call vote.