

Fire Commission Meeting

Middleton Fire District

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

Thursday, September 19, 2013

5:30 PM

MIFD Station 1

7600 University Avenue

Middleton, WI

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

Commission Members Absent: Howard Teal

Officers Present: Chief Aaron Harris, Assistant Chief Gary Gillitzer, Battalion Chief Brad Subera, Battalion Chief Randy Acker, Battalion Chief Jesse Schluter, Battalion Chief Scott Lindblom, Captain Mark Kampe, Captain Matt Reigel, Lieutenant Jeremy Cushman

Others Present: Mary Roessler

The meeting was called to order by Breunig at 5:33 p.m.

1. Approval of the September 19th Agenda Posting

- Motion made by Brunette and seconded by Dresen to approve the September 19th Agenda posting. Motion passed.

2. Approval of the August 15th Minutes

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

3. Personnel Report

- Harris reported that Mark Rauls (former Chief) has stepped down after 35½ years of service with the MIFD. Josh Larson recently transitioned from a Junior Firefighter to a Firefighter. Liam Belleveau (son of Bill Belleveau - Driver Operator) joined the Junior Firefighter program. The MIFD numbers are: 83 Firefighters, 17 Rehab Technicians, 7 Fire Corps personnel, and 12 Junior Firefighters, for a total of 119 Associates.

4. MIFD Operations Report

Responses:

- Harris reported that there have been 60 calls since the last meeting. Harris noted that the MIFD responded to 12 incidents overnight that were weather related. The City of Madison assisted with a couple of the alarm calls.
- Harris noted there was one significant call on Almore Drive and he asked Lindblom to give a short overview. Lindblom reported that they were called to the house for light smoke in basement. After an investigation and use of thermal imaging, the issue was thought to be a furnace malfunction. The MIFD returned to quarters and were called back to the home a short time later due to the bathroom floor feeling hot. There had been a lighting strike through flexible gas tubing which burned a truss.

Sipsma arrived and took over as Chair (5:40 pm)

- Harris noted there was a major public education event held at Station 1 last weekend – Family Safety Day. Subera reported that this event was started by NSI/West Bend Mutual a number of years ago and is growing every year. It is an event that local businesses participate in and the focus is children's safety.
- Harris stated a live training burn was held recently at the Kraemer property on the corner of Airport Rd and Nursery Drive. Fire training was done in the home during the day. Due to wind conditions, the actual burning down of the house was postponed until evening when conditions were ideal. Many area residents attended the burn.

5. Update on Purchase of Replacement Fire Engine. Discussion/Action

- Harris clarified a few of points:
 - The MIFD will realize a savings of approximately \$21,000 to \$22,000 by ordering early. The total cost of the new Engine is \$577,071.
 - The new Engine will have a 750 gallon storage capacity and be able to pump at a rate of 2,000 gallons per minute.
 - The current Engine 1 will be moved to Station 2 and the new Engine will be at Station 1.
 - Engine 2 is for sale for \$40,000 and there is an interested party (same department that bought MIFD's Aerial Ladder Truck). If this department successfully bids, they would need the truck immediately and the MIFD would need to bring Engine 11 back into service (Middleton Fire Company No. 1 owns). Gillitzer reported the truck is in great condition and it would only need a pump test before it would be put back into service.
 - The MIFD plans on signing the contract next week unless there are any objections.

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

- Harris gave a presentation to the Finance Committee last night. Decision items totaled approximately \$20,000.

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

- Harris noted that Mount Horeb Fire Department has noticed page delays and is very interested in this issue.
- Joe Parisi has also been informed.
- Harris recently presented at the Dane County Fire Chief's Association Meeting on this subject and it was well received.
- Harris is working on a web-based Pre-Alert Page Survey that should be finalized in the next week and a half. Harris recently recorded a video featuring Billy Goldfeder on this issue that will be used in conjunction with the release of the Pre-Alert Page Survey. This will help bring national attention to this issue.
- Sipsma thanked Harris for his report, however, he noted that the Fire Commissioners are still concerned and disappointed that the pace is so slow.
- A lengthy discussion followed regarding how to best make this important public safety issue a priority at the county level and have a resolution as soon as possible.

8. Approval of Monthly Bills. Discussion/Action

- Motion made by Breunig and seconded by Dresen to approve the September monthly bills. Motion passed.

9. Correspondence/Communication Update

- Roessler reported that thank you notes were received from:
 - MHS' girls' volleyball team for assisting with taking their photo by fire truck and in turnout gear.
 - MIPD for participating in National Night Out.
 - The Make-A-Wish Foundation for helping grant a wish and using Ladder 1 to reveal the recipient's wish.
 - A few children thanked the MIFD for making Middleton a safer place to live.
 - A father for spending time at Station 1 including a station tour and fire truck ride.
 - Long Reach Long Riders motorcycle club for MIFD escorting them.
- Breunig noted that a Town of Middleton resident expressed his appreciation for the MIFD response to a recent lighting strike at his home.

10. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

- Update on Pre-Alert Page and Page Delay Concerns (standing item until resolved). Brunette also noted that she would like to see the Pre-Alert Page Survey when it is finalized. Harris noted he would send her a link to the survey once complete.

11. Burn Trailer and Squad 1 Live Demonstration – The Fire Commission will convene at 3110 Laura Lane, Middleton, for a Live Demonstration

- Motion made by Dresen and seconded by Brunette to table this item due to weather conditions. Motion passed.

12. Motion to Adjourn

- Motion made by Brunette and seconded by Breunig to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

September 19th, 2013 Minutes submitted by Mary Roessler.



Mary Roessler
Secretary

Approved: October 17, 2013