

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue
Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 18, 2009 – 5:30 p.m.
Hauser Room, City Hall – City of Neenah

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

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

Excused: Ald. Benner

Also Present: Chief Designate Auxier, City Attorney Godlewski, and Finance Director Easker.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee reviewed the minutes from October 27, 2009. **MSC Ahles/Stevenson to approve the minutes of October 27, 2009, all voting aye.**

Month End Budget Report: The Committee reviewed the October 2009 month end budget report. Ald. Wisneski questioned why the storm sewer charges were over budget. Director Easker explained that the budget did not include the fees from newly formed Menasha Storm Water Utility as that utility was created after the fire department budget was adopted. **MSC Ahles/Stevenson to approve and place on file the October month end budget report, all voting aye.**

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

OLD BUSINESS

Station 32 Basement Repair Work: Chief Designate Auxier reported that the prior contract with the low bid had been cancelled due to poor performance. No further work was expected this year due to the lateness of the season. Chief Designate Auxier indicated that the department had not arranged for the next lowest bidder to do the work on the project yet and probably would wait until spring to complete the repairs.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Wisneski indicated that she was concerned over the fact that the committee had not received the detailed department budget prior to the Menasha Common Council budget deliberations. Consequently, the Menasha budget did not contain the detail. She expressed concern that her e-mail request for the information was not responded to promptly. Director Easker indicated that his office had provided a copy of the detailed budget to Menasha Finance Director Stoffel in late October, and assumed Alderman Wisneski would have access to the budget detail through Director Stoffel. He apologized for any role he played in the misunderstanding. Committee members agreed that they should have had access to the budget prior to Common Council deliberations. They

indicated that part of the issue might have been the transition from Chief Vander Wyst to Chief Designate Auxier's administration. Chief Designate Auxier agreed that he would provide advance copies of the proposed department budget to the Committee in future years, likely at the September meeting.

Ald. Wisneski also expressed concern over the fact that new Chief Designate Auxier's proposed salary was published in the paper before the committee had a chance to vote on the proposal. City Attorney Godlewski indicated that the proposed salary was public record and staff could not control what the press published. Once the memo explaining the proposed salary was distributed to the committee, the proposed salary was public record.

Fire Chief Salary Package. City Attorney Godlewski indicated that he had negotiated a salary of \$83,000 with Chief Designate Auxier with no anniversary increase, unlike other department head packages. In light of the salary freeze for nonrepresented employees in Neenah, it was felt this was more appropriate. The proposed salary also represents a 7.1% increase over the current Deputy Chief salary and represents an appropriate spread. **MSC Stevenson/Hencricks to approve the compensation package of \$83,000 annually for the Fire Chief, all voting aye.**

Acting Chief Stipend. Ald. Stevenson requested this item for the agenda. He wanted the committee to recognize the level of work demanded of the acting chief during budget time. City Attorney Godlewski explained that the appointment by the Joint Fire Commission was treated as a promotion under City of Neenah policies and Acting Chief DeLeeuw was awarded a 5% increase for the period he served as Acting Chief. This raise represented a stipend of roughly \$400 to Acting Chief DeLeeuw for the period he served as Acting Chief. Committee members concurred that due to budget preparation, it was appropriate to increase that stipend. **MSC Stevenson/Hendricks to recognize the effort of Acting Chief DeLeeuw and increase the stipend paid for those services to \$800, all voting aye.**

Authorization to Fill Vacant Assistant Chief/Fire Marshal position. Chief Designate Auxier indicated that with his appointment, his former assistant chief/fire marshal position is vacant. The position provides crucial service to the public in plan review and fire inspections and is an essential fire prevention service. Ald. Stevenson asked if the memo supporting filling the position had been received from the Mayors. City Attorney Godlewski stated not yet, but he would ask the Mayors for their input. **MSC Ahles/Hendricks to authorize filling the vacant Assistant Fire Chief/Fire Marshal position, all voting aye.**

2010 Funding Formula. Director Easker distributed the funding formula calculated in accordance with the merger agreement. It shows that the Fire Department budget will be funded 59.55% by Neenah and 40.45% by Menasha for 2010. The corresponding funding formula for 2009 had been 59.45% Neenah, 40.55% for Menasha. **MSC Stevenson/Hendricks to accept the Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue Cost Distribution Formula of 59.55% by Neenah and 40.45% by Menasha for 2010, all voting aye.**

There being no further business, **MSC Ahles/Hendricks to adjourn at 6:06 p.m., all voting aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

James G. Godlewski
City Attorney

JGG