



Lake Country Fire & Rescue – **Fire Board**
Budget Workshop
Chenequa – Delafield – Nashotah
Fire Station #1
115 Main Street, Delafield
Friday, August 16, 2013 at 10 a.m.

MINUTES

1. Meeting call to order

Meeting was called to order by President Stotts with the Pledge of Allegiance at 10:00am

2. Roll call

Present was Stotts, Wilkey, MacDougall, Urbanchek, Bellin, Edwards and Rosch. Absent today was Krickhahn.

3. Public Comments

No public comments.

4. Communication

Deputy Chief was recently notified that he was accepted into the Executive Fire Officer Program (EFOP). EFOP participants enhance their professional development through a unique series of four resident graduate and upper level college equivalent courses and the completion of an Applied Research Project (ARP) for each course. The EFOP spans a 4-year period and consists of four “core” courses, each 2 weeks in length.

Marie Williams, Finance Officer/Budget Analyst for the City of Delafield, attended the meeting briefly to discuss a levy limit adjustment that can be made for all communities that are a part of joint fire departments. Williams prepared a statement that outlines the City of Delafield’s additional funding that would be available directly due to WI Statute 66.0602.

5. President’s Report

Stotts asked Board members to briefly give their thoughts on the budget at this point. Several areas of the budget were questioned for possible adjustment/reduction and Chief Edwards confirmed to the Board that there have been several adjustments made to the budget that will be discussed later in the meeting. The Board recognized the Chief’s efforts to keep the budget expenses to a minimal increase with the exception of the staff benefits and wages. Generally acknowledged was the POP change that has created a great deal of stress on the budget and will continue to challenge us going forward. There was concern over tax levy limits and the desire to avoid any changes to the level of service to LCFR communities. MacDougall and Bellin suggested that we look at the services provided by LCFR to the LCFR service area and beyond.

6. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes of the Thursday, August 8, 2013 Budget Workshop as written by Bellin was second by MacDougall. All ayes, with the exception of Urbanchek who was absent at the last meeting. Motion was carried.

7. Discussion and possible action on 2014 LCFR Annual Operations and Capital Budgets

Discussion continued on the 2014 budget as Edwards reviewed all operational expenses and where cuts had been made to date. Concern that some cuts or budget amounts may not allow for additional employee expenses if additional staff qualifies for WRS benefits. Benefit calculations left little room for change or adjustment. The department insurance was calculated by R&R Insurance and as close to actual as possible. Discussion then focused on the revenue side of the budget. A review of revenues at July 31, 2013 was done. As the Board has been discussing for most of this budget year and some of last, the reimbursements continue to be a challenge with a shift in demographic make-up (increase in Medicare, Medicaid, Uninsured/Under-insured and decrease in commercial insurance and coverage levels). Stotts provided information and suggestions on how to deal with the revenue shortfall that is expected this year and in the upcoming budget year. Edwards told the Board he will put together some numbers related to services and service area as well as look at ways to address the revenue shortfall this year and ways to cut

the budget further which will include the discontinuation or reduction in programs or employee benefits as well as the sale of equipment. Board members said the communities will have tough decisions to make in their budgets and with regards to the level of service they are willing to support. Edwards told the Board members that he has been looking at creative ways to purchase the much needed Thermal Imaging camera by selling or trading equipment in to apply toward the cost. But he explained a letter had to be written to FEMA asking if we could trade surplus equipment received through the grant we were given for turnout gear. He will keep the Board up to date when he gets a response. There was also discussion regarding the potential to return equipment to the communities and sell what is no longer needed.

8. Confirmation of upcoming meetings:

Budget workshop: Thursday, August 22, 2013 and Potentially Thursday, August 29, 2013 at Station #1 at 6pm

Annual Joint Meeting to be held September 12th, 2013 at 6pm.

September Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2013 to follow Annual Joint Meeting at Station #1.

9. Adjournment :

Motion to adjourn was made by MacDougall and second by Urbanchek at 12:08pm. All ayes, motion carried.