

Fire Commission Meeting

Middleton Fire District

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

Thursday, March 19, 2015

6:00 PM

MIFD Station 1

7600 University Avenue

Middleton, WI

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

Commission Members Absent: None.

Officers Present: Chief Aaron Harris, Assistant Chief Gary Gillitzer, Battalion Chief Brad Subera, Battalion Chief Randy Acker, Captain Mark Kampe, Captain Matt Reigel

Others Present: Mary Roessler

The meeting was called to order by Sipsma at 6:02 p.m.

1. **Approval of the March 19th Agenda Posting**

- Motion made by Brunette and seconded by Dresen to approve the March 19th Agenda posting. Roessler confirmed it was properly posted. Motion passed.

2. **Approval of the February 19th Minutes**

- Motion made by Dresen and seconded by Breunig to approve the February 19th Minutes. Motion passed.

3. **Personnel Report**

- Harris reported that the personnel count remains the same, 118, and includes: 87 Firefighters, 18 Rehab Technicians, 3 Fire Corps, and 10 Junior Firefighters.
- Harris reported that Bill Fulton, from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), is doing his final research project on ultra high pressure fire attacks and would like the MIFD's involvement. It has been approved for funding through ATF. The research project will be a burn at Aspen Hall dorms at Midwestern University in Downers Grove, Illinois. This dorm is as close to a scientific laboratory as possible having 14 identical, fully furnished dorm rooms on three levels. Each room and hallway will be wired with sensors. Each level will be fought with different attack methods; 1st floor: smooth-bore nozzle, 2nd floor: fog nozzle, 3rd floor: ultra high pressure. Without any opposition, Harris wants the MIFD to conduct the burns on the 3rd level. These burns will take place on June 16 and 17. Six firefighters will be needed and ATF will pay for hotel stays and meal stipends. The Squad with the new ultra high pressure system would need to go and ATF would pay for fuel.
- Harris noted that Captain Koski recently held a bus extrication training session and Lieutenant Salzmann held Aerial ladder training for many MIFD Associates. Both trainings were at no cost to the District.

4. **MIFD Operations Report**

- Harris noted that there have been 39 calls since the last meeting including the below notable calls:
 - Building fire involving a Kiln on Terrace Avenue in the City of Middleton. The fire spread through conduction heat onto wood beams. The fire was extinguished with the ultra high pressure system.
 - Cornfield Fire in the Town of Springfield. The cause of the fire was from a burn pile on an adjacent property that re-kindled due to windy conditions. Gillitzer reported that approximately 30 – 40 acres burned. Waunakee and Cross Plains provided mutual aid. The fire was extinguished with the ultra high pressure system.
- Harris also noted that the MIFD will be conducting prairie burns again this spring. During the weekdays, they may take care of some of the small burns. This may bring in some additional revenue to possibly offset the cost of a drone. Harris noted that we recently received a donation from Middleton Ford of \$1,000 and other miscellaneous donations that would likely

cover the cost of one. Harris is hopeful that with some additional donations from small prairie burns, it may cover the cost of a second drone. Drones would be extremely useful in certain incidents such as large structure fires, large grass fires, and search & rescues.

5. Danecom Radio System Update

- Harris reported that Dane County Executive Parisi recently announced an additional 6.7 million dollars will be added to the project to increase coverage. Harris noted the biggest concern now is within cement buildings as the 911 Center may not be able to hear if someone is trapped in the building, so instead they need to use the "talk around" feature that goes from radio to radio (not through a tower). The additional funds will be used to build new towers and buy new radio equipment. The project may not be complete until 2017. A discussion followed regarding concerns with this project.

6. Agreement to Station 2 Lease Modification. Discussion/Action.

- Sipsma signed on behalf of the Middleton Fire District and Roessler will notarize after the meeting and distribute to each municipality.

7. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) between Orbital Technologies Corporation and the Middleton Fire District. Discussion/Action

- Harris noted that he did not need any action on this item tonight, but instead gave an overview of the mutual beneficial relationship between Orbital Technologies Corporation (ORBITEC) and the MIFD. ORBITEC has made and is committed to make additional donations of Ultra High Pressure systems in exchange for marketing considerations by the MIFD. Commission members discussed several concerns regarding Non-Disclosure Agreements with Governmental Agencies. The Commission recommended legal counsel review prior to moving forward with Agreements.

8. Wisconsin Employee Trust Funds (ETF) Contributions for Harris, Gillitzer, and Subera. Discussion/Action.

- Harris reported that the City of Middleton went back to January 1 to calculate the pay adjustment and WRS contributions for himself, Gillitzer and Subera, instead of going forward. Most recent paychecks were significantly less. In the future, when changes are made related to payroll, it would be appreciated to have open communication and be kept informed.

9. Approval of Monthly Bills. Discussion/Action

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

10. Correspondence/Communication Update

- Roessler reported that thank you notes were received from:

General Public:

- Terrance Wall for a helmet he received at the recent Annual Dinner in appreciation for him donating properties for training burns.
- Sergeant Terry Hanson for MIFD's recent assistance in a missing person incident.

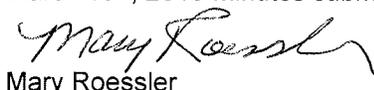
11. Proposal of Future Agenda Items

- Danecom Radio System Update. Brunette is requesting each of the Commission members research how much their town or city have paid for this project, future expected payments, and bring data to the next meeting.

12. Motion to Adjourn

- Motion made by Teal and seconded by Breunig to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

March 19th, 2015 Minutes submitted by Mary Roessler.



Mary Roessler
Secretary

Approved: April 16, 2015