

NMFR Joint Finance & Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes

March 26, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.

Hauser Room – City of Neenah

Present: Ald. Borchardt, Grade, Stevenson, Sevenich and Lewis

Excused: Ald. Boyette

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

Public: No members of the public were present.

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

Minutes: The Committee reviewed the minutes from January 23, 2024. **MSC Borchardt/Stevenson to approve the January 23, 2024, meeting minutes and place on file, all voting aye.**

Review of Calls: The Committee reviewed the calls from February 2024 and year to date comparison. Ald. Borchardt noted how most of our calls are EMS calls and as we look to the future is there a way to do things more efficiently? He stated he knows the reasons why we respond with engines but is there a way to serve the customer better and can we do this without always running engines? He also expressed appreciation that the department does look at things to try to save money and be efficient. Chief Teesch said we have begun categorizing calls to look at trends such as are we getting to a call before Gold Cross Ambulance or vice versa? This may help us in the future determine if we use our resources differently. Discussion was held on the coding system for calls and how this is a national coding system that all departments follow, and this is how data is compared to other departments in an accurate way. **MSC Borchardt/Stevenson to approve the February 2024 and year to date comparison and place on file, all voting aye.**

Spirit Fund Award For NMFR's Training Tower Update: Chief Teesch noted that we were awarded \$500,000 of Spirit Fund money from Winnebago County for the Training Center, which is on-half of the million dollar project. They are currently working on the remodeling project for Station 31 and looking to see if it makes sense to have the training tower and station work done at the same time to save money. We will be asking for approval to accept the monies soon. We also hope to have more direction on the insurance claim to see what money from the insurance claim can be applied to this project. The current training tower is at its end of life cycle. It is supposed to be inspected every five years and we are not confident that we will pass the next inspection. Ald. Grade asked how the funding of the project will be funded. Director Rasmussen noted Neenah will be putting this in the 2025 CIP project for their portion. Director Sassman is looking at ways on how Menasha can fund their portion. Chief Teesch noted there is a five-year window to complete the project so there is flexibility for each City to have some time to figure out how to fund their portion. Director Rasmussen is working with the County on how we will receive the money and the documentation process that is needed for this. DC Krueger noted that the training grounds is joint cost share, and the grant was written as Neenah-Menasha Fire Rescue and not the City of Neenah.

Quint 32 Repair Work: Chief Teesch explained that Quint 32 is in the repair shop. There are issues with power in the engine, fuel lines, coolant leak, raising/lowering the ladder and one of the rams needs to be replaced. There is a lot of rust and corrosion on the turn table. A decision must be made soon on can we limp this vehicle through until the new vehicle is received in 2027 or if we need to invest money into it? We are working on obtaining quotes on the repairs to compare to what the value is and how to keep this truck running until we get our new vehicle. DC Krueger noted we have been asking for larger amounts for our maintenance of motor vehicles and every time we estimate what we think we will need, it appears there are things that come up that we cannot predict. More information will be brought forward as they obtain information on repairs.

Old Engine 31 Reserve Engine Discussion: Chief Teesch explained have a new engine that was placed into service and “old Engine 31” was moved to a reserve engine. The intent was to give us a second reserve vehicle that is less than 27 years old. As it came off the front line, we inspected it and found there are major repairs that need to be done. They are in the process of obtaining estimates to know the total cost of repairs. Most of the repairs are corrosion and we know that the cost of this is probably more than the value of the truck. We have started doing annual corrosion preventative measures to coat the vehicles to try to slow this down. This engine has been in service longer than it should have been. A decision must be made on do we put more money into this vehicle, or do we look at trying to purchase a different reserve vehicle? Once final numbers are obtained it will be brought back to this Committee for discussion.

2025 Capital Vehicle Purchasing Discussion: Chief Teesch said they have looked at the CIP budget, the engine and ladder we have ordered, the vehicles that need to be replaced, etc. In 2025, there is in the budget for two medium rescue vehicles. When looking at how we respond to calls, we put a change into the CIP budget to have one heavy rescue vehicle, that would carry equipment for confined space and other heavier equipment, and one medium rescue vehicle for pulling the boat, etc. When we respond on the highway, we put our ladder truck on the call to block for the engine who is responding to the call. By switching to the heavy rescue truck this can be the blocker up on the highway versus a \$2.3 million vehicle it can also be used as a more multi-purpose response. It was also cheaper to make this change for one heavy rescue vehicle and one medium rescue vehicle versus two medium rescue vehicles. This change was made in the 2025 CIP budget and is informational only. It was asked to have this committee review this at their next meeting.

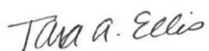
Wisconsin Task Force 1 Agreement: The Committee reviewed the new Urban Search and Rescue Response Services Agreement with the State of Wisconsin. Chief Teesch noted we are reimbursed for the cost of the training, and they bring back the training to our department. This contract is a renewal for the current one that we have. **MSC Stevenson/Borchardt recommends the City of Neenah and City of Menasha Common Councils approve the Agreement for Urban Search and Rescue Emergency Response Services with the State of Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs Division of Emergency Management from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2026, all voting aye.**

Report

The Committee thanked Alderman Stevenson for his 24 years of service to NMFR’s Joint Finance & Personnel Committee and his support of the department. In addition, his over 30 years of service to the City of Neenah.

MSC Stevenson/Grade to adjourn at 6:15 p.m., all voting aye.

Respectfully Submitted,



Tara Ellis
Management Assistant