



MEMORANDUM

To: Common Council
From: PRD Tungate BT
Date: June 2, 2016
RE: 2017 Daily Boat Launch Fee

BACKGROUND: In 2015, Former Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue (NMFR) Chief Al Auxier initiated discussions with Neenah and Menasha about increasing boat launch fees to help offset water rescue costs. These discussions were held too late to be considered for the 2016 budgets for Neenah & Menasha.

Former Chief Auxier, and more recently, Assistant Chief Sipin have been working with both cities' parks and recreation departments to seek approval of increasing overall boat launch revenues for 2017 with a portion going to offset NMFR costs associated with water rescue. The City of Neenah has taken action in support of what NMFR has requested. The Menasha Parks and Recreation Board has approved the recommendation listed below.

FISCAL IMPACT: Based on average usage numbers from 2014-2015, raising the daily fee from \$5 to \$6 would generate \$2,359. NMFR is seeking \$1,200 annually to help cover water rescue costs. This is approximately half of what the fee increase would generate.

ANALYSIS: The recommendation below was worded to allow the Common Council, Mayor, and Staff the flexibility to implement this recommendation during the 2017 budget process.

RECOMMENDATION: Beginning in 2017, raise the daily boat launch fee from \$5 to \$6, with a portion of this increase to be placed in the Neenah/Menasha Fire Rescue budget in a manner to be determined by the Mayor and appropriate staff, to partially offset water rescue costs.



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