



Memorandum

TO: NMFR Joint Finance & Personnel Committee Members

FROM: Victor Voss, Deputy Chief

DATE: May 16, 2016

RE: Proposed Boat Launch Fee Increase Update

Chief Auxier had been working with both Cities Parks & Recreation Departments to have their Parks Commissions consider an increase in their boat launch fees with the increase to fund NMFR's water rescue services. I've attached his memo to the Parks & Recreation Commissions for your review.

Both Cities Parks & Recreation Commissions recently considered and approved the increased boat launch fees effective 1/1/2017. It is anticipated this will generate around \$1,230 revenue from the City of Neenah and \$1,115.50 of revenue from the City of Menasha.

In speaking with Directors Steeno and Easker, it was noted that our Department will not see these fees until the end of each year. For example, the fee increase will begin 1/1/2017 and the monies will not be transferred to our Department for use until January of 2018. A discussion was also held regarding depositing these funds, and other donations designated for the water rescue service, into a Water Rescue Services Trust Account that would be administered by the City of Neenah as they currently handle all accounting for our Department. It will be easier for the money to be tracked and give us the ability to build this account up to help fund future items. As with all other accounts, use of this money would go through the regular budgeting and expenditure process. To establish the Trust Account, both Councils would be required to grant approval to creation of the trust account.

An appropriate motion could be to recommend the City of Neenah and City of Menasha Common Councils approve creation of the Water Rescue Trust Fund, administered by the City of Neenah on behalf of the Neenah Menasha Fire Rescue with funds received from the increased boat launch fees approved by the Park & Recreation Commissions of both cities, as well as other donations designated for water rescue services, shall be deposited into this trust account. Oversight of the Water Rescue Trust Fund shall be assigned to the Joint Fire Finance & Personnel Committee.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 886-6202.

Thank you for your consideration.

VV/tt

Enclosures



Memorandum

TO: Director Brian Tungate
Director Mike Kading
City of Neenah Parks & Recreation Commission Members
City of Menasha Parks & Recreation Board Members

FROM: Chief Al Auxier

DATE: March 30, 2016

RE: Proposed Boat Launch Fee Increase

In 2015, Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue's (NMFR) Joint Finance and Personnel Committee asked me to initiate discussions with both Cities Park & Recreation Departments to see if it is possible to increase boat launch permit fees to help offset our water and dive rescue costs.

A lengthy discussion was held by our Committee members, recognizing the value and benefit of us providing water and dive rescues services. We do have non-residents who use our boat launches, and water ways, and our Committee members felt we should try to find an alternative funding source for our services from non-residents who require our services. These discussions resulted in the suggestion of increasing boat launch fees to help offset our water and dive rescue costs.

Over the last five years, we have averaged 18 water and/or dive calls per year. These calls range from towing stranded boats to pulling people out of icy waters and/or victim recovery. Some of these calls involve local residents and others do not.

Discussions with both Cities Park & Recreation Directors Eileen McCoy, newly appointed Director Mike Kading, and Brian Tungate resulted in support of raising the boat launch fees in the following manner.

City of Neenah: Directors McCoy & Kading felt the best way to accomplish this is to raise the seasonal boat launch permits by \$1.00. It was felt increasing the daily fees was not an option as Neenah's daily fees are already higher than Menasha's. In 2015, there were 1,230 permits sold and the \$1.00 increase would result in \$1,230 of revenue.

City of Menasha: Director Tungate felt the best way to accomplish this is to raise the daily boat launch permit fee by \$1.00. In 2015, there were 2,231 daily boat launch fees sold. In order to have increased revenues be equally represent each City, it was decided \$0.50, of the \$1.00 increase, would go to our Department and the remaining \$0.50 would stay with the City of Menasha Park & Recreation fund revenues. This would result in \$2,231 in additional revenue with NMFR receiving \$1,115.50.

The total fees from both Cities would average \$2,345.50 per year to help fund our water and dive rescues costs.

Please note this is only a recommendation for your consideration and not a final proposal. It would be up to the City of Neenah Park & Recreation Commission and the City of Menasha Park & Recreation Board to make a final recommendation to both Common Councils for consideration and approval.

I would appreciate an opportunity to meet with both the City of Neenah Park & Recreation Commission and the City of Menasha Park & Recreation Board to discuss the issue proposal.

Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

AA/tt

Cc: NMFR Joint Finance & Personnel Committee