

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue
Joint Finance & Personnel Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.
3rd Floor Council Chambers – City of Menasha

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

Excused: Ald. Krueger

Also Present: Chief Auxier, Director Easker, Director Stoffel 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 Minutes: The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from June 28, 2011. **MSC Klein/Ahles to approve the meeting minutes from June 28, 2011 and place on file, Ald. Sevenich, Klein, Ahles and Ramos voting aye and Ald. Stevenson abstained.**

July 2011 Budget Report: The Committee reviewed the July 2011 budget report. Ald. Klein asked about the increased radio maintenance budget. Chief Auxier said this year we had to re-program radios due to automatic aid with Appleton which was not known when we did the budget last year. Ald. Klein asked about the software maintenance and Chief Auxier explained this is due to some changes in the Firehouse software. Ald. Stevenson asked about the Outside Services and why it is so low. Chief Auxier explained that some of the monthly fees that we anticipated with the building of the new station have not been billed yet. Ald. Stevenson asked about All Other Supplies and PPE equipment. Chief Auxier said at this time there was nothing that was due to be replaced and there has been nothing major that needed to be replaced so far this year. Chief Auxier will check into the all other supplies account and find out what is put into that account and report this to the Committee. **MSC Ahles/Stevenson to accept the July 2011 budget report and place on file, all voting aye.**

July Activity Report: The Committee reviewed the July activity report. Ald. Klein asked about the automatic aid with Appleton. Chief Auxier said we are ready but are working through some radio issues with our radio provider before we start this. **MSC Ramos/Klein to accept the July 2011 activity report and place on file, all voting aye.**

Review of Consolidation: The Committee reviewed information provided by Directors Easker and Stoffel regarding review of consolidation numbers. Director Easker discussed the information that was reviewed at consolidation with what the figures would be with and without a consolidated department. Ald. Sevenich asked that this information be reviewed with Ald. Krueger since he is not here. He felt there was a need for additional

review to make sure the information that was being presented was correct. Director Easker said he had all of the back-up information for the numbers that were reviewed and he would be happy to review this with Ald. Krueger. Ald. Klein said he appreciated the time and effort that was put into this and felt this was a good exercise for everyone to review this information. Ald. Stevenson asked what the current benefit factor with regards to compensation. Director Easker said it would be around 30 - 35%.

Director Easker then reviewed the information with regards to health insurance costs and savings. Information that was reviewed was only what the City of Menasha saved due to moving all Menasha firefighters onto the Neenah health insurance plan since the City of Menasha's health insurance premiums were higher than the City of Neenah's. When putting all of the firefighters onto the City of Neenah's plan it did show savings for the City of Menasha.,

Ald. Ahles said after reviewing all of the information that was provided there is a savings with the consolidation. This information doesn't include the capital expense purchases that we saved money on. Everyone thanked both Directors for their time and effort.

Finance Director Easker left the meeting after the discussions of this topic.

Dive Team Update: The Committee reviewed a memo from AC Sipin regarding the progress of raising funds for the Dive Team. So far we have raised \$65,000 of the funds and additional grants have been applied for. We do feel confident that we will reach our goal of \$90,000. Cost information for the training and equipment was reviewed. The original wages that we figured for the PADDI training I & II was for personnel doing this off shift. There is a certified trainer with a local company that said he will complete the training with the individuals on shift, which will reduce our training costs by \$20,000 since we will not have to pay overtime for these classes to be held off shift. The Peterson Family has raised over \$40,000 of the funds and they would like us to start this effort this year so we are prepared for the next ice fishing season and they will continue their efforts of raising additional funds to help us reach our goal. Chief Auxier said we are looking for support from the Committee to move forward with the training efforts.

Ald. Sevenich said he had a former alderman approach him and a state concern about overlapping services that NMFR would be providing on Lake Winnebago. Chief Auxier said our scope is to provide services to Neenah-Menasha area. However, there may be some issues where we have some people call from cellphone and depending upon which cellphone tower this call uses it may be out of our jurisdiction and if this happens, and we are called, we will provide the service unless we are called off. Ald. Klein asked if we could charge other Departments for our services if we provide services to other jurisdiction. Ald. Sevenich expressed concern of having some kind of agreement with charging for services provided to Calumet County. Ald. Stevenson also stated that even if the issue happened outside of our jurisdiction it could still be a citizen of Neenah and Menasha. Chief Auxier said a majority of our calls are on the mouth of the river and there are small incidents that are out of our jurisdiction.

The Committee asked Chief Auxier to find out from the Sheriff's Department if there is a mutual aid agreement that is being worked on between Winnebago and Calumet Counties. Ald. Ramos pointed out that the Winnebago County Sheriff wouldn't have authority for our Dive Team so if a request from Calumet County it would have to be fulfilled by the Sheriff's Department. Ald. Ahles said we should let the Sheriff's Department determine the legality of the boundaries for Lakes. He felt we should ask some of these legal questions of our City Attorneys. It was decided to have another meeting in a week to review this information.

It was decided to have another meeting regarding this issue to discuss and possibly move forward with a recommendation to both Common Council's. This meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 30, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the City of Neenah.

Grant Application Process & Matching Funds: Chief Auxier updated the Committee on some upcoming grant application processes that we anticipate opening soon. He asked for direction on when applying how to budget the matching funds. The Committee stated that if the grant is applied for, and if there are matching funds within our budget, then we could take it out of our current budget but if there is a larger grant that is applied for, and awarded, then we can have a meeting to figure out how to come up with these grants monies within our current budget from different line items.

Purchase Order #11-74 – Purchase of Three MDCs: The Committee reviewed the purchase order for three MDC's. This is a capital budget item that has been budgeted. Chief Auxier said we are trying to replace MDCs with these units as we have had better maintenance experience with these versus the units we currently have. **MSC Ramos/Ahles to recommend the City of Neenah Common Council and the City of Menasha Common Council approve purchase order #11-74 for the purchase of three MDC's for a total of \$17,897.25, all voting aye.**

9/11 Remembrance: Chief Auxier reviewed the 9/11 Remembrance ceremony that is being planned.

September Meeting: Due to vacation schedules it was decided to either switch the meeting or cancel if there are no agenda items. This will be determined as the next meeting date is closer.

MSC Ramos/Klein at 7:00 p.m. to adjourn, all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Auxier
Chief

AA/tt