

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue
Joint Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes
September 20, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.
Hauser Room – City of Neenah

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

Excused: Ald. Ramos

Also Present: Chief Auxier, Director Stoffel and Office Manager Theisen

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

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

Approval of minutes: The Committee reviewed the meeting minutes from August 30, 2011. **MSC Krueger/Stevenson to approve the meeting minutes of August 30, 2011, all voting aye.**

Budget Report: The Committee reviewed the August 2011 budget report. Ald. Ahles asked about gas and oil and noted we are almost over the budgeted amount. Chief Auxier said we may go over this due to increased run volumes and an adjustment will be made to increase this in the 2012 budget. He also stated we are trying to adjust how we do our training and also mentioned that the Neenah IS Department is looking at video conferencing equipment so we could use this for training versus moving engine companies around for training. **MSC Ahles/Stevenson to approve the August 2011 budget report and place on file, all voting aye.**

Monthly Activity Report: The Committee reviewed the August 2011 Activity Report. **MSC Stevenson/Krueger to approve the August 2011 activity report and place on file, all voting aye.**

NMFR Proposed 2012 Budget: The Committee reviewed the proposed 2012 budget. Chief Auxier did state that there is a majority of the budget that we do not have control over and noted that our only increase in the budget is due to things we do not have control over such as salaries, benefits, health insurance, etc. Ald. Stevenson asked if this was the budget submitted to the Mayors. Chief Auxier said that both Mayors have received our budget and at this time have not made any changes. Chief Auxier has met with Mayor Scherck and is working on scheduling a meeting with Mayor Merkes. Ald. Krueger asked what is done with the old thermal imaging cameras. Chief Auxier said in most cases the cameras are beyond repair and are not able to be traded in or re-sold. We have budgeted to replace these but try to extend the life of these much of these as we can to save budget dollars. Ald. Klein asked about the Menasha only expenses. He asked about the concrete replacement at Station 35. Chief Auxier said this was supposed to be replaced this year and it was budgeted for \$31,000. However, this was delayed due to budget issues in 2011. Ald. Sevenich asked if we have worked with Public Works. Chief

Auxier did state that he has met with Director Radtke and Tim Jacobson and have agreed on some changes that need to be made to try to expand the life expectancy. It was also noted that in 2010 & 2011 we did try to make some minor repairs to see if we could make it last longer but nothing that we tried worked. Ald. Klein asked about the landscaping at Station 36 and he asked if any funds for this was part of the grant. Chief Auxier noted that the grant excluded landscaping for the new station. He is working with the City of Menasha to come up with a landscaping plan for the new station. He is working on obtaining quotes right now and feels he can reduce the costs by having on duty personnel help put the landscaping in. Ald. Sevenich stated we need to set an example and budget money for this since we expect this of developers within the City. The Committee asked that we have a meeting before the budgets are presented to the Common Council. He said he would work with both Mayors to see if they can work on this before our next meeting.

Chief Auxier noted that Winnebago County has now agreed to pay for all of the portable radios with the new radio system. This does reduce our budgeted costs for radio replacement. However, there are still items that need to be upgraded in order to work with the new system and these costs are not going to be covered by the County. This includes headsets.

Ald. Stevenson commented on gasoline and oil. He thinks this account may be inflated a bit. Chief Auxier did note that these figures are given to us by the Neenah Finance Department to use for budgets and that we also increased this due to the increase in the runs that we have had.

6:00 p.m. Ald. Ahles left the meeting.

MSC Krueger/Stevenson to accept the NMFR Proposed 2012 budget, all voting aye.

Review of 2012 Cost Distribution Formula: The 2012 cost distribution formula was reviewed. Director Stoffel stated this formula has been used since consolidation and it remains consistent. This has not varied over 1% since the 2003 merger agreement. The factors that determine the formula remain the same and when this was determined he stated they wanted consistent factors so that there were not major increases and/or decrease each year for one City or the other. Ald. Stevenson asked about the equalized value. Director Stoffel said this is based on the value of service the Department provides for each Community. Ald. Sevenich asked if vacant buildings are taken into consideration. Director Stoffel stated that this is taken into account. Ald. Stevenson said history has shown that the Fire Department has had more activity with vacant buildings due to fires than when they were occupied. Ald. Krueger asked what is included in the square miles and if the lake area is included. Director Stoffel stated this was. Ald. Sevenich asked Director Stoffel if he reviewed the formula and asked if it was fair. Director Stoffel said this was a fair formula and since there are not a lot of consolidated departments within the State to compare ours to they had to develop something that both Cities felt was fair when it was developed at the time of consolidation. **MSC**

Stevenson/Krueger to accept the cost distribution formula as of December 31, 2010 and that it be recognized and placed on file, all voting aye.

Next Meeting: City Attorney Godlewski asked for a meeting earlier than the next scheduled one in October. Chief Auxier obtained some dates that members are available and will work on scheduling this.

MSC Krueger/Stevenson to adjourn at 6:10 p.m., all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,

Al Auxier
Chief

AA/tt