



JOINT MEETING

Lake Country Fire & Rescue Fire Board
Lake Country & Rescue Fire Commission
Chenequa Village Board
City of Delafield Common Council
Nashotah Village Board

Fire Station #1
115 Main Street, Delafield
Thursday, September 18, 2014 – **6p.m.**

MINUTES

1. Call meeting to Order
The meeting was called to order by President Stotts at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Roll Call of Fire Board
Present was President Rod Stotts (Nashotah), Vice-President Bob Bellin (Chenequa), Jeff Krickhahn (Delafield), Gerry MacDougall (Delafield), Susan Wilkey (Chenequa), Theresa Urbanchek (Nashotah), Jack Edwards (Fire Chief) and Sandy Rosch (Secretary/Treasurer).
3. Roll Call of Fire Commission
Present was President Dick Schafer (Nashotah), Kate Rahmlow (Delafield) and Brad Stocks (Delafield).
4. Roll Call of Chenequa Village Board
Present representing the Village Board was LCFR Board member/Trustee Bob Bellin and Helmut Keidl, Trustee.
5. Roll Call City of Delafield Common Council
Present was Mayor Michele DeYoe, Administrator Tom Hafner, Council Members Tim Aicher (District 7), Gerry MacDougall (LCFR Board Member and District 5 representative), and Jeff Krickhahn (LCFR Board Member and District 1 Representative).
6. Roll Call of Nashotah Village Board
Present and also representing the LCFR Board was Theresa Urbanchek (Trustee), and Rod Stotts (Board President).
7. Community Comments
8. Discussion and review of 2015 Lake Country Fire & Rescue budget
President Stotts opened the conversation with an over-view of the budget process. Stotts discussed again the effects LCFR is experiencing from the reduced reimbursements for services. The Board spent a great deal of time timing to calculate and forecast a more realistic revenue budget based on the last 3 years. Stotts cited several trends that have

also had an impact on the past budgets and he feels now there is a history providing information helpful for future budgets. There has been a trend in reduced calls, once thought a fluke, seems to be a legitimate downward trend. A notable reduction in Intercept activity was expected and continues to trend downward with increased Paramedic services in our surrounding communities which also accounts for competition in the Interfacility calls. LCFR has reduced the revenue portion of the budget by \$150K trying to align the budget closer to a realistic number. There have been conversations regarding the move away from a revenue based budget and allowing any revenues collected to either build up to some degree or be returned to the municipalities annually. Stotts also discussed the Station #2 staffing cuts as a result of the needed budget adjustments to make up for the revenue loss. He reminded the group that the merger was formed to provide timely EMS/Fire services to all municipalities and Station #2 staffing specifically supports the northern/northeastern parts of Delafield and of course Nashotah and Chenequa. Stotts told the group that LCFR have added 16 weekends of coverage into the budget through the busiest time in the summer.

LCFR Commission President Dick Schafer asked the Fire Chief if it was true that the budget included promotions and raises for some staff members. Chief Edwards acknowledged that the new department staff schedule includes the movement of staff that allows for the department to reduce the number of daytime, part-time staff shifts. In making the changes he moved Kevin Keith into a Monday-Friday schedule and shifted other staff members to fill his position. Schafer stated that he learned there was a meeting announcing the promotions without even including the Fire Commission in on discussions or plans. Edwards stated he thought he had the authority to move them into "acting" positions. Schafer stated he felt Edwards was making a mockery of the Commission. Stotts stated that he too felt blind-sided by the staffing changes and was very upset that information was not communicated to the Board prior to making such a big change. He stated there are people who already question the number of officers within the full-time staff of the department, saying we have been described as "top-heavy". Edwards apologized to the Board stating that his intent was not to make these changes in a deceptive manor; he thought it was within his scope to promote staff in acting position until they could meet with the Fire Commission. Schafer felt it was unfair to make promises to staff without consulting the Board and Commission. Mayor DeYoe asked if raises had been given to these individuals. Chief confirmed they had not. Edwards was asked to put together a presentation on the staffing plan he is currently using as well as a command staff structure to present to the Board at its next meeting. When Edwards was asked how he accounted for the proposed budget savings, Edwards stated it is there. Stotts asked Edwards to show where the savings is coming from with his presentation of the staffing plan.

Administrator Tom Hafner stated that he has heard "rumblings" from the city employees about the fire departments needs affecting the rest of the city budgets stating the perception that the city gets the leftover crumbs once the needs of the fire department are met. He wondered if the department considers what is happening globally within the municipality when they approach their budget. Kate Rahmlow asked about the budget oversight and wondered if the Board was able to handle the task, suggesting someone with a different more global perspective might be of assistance in creating the budget. She also wondered about LCFR's entrepreneurial efforts. Stotts explained to Rahmlow

that he has spent many unpaid hours studying the trends and outlook for EMS revenue/collections and feels he has learned a great deal in the last 5 years. He feels the Board is making great efforts to correct this issue but along with the corrections come a cost to municipal budgets. Hindsight makes one think that had the budgets not been driven down but maintained with modest increases we may not be experiencing everything we are today. Brad Stocks commented that we have long been known for our Cadillac services but question that maybe this level of care is not sustainable and maybe we need to check with the municipalities to see if this is the level of service people want and want to pay for.

10. Discussion and review of 2014 budget revenues and spending to date

Stotts stated that the current budget year is on track to experience a shortfall of greater than last year's but it is too early to state. The next two months will give us a better idea. We are on track for expenses but continue to lag in the revenues from our EMS services. Stotts reminds everyone that is in part due to the decrease in call volume and the decrease in payments received from patients and other third party payer reimbursements. The write-offs have been pretty close to budget so far this budget year.

Stotts stated that since there was a small representation from other communities at this meeting he suggested that the Board attend the next scheduled meeting in each community to present the budget and answer questions. Stotts reminded those present that the Annual Joint meeting was a part of the agreement and should be a place where the budget is shared and discussed. Stotts states he is making a list of things that need clarification in the agreement, the annual joint meeting and budget process being one.

11. Next Meeting Dates

Wednesday, October 1, 2014 with the Village of Nashotah Board

Monday, October 6, 2014 with the City of Delafield Council

Monday, October 13, 2014 with the Village of Chenequa Board

12. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by MacDougall at 7:49pm and second by Wilkey. All ayes and motion was carried.