

Fire Commission Meeting

Middleton Fire District

City of Middleton, Town of Middleton, Town of Springfield, Town of Westport

Thursday, August 15, 2013

6:00 PM

MIFD Station 1

7600 University Avenue

Middleton, WI

Commission Members Present: Ken Sipsma, Milo Breunig, Dan Dresen, Howard Teal, Julie Brunette

Commission Members Absent: None.

Officers Present: Chief Aaron Harris, Battalion Chief Brad Subera, Battalion Chief Jesse Schluter

Others Present: Mary Roessler

The meeting was called to order by Breunig at 6:00 p.m.

1. Approval of the August 16th Agenda Posting

- Motion made by Brunette and seconded by Dresen to approve the August 15th Agenda posting. Motion passed.

2. Approval of the July 18th Minutes

- Motion made by Brunette and seconded by Breunig to approve the July 18th Minutes. Motion passed.

3. Inspection Report

- Brunette suggested having the Inspection Report and Education Report on the agenda on a quarterly basis or as needed, instead of monthly.
- Report will be given at the October meeting.

Sipsma arrived and took over as Chair.

4. Education Report

- Report will be given at the October meeting.

5. Personnel Report

- Harris reported that the MIFD numbers remain the same as last month: 84 Firefighters, 17 Rehab Technicians, 7 Fire Corps personnel, and 12 Junior Firefighters, for a total of 120 Associates.

6. MIFD Operations Report

Responses:

- Harris reported that there have been 46 calls since the last meeting. Harris highlighted a few calls including two water rescue incidents and a vehicle vs. house accident.

7. Consideration of a Policy regarding an Annual or Bi-Annual Transfer of Operating Budget Dollars from the Participating Town Members to the Middleton Fire District's Fiscal Agent (City of Middleton). Discussion/Action.

- Harris distributed copies of the Draft Fire Protection Agreement (redlined version) that Attorney Stittleburg drafted. Harris reported that there are a few minor changes to statutes noted, but the major changes are:
 - Method of Payment – once or twice a year instead of quarterly. First payment by February 1 and second payment by August 1.
 - Use equalized property values in effect at the time of the approval of the budget for the following year's budget.
 - Currently, all calls are billed based on the number of fire department responders to each incident and then billed to the municipality in which the call occurred. It is proposed that a procedural change is made to mimic the current contract language to bill all calls to the municipalities based off of their equalized property value.

- Sipsma suggested revising 2(c) from the first installment being due not later than February 1 to March 1. Sipsma advised sending the revised Fire Protection Agreement out to each municipality for review.
- Motion made by Brunette and seconded by Breunig to recommend approval of the contract with the revisions, including the suggested change above. Motion passed.

8. Consideration of the 2014 Operating and Capital Budget. Discussion/Action

- Harris distributed 2014 MIFD Draft Budget and detailed all line items, focusing in on areas that he would like to see increased. A lengthy discussion followed.
- Harris also reviewed the 2014 Draft Capital Budget.
- Harris noted that the City of Middleton, the Town of Middleton and the Town of Westport have funds available to order the Engine by September 30, 2013 to realize a large cost savings. The Town of Springfield may not have all funds set aside. There may be a possibility of the City of Middleton fronting these funds for the Town of Springfield. If not, the Engine purchase may have to be delayed.
- Harris recommended only putting funds into the Capital Replacement Fund and to push back the \$30,000 ATV purchase until 2015. Harris also noted that the new equipment for the new engine could be purchased from the proceeds of selling the old Engine.
- Brunette requested that the MIFD be very detailed when describing the Capital equipment purchase requests. The City of Middleton wants 5 years, but the MIFD will provide a 20 year plan.

9. Update on Pre-Alert Page and Page Delay Concerns

- Harris reported that the Chair of the Committee recently moved to the Milwaukee area and the scheduling of meetings has been delayed. Harris took the initiative to schedule a meeting of the Committee last week and communicated with the software vendor to continue gathering information. That meeting was not posted properly, but Harris will research the County process and set up an additional meeting in the near future.
- Sipsma noted that the Fire Commissioners are very dissatisfied with the priority that the County has placed on this important public safety issue. The pace is far too slow compared to the Commissioners' expectations.

11. Approval of Monthly Bills. Discussion/Action

- Motion made by Teal and seconded by Dresen to approve the August monthly bills. Motion passed.

12. Correspondence/Communication Update

- Roessler reported that a thank you note was received from:
 - A father and children/nephew for spending time with Chief Harris including a station tour and fire truck ride.
- Harris noted that the Wisconsin State Firefighter's Association will be meeting in Middleton in 2014 and the MIFD will likely be holding training sessions at Station 1. Topics may include: ultra high pressure fire attacks, rapid response vehicles, and attracting and retaining volunteers. Harris also noted that there may be interest in having the Commissioners participate in a panel discussion related to how the MIFD Fire Commission operates.
- Brunette congratulated MIFD's Jordan Reigel for hitting the Battle of the Badges game-winning RBI in the charity game between the Police Department and the Fire Department.

13. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

- Update on Pre-Alert Page and Page Delay Concerns (standing item until resolved).

14. Motion to Adjourn

- Motion made by Teal and seconded by Breunig to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

August 15th, 2013 Minutes submitted by Mary Roessler.



Mary Roessler
Secretary

Approved: September 19, 2013