

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue
Joint Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting
December 28, 2010 – 5:30 p.m.
3rd Floor Council Chambers – City of Menasha

Present: Ald. Stevenson, Ahles, Ramos, Wisneski and Zelinski.

Excused: Ald. Hendricks.

Also Present: Chief Auxier, Assistant Chief Sipin, Finance Director Stoffel and Administrative Assistant Theisen.

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

Approval of Minutes: The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from November 23, 2010. **MSC Ahles/Wisneski to approve the meeting minutes from November 23, 2010, all voting aye.**

November 2010 Budget Report: The Committee reviewed the November 2010 budget report. Ald. Stevenson questioned why the FVTC rent payments are overdue. Chief Auxier said he would follow up with Director Easker and let everyone know why that is a negative balance. The overtime budget was reviewed and it was noted that we received reimbursement for the disaster training drill that was held in March from OJA and this was applied to our overtime budget and offset those wages. **MSC Wisneski/Ramos to accept the November 2010 budget report and place on file, all voting aye.**

November Activity Report: The Committee reviewed the November 2010 activity report. **MSC Ahles/Wisneski to accept the November 2010 activity report and place on file, all voting aye.**

Regional Special Operations Response Team: Assistant Chief Sipin explained the State of Wisconsin is looking at creating to a specialty response rescue team for collapsed buildings. Currently there are many teams in the State and the State is looking at creating a single team that would respond all over the State of Wisconsin. AC Sipin reviewed the costs that would be incurred by NMFR if one of our employees were called up to respond on this team if they are both on and off duty. The State of Wisconsin will pay back-fill for us to fill on duty spots. The reimbursement to NMFR will be a flat rate regardless if the person is on duty or not.

There are four required training sessions for the team members to attend per year. These training sessions will be held over multiple days so team members can attend on off duty days and NMFR will not occur any overtime. We will be reimbursed wages for the team members to attend but they are not paid for travel time or mileage to and from the training site. This would be the responsibility of NMFR. There are staff vehicles that members can use so this would eliminate mileage pay. Ald. Stevenson asked if the members who are interested in being on the State team would continue training and if

there would be costs incurred. AC Sipin explained the costs incurred and also said that once this training is received it will be brought back and shared with all NMFR members trained to a level that we would handle if something happened in this area.

Ald Stevenson asked if the contract has been reviewed by the City of Attorneys. AC Sipin said the contract is being finalized and once it is completed it will be forwarded to the City Attorneys to review before anything is signed. AC Sipin also noted that if a response is needed it would go through the State and our employees who respond would be then become “State” employees and covered under their work comp insurance, etc.

Ald. Wisneski asked if there is a possibility of all team members being called up at once since this would create a burden for other members to cover our Cities while they are gone. AC Sipin said there would be three equal teams created for the State and members would be divided equally so not all members are called from one Department. **MSC Ahles/Ramos to endorse the concept of NMFR’s participation in this State team and once a contract is created it is to be reviewed by both City Attorneys and then come back to this Committee for final review and recommendation, all voting aye.**

Confined Space Contract: Chief Auxier explained that we have been approached by private organizations to provide confined space back-up. Both City Attorneys are in the process of reviewing a proposed contract and we are waiting for final input from them. This contract would be with private industries that are looking for back up for confined space entry. This contract would cover all liability and would be revenue for the Department. Ald. Ahles asked how mutual aid situations with other Departments would be covered. It was noted that language would be in the contract that enables us to leave and go to the mutual aid request. It was also asked how we would manage this if we get a lot of requests. Chief Auxier said we would only contract with organizations that we can manage and would only schedule to provide this service when we are able to. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided by Chief Auxier and AC Sipin that this would be reviewed more internally and discussions will be held with both City Attorneys and reported back to the Committee at a future date.

Dive Team Information: The Committee reviewed the answers to the questions that were brought up at the last meeting. It was noted again by Chief Auxier that the funds to start this team would be funded by private donations and grants. These funds would be tracked and if the goals were not met then the funds would be returned to the donors. The goal is to improve response times in situations where a dive is needed for a rescue. It was also noted that if a call were received everyone who is currently called up for a response would continue to be called upon. The goal is to get our team members on scene quicker. A lengthy discussion was held on the duplication of services this would provide, the short falls of the current situation and how this would affect responses. The Committee asked that we move forward with this proposal and have the appropriate elected officials meet with the County and show them our proposal, that we can fund the start up costs through private donations and review yearly maintenance costs with the County. **MSC Wisneski/Ramos recommends the City of Neenah and Menasha Common Councils approve NMFR’s initiatives to move forward with endorsing**

fundraising through private funding and/or grants to fund the start up costs of a dive team for NMFR and initiate discussions with Winnebago County to formulate a long term structure for maintenance costs, per statutory requirements, all voting aye.

Automatic Aid Update: Chief Auxier noted that an automatic aid agreement has been drafted and is currently being reviewed by both City Attorneys. He noted that once this agreement has been reviewed it would be presented to this Committee for review.

MSC Ahles/Ramos to adjourn at 7:20 p.m., all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Auxier
Chief

AA/tt