

Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue Joint Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2024 – 4:00 p.m.

City of Menasha – Room #132

Present: Ald. Pollnow, Ald. Grade, Ald. Marshall, Ald. Sevenich and Ald. Borchardt

Excused: Ald. Boyette

Also Present: Chief Teesch, DC Krueger, Director Rasmussen and MA Ellis

Ald. Sevenich called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Public: Scott Becker, 1061 Green Acres Lane, Neenah

Public Forum: No member chose to speak.

Minutes: The committee reviewed the meeting minutes from October 14, 2024. **MSC Pollnow/Grade to approve the October 14, 2024 meeting minutes, all voting aye.**

Review of Calls: The Committee reviewed the calls from January 2024 through September 2024 and January 2023 through September 2023. Discussion was held by the committee on a request to change formatting of these reports. Chief Teesch will work with our vendor to see what type of custom reports we can obtain from our software system.

Ald. Borchardt asked about EMS calls and asked for an update on the relationship with Gold Cross and what trends we look at nationally comparing ourselves to other departments. Chief Teesch said EMS calls are the bulk of calls for every department. We are more limited as we do not provide paramedic services. We do continue to receive supplies from Gold Cross that we use on calls at no charge. He also noted the State of Wisconsin has a funding assistant program and providers who have an ambulance service would receive these monies. However, change have been made and all responders can get some of this money. We are applying for these monies with the state to see if we can get additional funds for the department. There are specific things we must spend it on this money on such as supplies, equipment and continuing education relating to EMS calls. He didn't have an exact amount of what we will receive but it should be around \$10,000. **MSC Pollnow/Marshall to accept the January 2024 through September 2024 and January 2023 through September 2023 activity reports and place on file, all voting aye.**

Review of Budget: The Committee reviewed the January 2024 through September 2024 budget report. Ald. Pollnow reviewed the overtime budget on the 2025 budget report. He asked what driving force is to reduce this budget. Chief Teesch said we have had less FMLA requests in 2024. **MSC Pollnow/Borchardt to accept the January through September 2024 budget report and place on file, all voting aye.**

Consideration of Menasha Resolution R-33-24 to Exceed the Levy Limit for Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue: Director Rasmussen explained each City looks at the overall fire budget. The overall budget cannot exceed 2% plus certified CPI rate. The state has set this as 3.2% so the total budget. Each City cannot exceed 5.2% from 2024 to 2025 budgets. If the department's budget does exceed this, we can take the difference between these two numbers and exceed the levy limit by this amount. This can be done because we are a consolidated fire department. Ald. Sevenich noted each City only has to use this just incase they need it but these are passed incase it is needed. **MSC Sevenich/Grade to recommend the City of Menasha Common Council approve Resolution R-33-24 to exceed the levy limit for Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue's 2025 budget, all voting aye.**

Ald. Pollnow requested we change the agenda order to review the proposed 2025 budget before consideration of the Neenah Resolution 2024-16 to exceed the levy limit. The Committee agreed.

Consideration and Action to Approve Proposed 2025 Budget: Chief Teesch did a brief presentation on our 2025 budget. Discussion was held on the what the levy limits are for the departments budget. It was noted this is separate from the other levy limits for each City.

Major increases and decreases were reviewed by the Committee. This included removal of Chief Teesch's request for additional staffing which affected the overtime budget request. The overtime budget request of \$185,000 was based upon the approval of additional staffing. This was changed by both Mayors to \$220,000 as this would be needed to maintain minimum manning levels. Discussion was held on the department's minimum manning levels and why it's at 17 people per shift. A discussion was held on NMFR's staffing and the idea of having an outside company come in and look at efficiencies of the department and if the staffing makes sense. Chief Teesch reviewed how data is obtained to compare ourselves to other departments. It was requested that any future staffing requests be submitted to Joint Finance and Personnel prior to the budget process.

Personal protective equipment (PPE) was moved to CIP versus operating. We need \$125,000 to meet the needs of replacing the gear. There is \$10,000 left in the operating budget for replacing small things. It does make sense to have the PPE move to CIP since this is a 10-year life span. Director Rasmussen noted that \$50,000 of this total amount is for replacement of ballistic gear that is expired.

Discussion was held on the City of Neenah's health insurance increase and how this has impacted the 2025 budget.

Discussion was held on the process for review of NMFR's budget. Both Mayors, both Finance Directors, Chief Teesch and DC Krueger met to review things and find a way to make the budget work within the constraints that both Cities have. While cuts are not always ideal the department will work hard to stay within the budget as it understands the position both Cities are in financially.

Discussion was held on the Special overtime and reimbursements with the State of Wisconsin for training and call-up. **MSC Borchardt/Pollnow recommends the City of Neenah and City of Menasha Common Councils approve Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue's 2025 budget as presented that include both Mayor's reductions, all voting aye.**

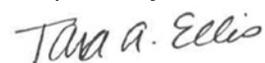
Report

Consideration of Neenah Resolution 2024-16 to Exceed the Levy Limit for Neenah-Menasha Fires Rescue: **MSC Pollnow/Borchardt recommends the City of Neenah approve Resolution 2025-16 to exceed the levy limit for Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue's 2025 budget, all voting aye.**

Report

MSC Borchardt/Pollnow to adjourn at 5:00 p.m., all voting aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Tara Ellis
Management Assistant