

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue
Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2009 – 5:30 p.m.
Hauser Room – City of Neenah

Ald. Wisneski called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Present: Ald. Wisneski, Stevenson, Ahles, Hendricks, Stevenson and Lange.

Excused: Ald. Benner

Also Present: Chief Vander Wyst, Director Easker, City Attorney Godlewski and Administrative Assistant Theisen.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee reviewed the minutes from August 25, 2009. **MSC Ahles/Lange to approve the minutes of August 25, 2009, all voting aye.**

Month End Budget Report: The Committee reviewed the August 2009 month end budget report. Ald. Ahles asked about maintenance of motor vehicles. **MSC Stevenson/Lange to approve and place on file the August month end budget report, all voting aye.**

Monthly Activity Report: The Committee reviewed the August 2009 monthly activity report. **MSC Lange/Hendricks to approve and place on file the August 2009 month end activity report, all voting aye.**

Consideration of Tentative Agreement with IAFF Local 275: CA Godlewski said he asked all unions to re-open their contracts to discuss options due to the issues with the 2010 budget. He said he was appointed to negotiate with L275 on behalf of both of the Cities of Neenah and Menasha. The Committee reviewed the memo from CA Godlewski that outlined the changes that were tentatively agreed upon. Ald. Ahles asked how close this came for the budget numbers that the City needed to see. Director Easker said the negotiations came in close to what they needed because they were able to negotiate the contract through 2011. Ald. Stevenson felt that the negotiations did not meet the objective to what the Neenah Council set. Director Easker said in dollar figures the City ended up with about half it, however, ultimately it was captured but over a two-year period. Ald. Stevenson said we lost half of the dollar amount for 2010 and we also lost the last amount of leverage, which would be lay-offs. He also noted that this would limit our negotiations with other bargaining units for what they can negotiate. Director Easker said that we did take the contract and split it into two years versus only a one-year contract. CA Godlewski said he wanted to stress the importance of this union re-opening a contract and coming to a negotiation is an important thing and has not been done in the past by any unions. Director Easker said the agreement precludes layoffs but not through attrition.

Ald. Hendricks asked about the no lay off policy and now that it is re-instated if it was set aside at anytime. CA Godlewski said there was language in the previous contracts and it expired on December 31, 2008. He did make it clear that this would be extended through

2011 but it is not something that will automatically continue in the future. Ald. Hendricks said it is historic that they did do this but he felt like this was having their “hands tied”, especially with the state of City of Menasha’s budget. CA Godlewski said that it was felt that this was a “no cost” give. Chief Vander Wyst said right now our department is not over staffed and if layoffs happened this would be not only a public safety concern but also a concern with the firefighters. If we reduced firefighter positions there would be safety issues for the firefighters if there were a structure fire.

CA Godlewski said he recognized some of the issues with this but he also said this is the best he could get for a contract re-negotiation. The only other alternative would be to layoff people if this would be rejected. Chief Vander Wyst noted we should look at the fact that they did agree to a lower raise than what the current contract language and the union rose to the challenge.

MSC Ahles/Lange to recommend the Common Councils of Neenah and Menasha approve the tentative agreement with IAFF Local 275 for the labor contract re-opener and extension through 2011, Ald. Wisneski, Hendricks, Lange and Ahles voting aye and Ald. Stevenson voting nay.

Drager Thermal Imaging Camera: Chief Vander Wyst asked that the Committee not act on this. We have been waiting for a quote on a new MDC and we do not have it at this time. We have \$15,000 budgeted and he would like to see what the quotes come in at and review it in October.

The Committee recognized Chief Vander Wyst for his work as Chief with NMFR and thanked him for all of his hard work. They wished him well in his new position.

MSC Hendricks/Stevenson to adjourn at 6:35 p.m., all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Len Vander Wyst
Chief

LV/tt