

Western Lakes Fire Board

Monthly Board Meeting

September 30, 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 Sauer, Jimi Hall, Mike Tompkins and Jeff Roemer. Also in attendance were Chief Brad Bowen, Assistant Chiefs Tom Schuetz and Matt Haerter, Deputy Chiefs Kami Warren and Tim Meyer, Battalion Chief Steve Pflanzner, City of Oconomowoc Police Chief Ron Buerger, Town of Oconomowoc Administrator Jeff Herrmann and Administrative Assistant Michael Krug.

Proof of Notice

- Mike Krug announced that the notice was posted September 26th to the district web site, newspapers and at stations 1 and 2.

Pledge of Allegiance

- Jeff Herrmann led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcement of Closed Session

- George Morris announced that the fire board would meet in closed 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 will not return 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.

Approval of Minutes

- A motion was made by Mike Tompkins and seconded by Jeff Roemer to approve the minutes of the August 26th meeting as written. Motion carried.

Fire Chief Brad Bowen’s Report

- Chief Bowen distributed a document on a Dodge County EMS study being conducted. Since we do provide EMS services in Dodge County, Chief Bowen will be participating in the study.
- One of the board members earlier in the month asked about our origination chart, which the board approved in January 2018. A copy was included for reference. Also included was a draft of what the chart could look like over the next years with expansion.
- At the owners meeting, the Town of Oconomowoc stated that they show the Fire Department costs on their tax bills. Copies of previous tax bills were included for reference. More municipalities are doing this for full transparency to show what the taxpayers tax money is being used for.
- A copy of the monthly run log was distributed showing 452 calls in August and on track for 4,868 calls by year end. A board member was contacted by an employee regarding interfacility calls extending past their shift. The chiefs do look at the schedule to see who is available at shift change and tries to avoid members having to work hours past their scheduled time. This

however is no different than going on a fire call that would go past their scheduled shift. Jimi Hall asked about bringing in off-duty staff to cover interfacility calls so our on-duty staff would remain available to provide coverage for our communities. We currently may move personnel from one station to another to cover for ambulances out on calls. To bring in off-duty staff would require additional payroll. Jimi asked about the implications to the budget and organizational chart with what was awarded to us by the Town of Oconomowoc. Brad said that was to be discussed in the closed session discussions. Jimi said that he wants more to be discussed in open session and that too much has been done in closed session.

Chief Officer Reports

- Assistant Chief Schuetz added that pump testing on 3662 went well and that all pump testing has now been completed. George Morris asked about the security cameras at station 4 in the 2019 and 2020 budget. Brad said that these were budgeted under the IT category in the budget.
- Assistant Chief Haerter had nothing to add to his report and there were no questions.
- Deputy Chief Meyer added that Nate Jost will be completing his internship at the end of October. There will be a graduation at the end of October and the board will be invited. Jimi Hall stated that last year, new requirements were made for officers and that we had a grace period to October of this year. He wanted to know how our officers stand on meeting the requirements and to see the training records for all of our members. Mike Sauer said that the board received the training records in March. Tim said he would re-run the report. Chief Bowen said that all of our officers did meet the requirements. Jeff Roemer said that the requirements by the state did change, effective October 1 2019, allowing grandfathering of existing officers. Existing officers can remain an officer without the certifications, but any new officer appointments must meet the minimum requirements.
- Deputy Chief Kami Warren had nothing to add to her report and there were no questions.

Discussion – CMS and CMMI ET3 pilot program

- Chief Bowen commented on a pilot program for Medicaid and Medicare. It would require a 5-year commitment. Andres medical said that of their 280 clients, 4 are participating. We are not planning to be involved in the pilot.

Discussion – Engine 63 Bid

- Chief Bowen stated that as part of the 2020 budget, engine 63 is scheduled to be replaced. The spec for 3662 would be used with some adjustments. We did three bids in 2017 for 3662. Jimi Hall said we cannot use a bid from 2017 for apparatus to be purchased in 2020. Kent Lorenz stated that per policy, anything over \$25,000 had to go to bid.

Discussion/Action – Fire Board Meeting Date / Time

- George Morris stated we have adjusted the board meeting date and time in the past to avoid conflicts. Chief Bowen had given the board three options that would not conflict with his or the departments schedule. The board decided that the fourth Monday at 4:00 pm would work best.

Discussion/Action –Light Duty Work

- George Morris said the light duty policy was still at legal. No action was taken.

Discussion/Action – 2020 District Health Insurance Plan and Contribution

- Chief Bowen said an e-mail had been sent to the board members with options. Just before the joint owners meeting, we were notified by the state that the health insurance rates were going

up 11% instead of the expected 4% which was budgeted. That would have resulted in a \$20,000 deficit in the budget. R&R insurance did bid for health insurance, which came in at 1% under the state, but would allow for only one insurance option, where the state gives 4. Also, historically, the private companies are more volatile with changes from 9% to 12% increase each year. The recommendation is to stay with the state plan. Currently the district pays 84% of the average of the state plans. Summit pays a percentage of the lowest cost insurance. Staff recommends we approve 92% of the lowest insurance plan (Dean) which would equate to 84% of the average for the full-time staff. Part-time staff would pay either 25% or 50% of the lowest plan based on the number of scheduled hours. Kent Lorenz stated that we do offer health insurance to our part-time staff and that we don't want to make it wildly attractive to them at the expense of our full-time staff.

- A motion was made by Kent Lorenz and seconded by Bill Riemenschneider to approve the Insurance contribution and plan. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action – Dodge County 911 Joint Powers Agreement

- Chief Bowen stated that the Joint Powers agreement is approved annually by the board for the area we cover in Ashippun.
- A motion was made by Mike Tompkins and seconded by Kent Lorenz to approve the Dodge County 911 Joint Powers Agreement as presented. Motion carried.

Discussion/Action – Ambulance & Highway Refunds

- There were no ambulance or highway refunds so no action taken.

Discussion/Action - Payment of Bills

- Mike Tompkins asked about the \$666 for 3 Public relations table cloths. Chief Bowen said we go to various locations with display boards for recruitment. Sometimes we get simply a table with no cover. We purchased three so each station would have a PR box that could be taken to events.
- A motion was made by Mike Sauer and seconded by Kent Lorenz to approve the bills totaling \$229,043.75. Motion carried.

Future Agenda Items and Meeting

- October Board Meeting –Monday October 28th at 4:00 pm at Station 1.

Closed Session

- At 5:20 pm the Fire Board convened into closed session by roll-call vote.
- The fire board did not reconvene into open session.