

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue  
Joint Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, March 22, 2011 - 5:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers – City of Neenah

Present: Ald. Wisneski, Stevenson, Hendricks and Zelinski.

Excused: Ald. Ramos and Ahles.

Also Present: Chief Auxier, Director Easker, Office Manager Theisen and Aldermanic Candidate Cari Lendrum.

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

January 25, 2011 Meeting Minutes: The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from January 25, 2011. **MSC Wisneski/Hendricks to approve the meeting minutes from January 25, 2011 and place on file, all voting aye.**

February 2011 Budget Report: The Committee reviewed the February 2011 budget report. The maintenance of radio account was reviewed. Chief Auxier did state we have had some issues with radios and have had to have them fixed. Clothing allowance was reviewed and it was noted that it is a contractual obligation to pay this out in January. **MSC Wisneski/Zelinski to accept February 2011 budget report and place on file, all voting aye.**

February 2011 Monthly Budget Report: This report was not available and will be emailed out to Committee members to review.

Special Operations Update: The Committee reviewed the Contract that was sent from the State of Wisconsin. City Attorney Godlewski has reviewed the contract for both municipalities and has approved it. The State is looking at the number of people we are willing to commit for this program. Addendum A, B & C were passed out and reviewed. It was noted that Exhibit C is for Milwaukee Fire Department and it is because they are self funded for work comp insurance and it has to be included in the contract. It is anticipated that 10 members from NMFR are willing to participate in the State team. It was noted that there is a clause in the contract that states if there were an event where members are needed, however, if we sent people and this would create a short fall in manning for our Department we do not have to send people to this event. Discussion was held on the reimbursement for personnel for calls and training. The Committee felt comfortable with this being a one-year contract and reviewing it to see how it goes. The Committee directed Chief Auxier to make the contract for one-year, fill in the maximum amount for Section 4.3 and the document should read throughout that it is with the Cities of Neenah and Menasha. Chief Auxier said he would make sure these changes were given to CA Godlewski.

**MSC Hendrick/Zelinski recommends the City of Neenah and City of Menasha Common Councils approve the Contract for the State-Wide Structural Collapse team for a one year-term with the maximum amount of team members set at 10 which would require a maximum payment from the State of Wisconsin of \$14,400 for training, all voting aye.**

Dive Team Update: Chief Auxier said both City Councils did give permission to move forward with the dive team and asked that the County pay maintenance costs. He stated that Sheriff Mates doesn't have it in his current budget to be able to pay these costs. Chief Auxier said the next step for him is to approach the local County Board members to draft a resolution to support our dive team and asking that the County approve the maintenance costs. He also noted that donations have been received by the public and we have moved forward with writing the appropriate grants. The Committee asked Chief Auxier to move forward with contacting the County Board members to draft a resolution.

Radio Communication Update: The Committee reviewed the memo to Chief Auxier from Captain Voss updating him where Fox Comm is with the current radio situation. Discussion was held on the requirements the FCC has mandated and how decisions will be made within the near future by Winnebago County. It is not known at this time whether the County will fund this entire project or if each municipality will be required to pay for specific portions.

Wage Compression Issue: The Committee reviewed the memo from City Attorney Godlewski regarding the current wage compression issue for the Assistant Chief Prevention/Fire Marshal position. Chief Auxier said the City of Neenah Finance Committee did review a wage compression issue for the Neenah Police Department. While looking at this issue for the Police Department it was also reviewed for NMFR. It was noted that our Assistant Chief Prevention/Fire Marshal position makes less than the highest union position. Due to the wage freezes with the current budget there is no current way to move the salary of this position. Chief Auxier asked for the Committee to develop a gradual position increase over time.

Ald. Stevenson did note that discussion was held in the Neenah Finance Department to try to work through this issue. He also noted that due to the economic times for the past few years the non-represented employees have not received any raises. This is not an issue that has been resolved by the Neenah Finance Committee.

The Committee discussed the wage issue and the budget situation. It was noted that every year since consolidation NMFR has given back money back to both Cities. Ald. Wisenski said this is an issue and she supports putting together a compensation gradually over time and we have set past practice of doing this when the Deputy Chief position was making less than an Assistant Chief position in the Department.

The Committee reviewed wages from other Departments with the same positions as NMFR.

Director Easker stated he felt the Cities should go on record acknowledging the wage compression issues and both Council's should deal with it in a uniform way. Ald. Stevenson said that we have to have a definition of what compression is and deal with it in that manner. **MSC Wisneski/Hendricks recommend the City of Neenah Common Council and the City of Menasha Common Council move the position of Assistant Chief Prevention/Fire Marshal salary to midpoint, which is \$66,369 of the current City of Neenah pay grade 13 which is an increase of \$3,800 effective July 1, 2011 with Ald. Hendricks and Wisneski voting aye and Ald. Stevenson and Zelinski voting no. The motion failed on a roll call of 2-2.**

Other: The Committee thanked Ald. Wisneski for her years of service on the Committee and as an Aldermanic representative for the City of Menasha and wished her luck on her future endeavors.

**MSC Zelinski/Hendricks to adjourn at 7:35 p.m., all voting aye.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Auxier  
Chief

AA/tt