

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue  
Joint Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting  
November 22, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.  
Hauser Room – City of Neenah

Present: Ald. Sevenich, Krueger, Klein, Ahles and Stevenson.

Excused: Ald. Ramos.

Also Present: Chief Auxier, CA Godlewski, CA Captain, Director Easker and Office Manager Theisen.

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

Public Forum: There were no members from the public present.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from October 25, 2011. **MSC Krueger/Klein to approve the October 25, 2011 meeting minutes, all voting aye.**

Budget Report: The Committee reviewed the October 2011 budget report. Ald. Sevenich asked about the Special Operations overtime. Chief Auxier explained how these wages are reimbursed from the State. **MSC Krueger/Ahles to accept the October 2011 budget report and place on file, all voting aye.**

Monthly Activity Report: The Committee reviewed the October 2011 Activity Report. Ald. Klein asked about utilizing non-fire trucks for EMS calls. Chief Auxier said there are concerns with the current staffing. We have crews of three and if we get an EMS call we have to send 1 to 2 people on the EMS call and then if there is a fire call there would be a delay in response since the crew would have to wait until the EMS crew is back from their call to respond to the fire. We need to keep our crews together and if we started splitting them up we would have longer response times. He also explained how we have looked at our operations and have made changes to decrease the usage of our vehicles to save fuel. **MSC Krueger/Stevenson to accept the October 2011 Activity Report and place on file, all voting aye.**

Dive Team Update: Chief Auxier said we are at \$72,000 of the \$90,000 goal of fundraising for the Dive Team. There are more fundraising efforts being planned in early 2012 with the Peterson family. We have completed the first two phases of training. The last phase is ice and cold-water training and this will be completed in early 2012. We have started ordering equipment and when that is received we will continue with training to improve diving skills. The ambulance from Gold Cross was taken in for review and there is a minor issue with it that is currently being fixed. Delivery for the vehicle will be taken on 11/23/11. Ald. Klein asked once the Dive Team is in service that some kind of ceremony is planned. Ald. Sevenich asked how the donated money is held. Chief Auxier explained that a trust fund was established and is handled through the City of Neenah

Finance Department with Tara Theisen and Mike Sipin helping track the money and expenses.

Automatic Aid Update: Chief Auxier explained how radio testing for the automatic aid. He explained that there are issues and we have been working with Baycom and have experienced issues that were not anticipated due to the age and wear and tear of the current equipment. As Baycom researches the issues they continue to find maintenance issues and has had to make repairs at antenna sites, equipment, etc. and due to the age of the equipment he has had issues with finding replacement parts. None of these equipment repairs were anticipated. Baycom feels confident that they can fix this but it will take time until the issues are worked through. Chief Auxier stated he felt confident in Baycom and that they were working hard to get the equipment working.

**MSC Stevenson/Krueger to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Sec. 19.85(1)(e) for the purpose of discussing status bargaining and bargaining strategy regarding Neenah-Menasha Firefighters, IAFF Local 275, all voting aye.**

**MSC Stevenson/Krueger to reconvene into open session, all voting aye.**

Discussion of Health Insurance for 2012: Discussion was held on health insurance for 2012. Under Act 10, employee contributions for health insurance remain mandatory subjects of bargaining. Changes to employee premium contributions must be bargained and cannot be unilaterally changed by the Cities. However, the health insurance plan structures are a prohibited subject of bargaining. Two alternatives were discussed. The first one being increasing the employee's contribution to the health insurance plan of their choice by 5%. If this proposal is rejected by Local 275 members, the second alternative would be to switch all Local 275 members to the POS 2000 plan with a \$750 reduction in the HRA to \$1,250. **MSC Ahles/Krueger to recommend to the Cities of Neenah and Menasha Common Council's to adjust the health insurance plan for Local 275 employees, in the event that no agreement is reached for the 5% employee increase, that all union members would be offered the POS 2000 plan with a \$1,250 Health Reimbursement Account payment, all voting aye.**

**MSC Stevenson/Krueger to adjourn at 7:50 a.m., all voting aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Auxier  
Chief

AA/tt